

**Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Minutes of Meeting Monday 20 May 2024
Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall**

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Martin Riddell, Michael Cockburn, Duncan Osler, Darlene Jeffrey, Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell, Murrayfield Councillor Alan Beal; 10 members of the local community

Apologies - Councillor Vicky Nicolson, Deidre Brock MP,

Minutes of 19 June 2023 AGM meeting - approved and adopted

Chair and Secretary Report - the annual report was approved.

Annual Accounts - approved. The treasurer questioned whether it provided best value for money when each community council was expected to have individual insurance rather than a city wide policy. Agreed he would raise the matter when submitting the accounts.

Engagement Officer Report - included in the chair and secretary report.

Current office bearers stand down and election of new office bearers - at this point of the meeting Councillor Hal Osler took the chair for the selection of the Chair. The following office bearers were appointed :-

Chair - Stuart Pinkerton - proposed by Martin Riddell, seconded by Peter May
Secretary - Alan Denham - proposed by Stuart Pinkerton, seconded by Betty Brown
Treasurer - Grant Roger - proposed by Stuart Pinkerton, seconded by Alan Denham
Engagement Officer - no nominations

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Next AGM - May or June 2025

Alan Denham
Secretary
22 May 2024

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Annual Report 2021 - 22

This report covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022. During the period the key office holders were Stuart Pinkerton, chairperson, Alan Denham, secretary, and Martin Riddell, treasurer. This report is a joint chairman and secretary report.

The wider health concerns arising from the Covid-19 pandemic continued to limit the scope for face to face meetings at Blackhall St Columba's Church and until the last meeting of the period in March 2022, all meetings were held online.

Planning matters -

The community council supported local residents where significant non residential developments were proposed and which in the opinion of the community council, could affect residential amenity adversely :-

Western General Hospital - application refused due to the absence of a satisfactory noise assessment and its impact on residents in adjacent Craigleith Hill area. A subsequent planning application was approved, the City Council stating that the development would not affect the amenity of nearby residents.

Queensferry Road Esso petrol station - proposed car wash approved without regard to objections;

McDonalds Telford Road extension of operating hours - City Council refused planning permission but following an appeal to the Scottish Government Inquiry Reporters Unit by McDonalds, the decision was overturned and permission granted.

Finance House application - the community council submitted objections to details of the application.

10 Columba Road - a developer proposal to demolish the existing building and replace it with 11 flats in a 4 storey structure resulted in significant concerns from local residents.

Following a well attended meeting in March 2022, detailed objections were submitted to the planning application. A decision is still awaited.

CityPlan 2030 - Edinburgh Local Development Plan - in April 2021 there was a presentation to the community council by Edinburgh City Council ahead of the publication of the draft CityPlan 2030 when the issue of flooding at Craigleith Hill Avenue and Fettes site was discussed in some detail. The subsequent publication of a draft CityPlan 2030 acknowledged the flooding issues and the proposal for the Fettes site incorporate measures to manage the problems. Detailed community council comments were submitted to the Council on the draft plan. These comments also included the welcome retention of the Hillhouse Road Woods (Queensferry Road) and the horse field on Craigcrook Road as open space.

Roads and Transport - road issues continued to be a matter of local concern to residents. As in previous years vehicle speeds and operation of the 20 mph scheme was a regular discussion item at meetings. Excessive speeds by some vehicle drivers was of concern to both residents and the community council and 20 mph speed infringements in general and in particular on Craigcrook Road, Strachan Road continued to be a problem. The addition

of speed bumps on Orchard Road North, a diversion route while Craigleith Road was closed from October 2021 and much of 2022, addressed the previous speeding issues.

The closure of Craigleith Road also resulted in speeding issues in the Craigleith Hill area which some diverted traffic was using to avoid Orchard Road North.

Spaces for People - while the addition of additional spaces for pedestrians and cyclists is welcome, the majority of schemes in the community council area have focussed on provision for cyclists. The longer term benefits of these schemes remains uncertain. Additionally some schemes have introduced unexpected hazards for vehicle drivers.

Ravelston Park nursery - presentation by Blackhall Community Trust in May 2021. The subsequent acknowledgement of a legal problem in the consultation process by Edinburgh City Council resulted in further delay and uncertainty about the nursery building and the impact on Ravelston Park.

Police Reports - the community council welcomed the involvement of Police Scotland in monthly meetings. Where attendance was not possible, a written report was provided. Their regular reports have highlighted the overall reduction in crime levels north west Edinburgh in various categories during the period.

Anti - social behaviour as in previous years anti social behaviour occurred in Ravelston Woods and Maidencraig Crescent and the community council was appreciative of the helpful co-operation with Police Scotland on the issue.

Financial support - as in previous years, Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council paid for the Christmas tree and lights in Blackhall Dip in December 2021.

Other matters - a variety of other detailed local matters have been raised at the meetings and where appropriate such matters are often taken forward by the Ward Councillors present at the meeting.

Meetings - from April 2021 to February 2022, meetings were held monthly online attracting varying numbers of the public from the local community. In March 2022 there was a welcome return to face to face meetings at Blackhall St Columba's Church. The community council is appreciative of the continuing and helpful support at meetings from Inverleith Ward Councillors and Police Scotland as well as the availability of Ward Councillors online for advice.

Stuart Pinkerton - Chair
Alan Denham - Secretary
13 June 2022