

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting - Monday 19 June 2023

Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Martin Riddell, Michael Cockburn, Duncan Osler, Darlene Jeffrey, Jim McLennan; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; 10 members of the local community

Apologies - Councillor Vicky Nicolson, Deidre Brock MP, Angus Robertson MSP, PC Colin Cursiter.

Minutes of 15 May 2023 meeting - approved.

Matters arising - the Secretary had written to Lothian Buses expressing concerns on behalf of the local community that the replacement of service 41 with service 47 provided a poorer level of access to the core of the city centre, particularly east Princes Street. Lothian Buses had not responded to the e-mail.

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

There were 202 calls to the Police for the month, an increase of 22 calls over the same period last year. Police received a number of calls relating to electric bikes on footpaths. Op Orbit is ongoing and is a way of detecting/deterring this behaviour.

There has been an increase in youth calls to McDonalds on Telford Road offset by a lack of calls to Craigleith Retail Park. Planned that CPT patrols will take place during the evenings where possible.

On road traffic matters speed checks have been carried out and officers seized a car with no insurance last week.

No reported house breaking during the last month.

The subsequent discussion raised concerns about the speed of traffic using the shared pedestrian/vehicle space at the narrow Craigleith Drive bridge. Councillor Max Mitchell said that rumble strips were monitoring the speed of the traffic.

Community Council matters -

CCTV and Lighting on cycle path at Maidencraig Crescent - Martin Riddell said that he and Councillor Vicky Nicolson had met with SPEN (Scottish Power Energy Networks) to discuss the possibility of funding to offset the disruption from the forthcoming cable laying on Queensferry Road and Maidencraig Crescent. Matters discussed with SPEN included larger bins; lighting - although adequate it was limited by vegetation and Forestry in the Council were reluctant to clear it; improved CCTV cameras, based on a new system and with a 5-year contract. Once

estimates are available these will be put to SPEN. The SPEN budget is not known at this stage.

Additional lighting in Ravelston Park - a local resident had requested improved lighting adjacent to Ravelston Woods. Councillors said that it could raise issues of light pollution.

HGVs on Ravelston Dykes Road - there were concerns from local residents that the narrow width of the road made it unsuitable for HGVs and large commercial vehicles. The Councillors said that restrictions were only applied where there was a weak bridge, narrow or poor road surface. It was suggested that the names of lorry firms should be noted and contacted to see if their lorries could use alternative routes.

Other issues - speeding on Craigcrook Road at Ravelston Park - need for improved monitoring; Ravelston Park gate poor condition; Jeffery Avenue/Craigcrook Road junction poor road condition, not just for vehicles but for pedestrians - it is a significant tripping hazard for pedestrians.

SP Cable Problem at Craigeith Road Junction - this had proven to be more problematic than originally expected leading to a longer period of disruption for traffic on Queensferry Road. Once completed there is the possibility of further road closure of South Groathill Road for 4 weeks.

ETRO - the Experimental Traffic Road Orders are intended to take forward the Spaces for People arrangements on Queensferry Road and Crewe Road South to the next stage - initially withdrawn because of inaccuracies, additional legal problems had now been identified putting re-consultation on hold.

Maidencraig Crescent Steps - a local resident from Queens Court expressed concerns about the lack of an alternative ramp route to the steps for the elderly and parents with young children. She said that residents had waited 30 years with no obvious progress. Councillor Hal Osler said that it was being taken forward and had been moved to the Active Travel budget, although this will require approval from the Scottish Government in competition with other potential schemes.

Councillors' Reports

Craigcrook Road/Queensferry Road junction - errors in the white lining since resurfacing had still to be corrected.

Telford Road/Hillhouse Road/Strachan Road Junction - further resurfacing of Queensferry Road generally was possible including this junction.

Lothian Bus services - the change to a more restricted service 47 instead of service 41 and the loss of service 42, all without consultation with either Councillors or the local community, opened up old wounds and has further resulted in the loss of a quality bus service in Blackhall and parts of Craigeith. Councillors had written to Transport for Edinburgh, parent company of Lothian Buses, and Lothian Buses, but Lothian Buses had not responded.

Craikleith Hill Avenue - water leakage problem

Craigcrook Park - new gully drain to be installed to address the folding issue in high rainfall

Next meeting - Monday 21 August

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craikleith/Blackhall Community Council

27 June 2023

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