

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 17 February 2025

At Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Martin Riddell, Darlene Jeffrey, Russell Murdoch; Inverleith Ward Councillors Max Mitchell, Hal Osler.

In attendance - 12 members of the local community

Apologies - Grant Roger, James Burr, Russell Murdoch, Councillors Vicky Nicolson, Alan Beal, Fiona Bennett.

Minutes of 20 January 2025 meeting - approved.

Police Report - PC Cursiter provided a written report this month :-

“There were 128 calls to Police over the month (43 less than last year)

There was 1 reported attempted housebreaking this month. This is currently under investigation.

In terms of road traffic, RP Officers uplifted an uninsured vehicle this month. There were also no major reported accidents.

There were 2 thefts of number plates and also 2 separate reports of stolen vehicles, which appear to have been keyless thefts. All of these incidents are also under investigation. I will attach some info regarding this trend and I am happy to answer any queries residents may have on this matter.

In terms of youth ASB, there was a reported vandalism to a residential property. Craigleith retail park has noted a drop off in calls.

Officers were contacted in relation to a possible bogus workman in the Craigleith area. This is currently being looked at to establish if there are crimes.

We have been conducting uniformed and plain clothed patrols during the evenings, which we are planning to maintain during the winter months.

If there are any other concerns/queries, please let us know at:

EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.police.uk

The subsequent discussion highlighted concerns about driver behaviour in the Craigleith Drive 'Tunnel'. Drivers were not having adequate regard for pedestrian safety and vehicles were chasing pedestrians through the tunnel. The Chair agreed to bring it to the attention of Police Scotland.

There was an abandoned car in Maidenraig Crescent - reported.

Community Council Matters

Local Traffic Improvement Programme 2025

3 proposals had been identified and following discussion it was agreed that all 3 should be forwarded to the City Council as the Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council bids for local traffic improvements. They were :-

South Groathill Avenue / Groathill Road South area - following discussion at the January meeting, the Community Council agreed to support local residents in their bid for safer conditions for residents and pedestrians in their area.

Strachan Road/Craigcrook Road/Ravelston Dykes Road Junction - priority is to improve pedestrian safety both for children going to Blackhall Primary School and for the elderly crossing roads at the junction.

Queensferry Road/Hillhouse Road Citybound Bus Stops - unlike bus stops on Queensferry Road west of Clermiston Road where there are traffic light controlled crossing, bus stops in the Community Council area require using uncontrolled central refuges or no refuge in order to access bus services. There are heavy volumes of traffic including a large number of HGVs on Queensferry Road travelling at 40 mph. Particular problems are at Corbiehill Road junction and also Hillpark Steps. The bid seeks to improve pedestrian safety in support of bus services.

Speed Limits

There was no information when new 20 mph speed limits, including Craigleith Road, will be introduced. Potentially a TRO (required to implement it) could come forward in the budget year 2025/26.

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on reducing limits on single carriageway roads to 50 mph. It was considered more appropriate for individuals to respond.

Community Council Elections 2025

There was a reminder of the forthcoming elections and the need for nomination forms to be submitted to maintain the community council to address local community issues in Craigleith and Blackhall.

Planning Application 25/00288/FUL - installation of shipping containers at South Groathill Avenue for self storage

The application generated both negative and positive impacts. Some of the problems cited include 24 hour security - it is contrary to the new city development plan; does it require 24 hr bright lights ? is it suitable for access by lorries? does parking need to be reassessed as it is already a congested area ? the boundary fence is inadequate; no trees or vegetation should be removed. Agreed that Martin Riddell would gather any views from residents in nearby Maiden Craig Crescent and the Secretary would submit comments on behalf of the community council.

City Council Budget

Ahead of the Council meeting on 20 February, Councillor Osler said that there was an opportunity to consider the individual political parties budget proposals. The absence of a majority party provides an opportunity for parties to come together to agree a budget for 2025/26.

Ward Councillor Reports -

Councillor Hal Osler reported on :-

Craigleith Hill - overgrown vegetation at Royal Victoria site is still an ongoing issue;
Cycle path - following Storm Elwyn a number of trees need to be assessed - this could take time given the number of trees affected by the storm and as the number of forestry officers is limited;

Parking at Blackhall Mosque - a decision has been taken to separate the parking proposals requiring a TRO in the Strachan Road area from a TRO required to implement the Mosque area parking proposals;

Road safety - residents in Craigcrook Park are not satisfied with officers' proposals for wheelie collections.

Councillor Max Mitchell reported on:-

Blackhall Primary School - traffic wardens are assessing the parking issues;

Blackhall Medical Centre - the cause of the blocked gully drains has been found to be a plastic lid which had blocked the drain.

AOCB -

Poor quality of gully drain installation noted.

Blinkbonny Neighbourhood Watch - water ingress into properties adjacent to the Roseburn Cycleway continues to be a problem resulting in damage to properties. Advice on compensation was given.

Next meeting - 17 March 2025 - last of the current community council.

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

21 February 2025