

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 17 January 2022 Held online using Zoom

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Grant Roger, Darlene Jeffrey, Susie Ross, Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Paul Moran; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell; 4 members of the local community

Apologies - Michael Cockburn, Councillor Iain Whyte, Deidre Brock MP

Minutes of 13 December 2021 meeting - approved.

Anti-social behaviour - there had been further incidents of anti social behaviour on 10 December, 14 and 15 January in Maidencraig Crescent, most recently involving 20-30 youths leading to damage to car windows and mirrors, stones being thrown at dwelling windows and other vandalism. Police Scotland had been notified and there was a large Police turnout on 15 January. The Chair said that he would pursue with Police Scotland.

Councillor Hal Osler said that there were also problems in Craigleith Retail Park not being attended to.

Road surfaces - Michael Cockburn, in his absence, had asked that the issue of poor road surface at the Queensferry Road/Telford Road/Strachan Road be discussed. Councillors Max Mitchell and Gavin Barrie said that unless resurfacing was programmed, any defects would only be patched. It was however important to flag up defects and that they could be reported easily on the Council's web site.

Charity Bags - it had been noted that the majority of recent charity bags related to English related charities. Councillors said that the City Council had no powers to intervene.

Dog Fouling - the Chair commented on the increasing problem of dog fouling, highlighted recently in the Blackhall Facebook Group. It was a particular problem in Ravelston Park, Craigmock Road and Jeffrey Avenue. Dog walkers were not picking up dog excrement. Councillor Hal Osler said that the problem was city wide. She encouraged the use of the "Report It" function on the Council web site. Dog walkers should also be encouraged to use empty bins rather than overfill litter bins - which are not being emptied so frequently because of the impact of the omicron variant on staff numbers and priority being given to the emptying of domestic bins.

Councillor Gavin Barrie said that Wardens may be able to help if the time of fouling offences was narrowed down.

Planning Update - the Secretary reported that since the December meeting comments had been submitted on the draft City Plan 2030; supplementary objections had been submitted to the Scottish Government Inquiry Reporters Unit in relation to the appeal by McDonalds at 74 Telford Road; and objections submitted to the Council in relation to the Finance House planning application at Orchard Brae. It was also noted that despite objections the City Council had approved the application at Ward 1 Western General Hospital stating that the development would not affect the amenity of nearby residents.

City Councillors' Reports

Pedestrian Crossing at Ravelston Dykes Road - after pressing the Council officials to repaint the crossing, Councillor Hal Osler welcomed the completion of the work on Christmas Eve. Additionally one of the flashing beacons had been repaired.

Sainsbury's - Councillor Osler had held a recent meeting with the new Sainsbury manager regarding improvements to active travel, particularly for cyclists. The relocation of the cycle racks could also be considered. Additionally he was willing to consider whether more could be done on recycling.

Finance House Application - Councillor Gavin Barrie said that local residents were concerned about the small number of spaces for car parking. He said that this level of provision was consistent with Council policy which sought to reduce car use and the issue would not therefore be a material consideration in the assessment of the application.

Spaces for People - Councillor Max Mitchell met with road officials and in order to address concerns about increasing traffic congestion at the Craigleith Road junction, they agreed to adjust traffic light timings to accommodate morning and evening peak traffic flows more effectively.

Flooding - the three catchment area studies involving the Council, SEPA and Scottish Water had now commenced. One of the studies extends from Corstorphine Hill to Warriston and includes Blackhall and Comely Bank. Should flood prevention measures be required, they would be unfunded and not programmed and may therefore need more Scottish Government funding.

Next meeting - to be held online at 7.30 pm on Monday 21 February 2022 using Zoom.

Alan Denham
Secretary
20 January 2022