

Craigeith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting - Monday 21 August 2023

Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Martin Riddell, Jim McLennan, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; 8 members of the local community

Apologies - Duncan Osler; Councillor Vicky Nicolson; Deidre Brock MP,.

Minutes of 21 August 2023 meeting - approved.

Police Report - there was no Police report this month.

A discussion highlighted a problem of right turning traffic from Quality Street crossing the path of oncoming Craigcrook Road traffic at the Queensferry Road/ Quality Street junction.

Community Council matters -

The main discussion focused on items for discussion with Councillor Scott Arthur, Chair of the Transport and Environment Committee, at the October meeting of the Community Council. The main themes agreed were :-

- speeding and pedestrian safety - examples noted were Strachan Road, Craigcrook Road and shared tunnel at Craigeith Drive;
- Maidencraig Crescent Steps - urgent need for a ramp in support of active travel;
- poor condition of roads in Blackhall including Hillhouse Road/Queensferry Road.

Additionally the reduction in Lothian Buses bus services serving north west Edinburgh and an up date on the ETRO Consultation Travelling Safely Measures in north west Edinburgh including Queensferry Road and Crewe Road South were possible supplementary items.

Strachan Road/Hillhouse Road junction - Grant Roger reported back on a meeting which he and Councillor Hal Osler had held onsite with Council transport officials - Gavin Brown, Dave Sinclair and Mark Love - on Friday lunchtime 15 September. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the need to address the missing pedestrian phase at the traffic lights at Strachan Road. The meeting highlighted the high volume of traffic at the junction, poor driver behaviour, parking on double yellow lines, the high volumes of traffic generated by Blackhall Mosque and the problems for pedestrians crossing Strachan Road. The Council officials were also asked to consider why the junction did not feature in list of the top 40 junctions recently published by the City Council. Council officials will follow-up on all matters and agreed to report back. It was noted that the current traffic lights are over 30 years old and a full upgrade could cost up to £0.5 million but would not be possible for up to 5-7 years hence. A short term fix was not favoured.

Blackhall Dip Planters - Martin Riddell reported on a site meeting with members of Blackhall Horticultural Society who in principle were supportive of taking on the

maintenance of the planters. Alan Denham had since e-mailed the City Council on a number of detailed issues before proceeding - a reply is still awaited.

Councillors' Reports

Princes Street concert - it had resulted in an intrusive and unacceptable heavy bass sound extending to parts of Blackhall and Craigleith. The concerns have been brought to the attention of Council officials in relation to future events.

Blackhall Primary School - a parents travel plan is currently being undertaken and the poor pedestrian crossing facilities on Craigcrook Road could be a concern to be addressed.

Bins in Ravelston Park - Councillor Max Mitchell provided an update (see also minutes of 21 August meeting).

AOCB

Community Council boundaries - the pre-consultation on community council boundaries was raised. It was noted that there will be a formal consultation later in 2023 ahead of decision by Council Committee in 2024.

Martin Riddell expressed disappointment that after positive noises from Scottish Power that they could support improved CCTV in the area linked to the forthcoming installation of the new cable from Gorgie to Telford Road, they have withdrawn their offer. Instead they have indicated support for biodiversity schemes, although there is uncertainty about the criteria for determining such schemes.

Next meeting - Monday 16 October 2023

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

20 September 2023