

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting - Monday 20 June 2022

Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Susie Ross, Duncan Osler, Ward Councillors - Hal Osler and Max Mitchell, PC Colin Cusiter (Police Scotland) plus 4 members of the community.

Apologies - Grant Roger, Jim McLennan, Michael Cockburn; Deirdre Brock (MP); Vicky Nicolson and Jule Bandel (Ward Councillors).

Minutes of 16 May 2022 meeting - approved

Police Report - PC Colin Cusiter, a community officer based at Drylaw Police Station, reported that there had been a number of events taking place this month with various Gala Days and demonstrations, all requiring a Police presence.

Speed checks have been carried out at Craigcrook Road and PC Cusiter has issued a number of warnings in relation to close passes due to concerns from local horse riding groups.

There have been a number of calls at Craigleith Retail Park relating to ASB behaviour. Police Scotland are looking at upping patrols in this area, particularly with the upcoming summer holidays. Operation PAX patrols will be carried out. Calls to Maidencraig and Ravelston Woods have been low (if any) but this could increase when the schools break at the end of term.

In summary there have been around 174 calls in the beat area over the month period which has remained around the same levels for the last 3 months. The main type of calls relate to ASB behaviour, noise complaints and RTA incidents. There have been concerns at South Groathill Avenue with youths and a meeting has been held with the Council today. The intention is more Police presence in the area where possible.

Questions generated concerns at the bridge at Groathill Road South where youths are throwing projectiles off the bridge, damaging cars and houses. PC Cusiter said that Police Scotland will investigate.

Another concern raised were traffic problems in the Craigleith Hill area arising from diverted traffic while Craigleith Road is closed. The area is being used as a rat run with speeding vehicles including lorries using it, at the same time that CityFibre are working in the area as well as workmen and vehicles at individual dwellings where major improvements are taking place. Councillor Osler said that residents are concerned that drivers are speeding with impunity plus some are driving on the pavement. Susie Ross said there was a need for Police Scotland to get involved before there was a serious accident.

Community Council matters - parents of children at Royal High had expressed concern at what they regarded as an inadequate green pedestrian phase for crossing Queensferry Road at the Quality Street/Craigcrook Road junction. Councillor Hal Osler was in discussion with roads officials. It was noted that there had been no previous concerns raised.

Flooding at the burn between Western General Hospital and Craigleith Hill Avenue - it was noted that a detailed report had been completed on the implications of works at the Western General Hospital on the adjacent burn and potential flooding. Councillors Hal Osler and Max Mitchell welcomed the completion of the report. During discussion it was noted that 3 of the houses at Craigleith Hill Avenue have been subject to flooding and 6 others had their rear gardens flooded up to the rear of the dwellings. Concerns had been expressed by local residents about the accuracy of parts of the report. Additionally there was concern that NHS Lothian had only installed one run-off tank rather than 2 tanks as originally proposed.

A member of the community asked about the linkages between the community council and adjacent community councils and whether there should be closer links. With up to 8 adjacent community councils it was not considered practical for the community councillors who are undertaking voluntary work to have sufficient time to maintain close contact. Councillor Hal Osler said that the best way to get change is through the local community council and Ward Councillors.

City Councillors report - Hal reported on proposed changes to the TTRO (Temporary Traffic Road Orders) into ETRO which will be used to for schemes such as Spaces for People and bus lanes on Queensferry Road. While non statutory schemes do not require consultation, Councillor Osler encouraged comments to be submitted when appropriate. In discussion there was uncertainty about the objectives of the schemes and it was not clear whether the City Council was monitoring the schemes.

Community Asset Transfer, Ravelston Park - there was nothing to report.

Councillor Max Mitchell reported that he had been busy dealing with CityFibre matters. He also noted that white lines had been reinstated at the Craigcrook Road junction with Queensferry Road.

AOCB - noted that 41 bus route had been changed omitting Queensferry Road after Corbiehill Road junction - west of the Corbiehill Road junction only service 43 now serves Queensferry Road. It was reported that the changes are of particular concern to Almond Ward residents.

Date of next meeting - 15 August 2022 at 7.30pm to be held at Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall.

Alan Denham

Secretary, Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

25 June 2022