

## **Craigeith / Blackhall Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting - Monday 15 August 2022**

**Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church**

**Present** - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger, Susie Ross; Ward Councillors - Hal Osler, Max Mitchell, Vicky Nicolson and Jule Bandel; 6 members of the community.

**Apologies** - Martin Riddell, Jim McLennan, Duncan Osler, Michael Cockburn; Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Deidre Brock MP; Police Scotland representative .

**Minutes of 20 June 2022 meeting** - approved

**Police Report** - Police Scotland were unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report. The chairman summarised the key points of the report :-

- following the focus on motor bike crime by Drylaw Police Station since 20 June 2022, there have been 124 charges brought in relation to motorcycle theft and 63 motorcycles recovered with a total value of £495,000
- high visibility patrols and intelligence gathering in relation to local tensions
- carrying out regular speed checks. North West Speeding Initiative in partnership with the City Council is being organised for September
- visit youth clubs, attend gala days, deal with long term neighbour disputes
- patrol hotspot for anti-social behaviour.

In discussion Councillor Hal Osler said that she had been in touch with PC Holly Matheson regarding speed checks and the first tranche will focus on Strachan Road, Craigcrook Road and March Road. A further tranche could look at the Craigeith Hill area.

**Community Council matters** -

**Blackhall Post Office closure** - there was disappointment from members of the local community present that the post office had closed as the impression had been that it had been well supported by the local community. There had been a post office on Hillhouse Road/Queensferry Road for many years and the alternatives at Davidson's Mains and Ferry Road were not easily accessible to all the local community. It was noted that the closure is temporary although it was acknowledged that Post Office Ltd has to find a willing partner. It was agreed that the secretary should write to Post Office Ltd.

**Lothian Buses Service 42** - given there had been no advanced announcement or consultation from Lothian Buses about the withdrawal of the service 42 after September 11, the reasoning for the change was uncertain. There was speculation that it might be patronage, particular older, non fare paying passengers using the

service as well as the shortage of drivers following covid. It was noted that connectivity with Stockbridge would be severed and Lothian Buses action appear to run counter to the City Council's policy to encourage increase travel by buses. Agreed that the secretary would write to Lothian Buses.

**Community Asset Transfer** - the secretary reported on the e-mail questions from community members and the responses from the Council officers.

#### **City Councillors report -**

Councillor Vicky Nicolson said that she would be visiting March Road, Forthview Terrace on local matters. Also referred to flooding issues in Craigleith Hill Avenue and problems with gully drains in Orchard Brae.

Councillor Jule Bandel referred to the absence of pedestrian phase in the traffic lights at Strachan Road junction. It was noted that improvements to the junction including a pedestrian phase had been delayed.

Councillor Max Mitchell that there had been a high number of absences in the gully drain team because of covid and holidays and only major problems were being dealt with urgently.

Councillor Hal Osler said that improvements to active travel to Sainsbury's at Craigleith were under consideration. Bike racks are also to be installed at Cloudberry in Blackhall Dip. The need for a pedestrian crossing at the Queensferry Road / Orchard Road junction had been acknowledged in a recent report to the Transport and Environment Committee although it is not programmed until 2027/28. There will no longer be a proposed pedestrian crossing at Orchard Road South.

Orchard Drive pavement is to be built out and is now programmed

CityFibre works still ongoing and causing local difficulties.

**AOCB** - concern was expressed about the poor condition of the road surface on parts of Queensferry Road - examples were the trench outside the Golden Pond and another trench at the lights in The Dip. There has been no effort by the City Council to fix the problems which are becoming a hazard to drivers and vehicles. At present works on the road are programmed for 2024/25.

**Date of next meeting** - 19 September 2022 at 7.30pm to be held at Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall.

Alan Denham

Secretary, Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

16 August 2022