

**CRAIGMILLAR PARK ASSOCIATION**  
**Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27th November 2019**  
**at 7.30pm at Crawford Road**

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**PRESENT:** Ronald MacArthur (Chair), Christine Simpson, (Vice Chair), Liz Philp (Treasurer & Minutes Secretary), Isabel Clark, Simon Gage, Hilary Vandore.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Tony Harris

**APOLOGIES:** Stephanie Bell, Peter Bottomley, Wilma Elton, Allan Payne

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**1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 9th September 2019 at Crawford Road were approved, proposed by Simon Gage, seconded by Christine Simpson.

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

**3. AGM ANALYSIS**

It was generally felt that the AGM went well, although numbers attending were down. This could be because there are not, at present, any big controversial new planning proposals. Councillor Cameron Rose was present at the meeting and made useful contributions to the discussions. There was quite a lot of interest and concern about the proposed new Cycle Path (see item 10 below). The presentation by Mrs Jocelyn Cunliffe of the Architectural Society of Scotland was well received.

**4. FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP**

Liz reported that we have £5,739.95 in our account. Payment of subscriptions has not been good so far. 65 households have paid, including 5 new members, but so far 99 households have failed to renew. 25 have paid by cheque, 20 in cash, 15 by BACS and 5 by standing order – which would tend to indicate that the invitation to pay online has not caught on much.

**5. MILLER HOMES and CALA HOMES**

**Miller Homes.** Due to strenuous efforts from both our MP and MSP a Planning Officer of Edinburgh Council has been in touch with CPA about the issue of public access to the former Playing Field site. He reported that the council is negotiating with Millers but there can be no progress until landscaping on the site is completed. The Chair has written to the council to say that the CPA are very clear that the Minute of Agreement under Section 75 must be adhered to and that the public should not be locked out, which would be contrary to the conditions of the Reporter's planning decision on Appeal.

**CALA Homes.** Tony Harris reported that at the recent GPCC meeting it had been reported that CALA have indicated that demolitions on the site will commence in the Spring, provided that the Section 75 agreement is finalised. They wish to arrange a meeting with representatives of GPCC and CPA to explain progress. Until work starts on the site the Royal Blind School still have responsibility for all the buildings.

## **6. PLANNING MATTERS.**

We have recently made objections to two planning applications.

(i) Two applications to build student residences at 200-224 Mayfield Road (site of former Police Station / Braidburn Inn) on the grounds that the proposed 7-storey buildings are too high and the design inappropriate for the area. GPCC, CPA and AHSS have all objected. This is a private development, not university owned.

(ii) Application to install dormer and other windows at 21 Mayfield Road. The plans have now been altered and resubmitted. The new proposals are considered acceptable.

The over-large sign at Kings Buildings, to which we objected, has now been removed.

The “Sports Village” planned Edinburgh University on greenbelt land at Cameron Toll – on the corner by the railway bridge – is for high rise buildings to accommodate visiting teams. A planning application is to be made in December, We will keep a careful eye on this. It is anticipated that the proposed buildings will be too high.

Allen Simpson, in consultation with Tony Harris and the Chair, has submitted, on behalf of the CPA, comments to the Council on the first draft of the new Craigmillar Park Conservation Area Appraisal.

Simon Gage drew our attention to the plans announced by Edinburgh City Council to make the whole city net carbon neutral by 2030. This will be a major challenge for the many people who have gas boilers for hot water and central heating and also gas cookers. Improved insulation for buildings in a conservation area is tricky, also many more charging points for electric cars will be needed

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 was passed in June 2019. The complex Act requires much subordinate legislation before the reforms can be introduced.

The Chair has been most efficient about keeping committee members informed about all planning applications in our area and the result of such applications

## **7. WEBSITE and COMMUNICATIONS**

The website will be updated shortly. The Chair asked that in future all communications to him regarding CPA matters be made to the address [craigmillarpark@gmail.com](mailto:craigmillarpark@gmail.com)

## **8. NATURE STRIPS**

Wilma Elton was not able to attend the meeting due to illness. She has recently spent £107.99 on the Nature Strips and Sarah Howie £34.75. This expenditure was approved and Liz will issue them both with cheques. Most residents are most appreciative of the work done on the Nature Strips by public-spirited volunteers giving of their time to improve our area.

[Nature Strip Report received from Wilma after the meeting]

About a month ago Mike Shield's team came on a Saturday morning to remove some heavy laurel branches overhanging the pavement and road at the Lygon Road end of Gilmour Road. A six foot tree plus four smaller saplings have been purchased to fill some cleared spaces in strip five near Lygon Road. Some excellent compost from a local, charitable enterprise have been bought for all the strips. Bags of leaves picked up from the pavement and road have been concealed behind trees, and we hope we'll have some good leaf mould of our own next year.

This coming weekend, a trailer will be left on the Suffolk/Gilmour Road corner. Volunteers have been busy sweeping up leaves on pavements ( and local roads as well ) and these, as well as other green waste will go to Inch nursery to be turned into compost. Almost all the bulbs which Mike gave us have been planted.

#### **9. GRANGE PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Tony Harris reported that at the recent November meeting of the Community Council all 16 elected members and 3 nominated representatives were present. The posts of Chair, 2 Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer were all confirmed. There is a new post of “Community Engagement Officer” now required by the City Council.

#### **10. PROPOSED CYCLE PATH TO EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY**

This proposal raised a spirited response at the AGM. The proposal is to make Craigmillar Park southbound and Lady Road westbound one lane only. Members present at the AGM expressed the view that they are not against cycle paths in principle but very concerned about the traffic congestion which would be caused by these proposals, particularly at the roundabout at the top of Lady Road. Recent closure of part of Craigmillar Park during the installation of new gas pipes caused considerable chaos. The issue of emergency service vehicles, particularly ambulances, does not seem to have been addressed. Ron had written to the council after the AGM to report the concern of CPA members. Various alternative routes were discussed – through East Suffolk Park to Lady Road or along the new East Suffolk Row and through the woods to Cameron March would be splendid, but since both are through private grounds not very likely. A better idea was to go along Ventnor Terrace and through Newington Cemetery to Dalkeith Road. Simon Gage agreed to make a further submission to the Council in his personal capacity.

#### **11. A.O.C.B.**

None

#### **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 25th March 2020 at Crawford Road.

**There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.10pm**