

CRAIGMILLAR PARK ASSOCIATION
Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27th September 2018
at 7.15pm at Crawford Road

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Allan Payne,

APOLOGIES: Kay Boulton, Tony Harris, Allen Simpson, Hilary Vandore, Peredur Williams.

RESIGNATION: Kay Boulton has resigned from the Committee

1. VICE CHAIR

The resignation of Kay Boulton leaves the position of Vice Chair vacant. Christine Simpson offered to take on this role and will need to be proposed and seconded at the AGM.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 20th June 2018 at 13 Crawford Road were approved, proposed by Ronald MacArthur, seconded by Christine Simpson.

3. MATTERS ARISING None not dealt with elsewhere.

4. AGM

Thursday 25th October at Craigmillar Park Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Ron MacArthur offered to arrive early, put up signs and put chairs out. A table will be required for the chairman and minutes secretary, approximately 60 people expected. Christine will be in charge of refreshments. Liz will organise the usual gang of ladies from Crawford Road to take subscriptions on the door. Ron will ask Norman Weibye to send the invoice from the church direct to Liz. The speaker will be Donna McArdle from Bridgend Farm. There was some discussion about future speakers, particularly desirable would be a representative from the Cockburn Association. Also possibly speakers from charities, but there was a general feeling that something of local interest rather than a national charity.

5. FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP

Liz Philp had previously circulated the 2017-2018 accounts duly examined by Willie Grieve, showing that we have £5,000.49 in the bank, with a deficit for the year of £27.66. There is no change in the membership, 118 members in the year 2017-2018. Liz has made a Gift Aid application for subscriptions and donations in 2017-2018.

6. MILLERS & CALA

Building work on the Playing Field site is progressing. It is rumoured that one house has already been sold for the asking price of £1.2 million. The vexed question of the public access park was discussed. Nobody knows if it will ever materialise. As for the Blind School site, the feu burdens have now been dealt with but no planning application has been made.

7. WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter. Allan Payne had the newsletter prepared except for adding the name and details of the speaker at the AGM. Ron will proof-read it and Allan hopes to take it to the printers next week.

Website. Ron feels that some of the items on the website are very out-of-date. Apparently it would be tricky removing them altogether but can be placed in a new “Archive” folder. We definitely need new items on the website. There was not a huge rush of offers to write anything!

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

Ron MacArthur explained that a new Planning (Scotland) Bill 2017 was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 4th December 2017 by the Scottish Parliament with the main aims being simplification,

transparency and speeding up of the planning procedure. The bill passed Stage 1 (debate on principles). It was then forwarded to the Parliamentary Local Government and Communities Committee for detailed consideration clause by clause (Stage 2). Written and oral representations may be made by interested parties. Several meetings have taken place already and will continue into October 2018 and possibly beyond. Once all amendments have been agreed, a Report is presented to the Parliament for consideration of the amended Bill (Stage 3). Although further amendments are

possible, it is unlikely and the Parliament will proceed to voting on the Bill. Once passed, the Planning Act will receive the Royal Assent and be known as the Planning Act 2019. Thereafter, detailed Regulations and Guidance will be drawn up. It is therefore unlikely that the new Planning régime will come into operation before 2021.

Two Planning Applications were considered. These have already been considered by GPCC.

(i) 4 Mayfield Gardens – application for change of use of the Abcorn Guest House to a 13 bed, 15 person HMO. It was felt that the HMO should not include the existing private living accommodation as this is necessary to provide onsite management. (ii) 15a Suffolk Road – application to turn the existing garage into ancillary domestic accommodation. While not objecting to this change in principle we felt that the details were poor and we should object to the application – firstly the roof will be higher than the garage and unsuitable materials are planned. The proposed spiral staircase will be visible from both Granby and Suffolk Roads and it does not respect the character of the conservation area and thus is in conflict with the LDP. The statement that it will be screened by vegetation in the Nature Strips is not valid because the Nature Strips are not in the control of the applicant and making this statement implies that the applicant knows the work will be visually substandard.

9. NATURE STRIPS

Wilma Elton reported that there has been a flurry of activity in the Gilmour Road strip between Lygon and Wilton Roads. Following recommendations in the Conservation and Biodiversity report which we commissioned, enormous laurel trees are being felled by some of our local lumberjacks. Mike Shields from the Council has offered much needed support in setting up a link between us and the Inch nursery where we hope to acquire shrubs to fill in the spaces created by the felling. Before planting new vegetation, Mike will arrange for equipment and manpower to bring the stumps, shred the larger branches and provide bags of soil. We hope to carry out similar work in the two remaining strips in which laurel has taken over space and light. We are disappointed that Ian Morrison, who was speaker at the last AGM has not made good his promise to start work on the Granby Road strip. There was a suggestion that a map could be made available for the AGM (and also perhaps on website) showing where all the Nature Strips are situated and numbering them.

10. AOB

All members were exhorted to think of people who might be prepared to join the committee.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 28th November at 13 Crawford Road.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.20pm.

“ Later Minutes await approval at next relevant Meeting.”