

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting - Monday 17 April 2023

Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell, Susie Ross, Duncan Osler, Darlene Jeffrey, Jim McLennan; Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell and Jule Bandel; 5 members of the local community

Apologies - Grant Roger, Michael Cockburn, Deidre Brock MP, Councillors Vicky Nicolson, PC Colin Cursiter.

Minutes of 20 March 2023 meeting - approved

Police Report - PC Cursiter was unable to attend but had provided a short written update :-

“There were 214 calls to the Police during the last month, an increase of 35 calls from the same period last year

Police Scotland has experienced a number of anti social behaviour calls at Craigleith in relation to youths. Following Op Max being implemented, a number of youths have been identified for crimes and reported accordingly.

Vandalism on Groathill Road North last week and 2 pedal cycles stolen from the Western General Hospital. These areas will receive more attention in the coming weeks.

There was one reported housebreaking in the area last month and is currently subject to ongoing enquiries.”

During the subsequent discussion it was noted that there had been an attempted break-in at Blinkbonny Grove; and the rear fences on to the cycle path had been broken. There was also increased danger from motor bikes and quad bikes on the Roseburn walkway / cycleway - any incident should be reported to Police Scotland using 101 - note in particular the shoes of offenders as this is often the most distinctive feature.

Community Council matters - Tram Routes - a local resident had contacted the Community Council expressing disquiet at the impact that potential tram routes could have on off road cycling, particularly on the Roseburn Walkway and Cycleway. The discussion highlighted a number of matters - the presence of a well used active travel route did not provide a sensible reason to change its primary focus to tram use. Adapting much of the route for both trams and cyclists and walkers would require much of the existing mature trees and vegetation to be cleared.

The Roseburn route as well as an alternative route using Crewe Road South and Orchard Brae are safeguarded in CityPlan 2030. However a business case has not yet been prepared, there is no funding currently available and no immediate programme to extend the tram network.

Councillors Reports

Although Councillor Vicky Nicolson was not able to attend, she had provided a number of brief points :-

- Looking into the disruptions caused by overnight deliveries at Craigleith Shopping Centre and whether there can be any responses
- Work with SPEN (Scottish Power Energy Network) to provide additional lighting at Maidencraig junction on NEPN
- Attending a meeting with Spokes Cycle org and other councillors on Wednesday to look at cycle access to Craigleith Shopping Centre
- School placing request, Health and Social Care issues and other constituent issues
- These are in addition to the usual council issues - bins in Fettes Village, traffic/pavement parking and speeding cars.

Following discussion the Secretary agreed to circulate the Scottish Power presentation on the cable route from Gorgie to Telford Road.

Councillor Jule Bandel reported on :-

- meeting with Craigleith Retail Park officials
- concern about Western General Hospital not meeting its tree planting obligations
- improvements to the Mobility Plan
- 40 junctions have been identified by Council officials for improvement for all users; list includes Crewe Toll and Craigleith Junction in the CBCC area
- the Craigleith blue/green scheme, to address flooding, is progressing

Councillor Max Mitchell reported

- an official is to inspect Craigleith Hill and Groathill Road to establish whether they should be added to the list for pavement treatment
- next meeting of the Neighbourhood Network is to be held on 22 May
- the Council's new pothole fixing machine had carried out works on Craigcrook Road

Councillor Hal Osler reported

- Hillhouse Road - Council officials have reported that the road is not included in the 2023/24 programme for resurfacing. The poor condition of the road means it requires reconstruction. Councillor Osler will chase to get it moved forward if possible
- Blackhall Sports - the cost of licence for events in a public park has increased recently because of the scale of the cost of reinstatement of larger events
- Maidencraig Crescent Steps - 2 recent accidents to pedestrians on the steps has highlighted the need for improvements, short term to the condition of the steps

and longer term to the provision of a ramp for the elderly and other users to avoid the steps. A ramp could provide an alternative to NCN Cycle Route 1 through Wester Drylaw.

AOCB - a local resident expressed the view that Queensferry Road was too dangerous for cyclists and questioned whether it was necessary when off road NCN1 was available nearby. During discussion it was acknowledged that much of the city infrastructure is not fit for purpose for any user - cyclists, buses, motorists.

Susie Ross - it was her last meeting before leaving the area. The chair praised her for her efforts in looking after her local community and her support for the community council. She was wished all the best in her new area. The Ward Councillors supported the comments.

Next meeting - Monday 15 May including possibly the AGM

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council

23 April 2023

