

Craigeith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting - Monday 20 February 2023

Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell, Michael Cockburn, Susie Ross, Grant Roger, Duncan Osler, Darlene Jeffrey, Jim McLennan; Councillors Hal Osler, Jule Bandel, Max Mitchell; 6 members of the local community

Apologies - Deidre Brock MP

Minutes of 16 January 2023 meeting - approved

Police Report - there was no Police report this month

Community Council matters :-

Break-ins in the Blinkbonny area - two members of the public present representing the local neighbourhood watch expressed concerns about the spate of recent attempted break-ins into houses and cars in the area. Additionally a car on nearby Queensferry Road had been the subject of an arson attack.

Problems arise as the area straddles both CBCC and Murrayfield Community Council area and it is also split in Police Scotland's divisional areas.

Agreed - to bring the concerns expressed at the meeting to the attention of Police Scotland at Drylaw. Additionally to forward any Police Report to the 2 members of the public as well as Murrayfield Ward Councillors.

Attempted break-in to a garage plus graffiti in Hillpark Wood was noted.

Craigcrook Road / Quality Street Junction - Councillor Hal Osler said that the roads officer had checked the traffic lights sequence and was of the view that they were operating satisfactorily. He was however willing to meet residents for an onsite meeting. Agreed that Councillor Osler would write to the officer - although timing of the meeting would be dependent on the current road works on Clermiston Road and Queensferry Road and the forthcoming closure of Craigcrook Road .

The discussion noted that the Clermiston Road works were not well co-ordinated with the restrictions on Queensferry Road leading to congestion but no obvious activities at the Clermiston junction. Councillor Jule Bandel said that this was a frequent issue and has been raised at Transport and Environment Committee.

This was but one example of the tension between the strategic road status of Queensferry Road and the impact on local residents.

Agreed - the Secretary would invite the Chair of the Transport and Environment Committee, Councillor Scott Arthur, to a meeting of the Community Council.

During discussion it was noted that based on experience of the gas works in Stockbridge, SGN was an example of good practice providing both a mini bus service and when necessary also paying for taxis for the elderly.

Ward Councillors Reports

Royal High School - Councillor Jule Bandel said that the Royal High School extension was awaiting a geological report which was now expected in August.

Mosque - Councillor Max Mitchell said that a decision on the proposed changes at the Mosque is likely in the next two weeks. The changes had raised issues of surface water drainage and traffic concerns.

Maidencraig Crescent Steps - Councillor Hal Osler said that by making the steps an active travel project, it strengthened the possibility of improvements, including a ramp, by its inclusion in future project lists. It was noted that a petition by a local Queens Court resident had generated 93 signatures in 2 hours. Councillor Osler was hopeful improvements could be delivered in the period of this administration.

Orchard Brae - a further accident had highlighted the need to improve the junction safety near Flora Stevenson School.

Ravelston Woods - Councillor Osler reported that the 'x's on trees were for felling because of ash dieback.

Parking on pavements - the City Council has now more powers to report individuals for parking on pavement.

Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) - Councillor Osler said that parking in Blackhall East, particularly the Queens Avenue area, is to be monitored although a recent report by officials had not been sufficiently clear on this matter. She has taken the matter up with officials.

AOCB

Tree trimming on footpath linking Hillhouse Road and Hillpark Way - despite street light improvements on the footpath to improve pedestrian safety, the adjacent Lleylandi tree in Hillpark Wood had since grown to conceal one of the street lights. The recent trimming was most welcome leading to improved lighting for pedestrians.

March Road - to address flooding issues on March Road, gully drains had been replaced.

Flooding - on the wider aspect of flooding, Councillor Osler said that Inverleith Ward was receiving good attention with the Corstorphine Hill-Inverleith Park-Stockbridge study. It is likely that there could be a need for water holding areas to be developed.

Road sign - Susie Ross has been asked by local residents that the sign at Craigleith Road should be changed to Craigleith Hill, Comely Bank and Stockbridge rather than Craigleith at present, to reflect more accurately the local communities.

CCTV - other than Craigleith Retail Park, the only other permanent CCTV available is at Quality Street. A temporary camera is located at the Roseburn Cycle and Walkway at Maidencraig Crescent. The concern arose from the vandalism problems on properties adjacent to the cycle path.

Holiday Inn - residents in Blinkbonny Grove were concerned about the overflowing bins leading to debris flowing from the hotel into the adjacent properties. Councillor Mitchell said that the Council had powers viable to deal strictly with such problems.

Date of next meeting - 20 March 2023 at 7.30pm to be held at Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall.

Alan Denham

Secretary, Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

26 February 2023