

**CRAIGMILLAR PARK ASSOCIATION**  
**Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd November 2017**  
**at 7.30pm at 10 Crawford Road**

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**PRESENT:** Ronald MacArthur (Chair), Liz Philp (Treasurer & Minutes Secretary), Peter Bottomley, Wilma Elton, Keith Oliver, Christine Simpson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Tony Harris, Allan Payne, Allen Simpson.

**APOLOGIES:** Hilary Vandore, Peredur Williams.

**ABSENT:** Kay Boulton (Vice-Chair).

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### **1. WELCOME**

Ron MacArthur, our new chairperson, welcomed all to the meeting, especially Peter Bottomley, who volunteered at the AGM to serve on the committee. Peter was duly co-opted (proposed by Ron MacArthur, seconded by Wilma Elton).

### **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 27th September 2017 at 21 Mentone Terrace were approved (proposed by Keith Oliver, seconded by Christine Simpson).

**3. MATTERS ARISING** None not dealt with elsewhere.

### **4. AGM**

Ron reported that approx. 60 people were present at the AGM, including our MP, Ian Murray. Eileen's Farewell Address thanked all retiring members of the committee. She reported that the CPA will continue to be vigilant over all planning matters, especially regarding the East Suffolk Road Playing Field and the Royal Blind School sites. Ian Morrison from the City of Edinburgh Forestry Service gave an interesting talk, particularly highlighting the Nature Strips in our area.

### **5. FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP**

Liz Philp, reported that we have £5,572.77 in the bank. Since the AGM we have received £618 in subscriptions and £188 of donations, of which £42 was specifically for the Nature Strips. AGM expenses were £343 to Greenprint for printing the Newsletter, £46.90 to Allan P for stationery & postage, £25 for an M&S gift token to our guest speaker Ian Morrison and £18.20 for refreshments. Liz has sent off forms to the Bank of Scotland to remove Eileen as a signatory and add Ron, Peredur remains as a signatory in the absence of a new secretary. Liz reported that 95 households have now paid their subscriptions (including 8 new members) but 45 households who paid in the year 2016-2017 have yet to renew. It was agreed that Liz should send off an E-mail (or letter) to all these 45 people gently inviting them to renew. She could include in the E-mails bank details so that people can pay by electronic transfer and also include a link to the website

### **6. WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Allan has recently updated the website to include an AGM report including the names of the new committee members, a contributions from Ron and an article by Wilma about the Nature Strips. Out of date items have been deleted. Ian Morrison provided a powerpoint of his speech for which there is a link on the website. Current planning applications are reported on the website until the date for objections has passed. In the last 7 days 14 people had accessed the site, averaging 4½ minutes per visit. OSCR have invited us to include their logo on our website. Our domain name is

now owned by CPA. Tony Harris warned that Edinburgh City Council have advised the Grange Prestonfield Community Council that data protection rules are to be changed from next May and they will advise as to what action community council and other residents' groups such as the CPA may need to take. Ron has taken over the [chair@craigmillarparkassociation.org](mailto:chair@craigmillarparkassociation.org) e-mail address from Eileen and secretary@craogmillarparkassociation from Peredur.

## **7. NATURE STRIPS**

Wilma Elton reported that Ian Morrison had produced a very detailed report on the work planned for the Nature Strips regarding the removal of trees and shrubs. It was unclear as to whether they will leave stumps (leaving it difficult to plant in place of the trees) or remove the roots. Wilma will ask him to clarify this. The plan will take 4 to 5 years. Mike Shields and his team will remove the stuff removed. Wilma had spent £53.94 on topsoil and employed a gardener for £45 for 3 hours work. It was agreed that the gardener could be asked to make at least 3 further visits. The committee agreed that paying money from our funds for the upkeep of the Nature Strips was money well spent as it makes our work visible to the community, showing that the CPA makes a difference. The committee agreed to a budget of at least £300 for the next three months. There was some discussion as to whether plaques or even benches could be provided to note that the work had been funded by the CPA, Tony warned that benches are very expensive as they have to be embedded in concrete otherwise people pinch them! Wilma was again thanked for all her hard work.

## **8. MILLERS & CALA HOMES**

Work by these two companies will be the most important developments in our area in the next two years.

FIELD - having moved the pavilion, there seems to be some work happening on the field digging foundations and preparing the ground for installing services. Allan S attempted to explain the position regarding the public park. The offer by the Iqra Academy to maintain a park is strongly supported by Ian Murray MP and the City Council have agreed to their offer, but Millers are refusing to talk about it. Allan is trying to persuade Iqra to get their lawyer to open up dialogue with Millers lawyers. Work on the park does not need to be initiated until the last house is occupied. They could well stall on this. There is still a danger that the park will never be built and that a planning application to build on the area be lodged. Millers could push for a 5 year lease, but this is NOT what the Reporter agreed to. Tony recommended that pressure be applied to the council rather than Millers, as clearly it is not in the interests of Venture Capital, who now own Millers, to build a park at all. Allan and Tony are monitoring the situation closely. We have to be most vigilant to watch out for any change in applications for the site.

CALA – as reported at the last committee meeting there is no real news about the Royal Blind School site, the issue of feu burdens is still being sorted out.

The CPA did not make an objection to an application to demolish a garage at 60B Craigmillar Park (backing onto Lygon Road) and replace it with a two-storey extension.

## **9. AOB**

Ron flagged up the fact that as we still have no secretary, he has been acting as temporary secretary since the AGM but he said that he would not continue indefinitely and asked for volunteers so far without success

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 28th February 2018 at 7.30pm at 10 Crawford Road (Résidence Simpson).

**There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.35pm.**