

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 16 August 2021 - held online using Teams

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger, Darlene Jeffrey, Susie Ross, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell, Iain Whyte; one member of the local community

Apologies - Jim McLennan, Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Duncan Osler,

Police Report - no police report was available

Minutes of 21 June 2021 meeting - approved.

Community Council matters : -

Right turning traffic from Queensferry Road into Quality Street - concern was expressed regarding the very limited time allowed in the traffic light phasing for right turning vehicles. Also noted that traffic light phasing for all roads on to Queensferry Road is limited. Councillor Hal Osler said that there were smart sensors monitoring right turning movements. Council officers will not change the phasing as they wish to discourage through traffic on Craigcrook Road.

Ravelston Quarry - the fence adjacent to the Quarry has deteriorated providing little protection for path users including dogs and children. The area adjacent to the path is in 2 ownerships - Council and AMA - it was noted that AMA has a responsibility as adjacent owner.

Ravelston Park - Craigcrook Road pavement is now affected by overgrown trees . Councillor Osler said that such matters should be reported to the Council via the Report It function on the Council's web site.

With increased use of the park, litter bins are full with litter being emptied possibly by crows or squirrels.

Defibrillator - the Chair said that there was a suggestion of a defibrillator at the Nursery building which would benefit from community funds. Acknowledged that with increased use of the park it would benefit the community.

Heavy rain and flooding - the recent intense rainfall in early July resulted in parts of the Strachan Road pavement being washed away. Councillors said that priority was in areas susceptible to flooding and drains should be reported where they are blocked.

Craigleith Road flood prevention works - major works lasting 12 months to replace and increase drainage capacity in the lower part of Craigleith Road will commence in mid September. It should assist in alleviating flooding. The scheme is separate from the current drainage works on another section of Craigleith Road. The works will require the felling of some trees in the former Royal Victoria Hospital site. Speed bumps will also be provided on Orchard Road ahead of the closure of Craigleith Road. It will necessitate a major bus diversion for Lothian bus services 38 and 42. Councillors said that the current drainage works had highlighted the need also to provide for wheelie collections when vehicular access is restricted.

Planning applications - the Community Council had supported local residents where significant non residential developments were proposed and which could affect residential amenity adversely :- Western General Hospital - application refused due to the absence of a satisfactory noise assessment and its impact on residents in adjacent Craigleith Hill area; Queensferry Road Esso petrol station - proposed car wash approved without regard to objections; McDonalds Telford Road extension of operating hours - no decision currently.

Cheques - it was noted that there are only 2 persons authorised to sign community council cheques - ideally should be 3 persons. Also noted that Rupert Lezemore, previously a community councillor until 2019, could no longer sign cheques.

Future meetings - online or at Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall - after discussion it was agreed to await advice from the City Council and review the matter at a later meeting.

Councillors Reports - Spaces for People - no changes are proposed regarding Queensferry Road scheme including Craigleith Crescent junction in paper to be considered by Transport and Environment Committee on 19 August.

Flooding and gullies - large number of people got in touch

Weeds and general maintenance - because of reduced manpower and weaker chemical treatments now available, weed problem is getting worse. Acknowledged that the city looks like a tip. Local residents are encouraged to deal with weeds close to their property.

AOCB - Comely Bank Cemetery - a local resident was concerned about the poor state of the cemetery Councillor Hal Osler said that a large amount of work has been done to tidy the cemetery, trees pruned and gateposts replaced, It was noted that gravestones are down for reasons of safety - they are also private property.

Susie Ross asked about site 95 in City Plan 2030. Councillors said that the draft Plan would be considered by the Planning Committee next month after which there would be period of public consultation. The decision on the Plan will ultimately be taken by the Scottish Government.

Next meeting - to be held online at 7.30 pm on Monday 20 September 2021 using Teams.

Alan Denham
Secretary
21 August 2021