

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 18 December 2023

Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger, Martin Riddell, Darlene Jeffrey, Jim McLennan, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; PC Colin Cursiter, PC Paul Gunderson (Police Scotland).

In attendance - 4 members of the local community

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

Minutes of 20 November 2023 meeting - approved

Police Report - PC Cursiter reported:-

There were 161 calls for the month, an increase of 14 calls over the same period last year. There had been one vehicle theft from East Fettes Ave. Road checks carried out on Queensferry Road - leading to 2 arrests for drink driving.

Youth calls taking up a lot of time. There were two calls about cold callers in the Strachan Road and House o' Hill area but no threats involved.

Local police were also giving support to the Christmas events in the city centre.

Questioned about free bus passes for children, PC Cursiter commented on children coming from East Lothian into Edinburgh. Some are taken home in a Police car.

Martin Riddell brought a local resident's concerns about youths gathering near Maidencraig Steps to PC Cursiter's attention. He would look into it.

Other matters raised - motor bikes on Roseburn cycle track - first in a long time. Speeding on Queensferry Road.

Travelling safely bollards at Esso Garage approaching Craigleith Crescent have been hit and partially removed by the garage (now completely removed).

Orchard Brae - lights and pedestrian island severely damaged by in an accident.

Community Council matters :-

Strachan Road/Hillhouse Road/Telford Road junction - Councillor Max Mitchell has put forward a motion to the Transport and Environment Committee that the junction should be included in the city's list of major junctions. The motion is not opposed but will take time to progress. The lack of tactile paving and aids for the blind at the junction was noted in a recent press article.

Comely Bank Roundabout - the purpose of the white lines, installed at a cost of £8k, was not clear, when traffic is pushed to the edge near pedestrians.

Ward Councillors Reports

Blackhall Mosque - following concerns about parking during the call to prayers, parking wardens have patrolled the area recently. Council officials have also monitored private hire vehicles. It is however disappointing that local residents have not so far engaged with council officials and Ward councillors on possible measures to address the problem. They are encouraged to engage as they may not like the solution put forward by the City Council.

Orchard Drive - Councillor Max Mitchell said the road does not meet the criteria that justify speedy bumps. A build out at its junction with Queensferry Road has been completed reducing the road width from 40m to 11m. However there are concerns that it is not very clear in the dark. Reflective bollards will now be considered.

Other matters:-

Street lighting problems noted at Strachan Road (temporary fix) and Queensferry Road north side Clermiston Road to Quality Street (awaiting action by Scottish Power);

Craigcrook Park - double yellow line may be extended;

School travel plan - Blackhall Primary School and parents will come together to write a travel plan;

Pavements blocked by emptied bins - please report to Councillors;

Hillhouse Road (Queensferry Road) not to be fully repaired before 2024/25 at the earliest; Strachan Road surface now breaking up after bad weather, failing to achieve an extended life of 5 years;

Police Scotland budgets discussed and possible impact on community policing ; 70th anniversary of twinning with Munich will coincide with major European football tournament;

Blackhall Library - nothing will happen in the short term to address the RAAC in the roof - options are to replace the roof or to demolish and replace the building;

Blackhall St Columba's Church - bike racks installed; defibrillator now active.

Next meeting - Monday 15 January 2024

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craighleith/Blackhall Community Council

31 December 2023

