

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 17 March 2025

At Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Martin Riddell, Darlene Jeffrey, Russell Murdoch, James Burr; Inverleith Ward Councillor Vicky Nicolson.

In attendance - 4 members of the local community

Apologies - late arrival because of other commitments - Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; apologies Councillors Alan Beal, Jule Bandel.

Minutes of 17 February 2025 meeting - approved.

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

There have been 99 calls so far to Police this month in the area, this is 16 less than the same period last year. In terms of property crime, there have been 2 x attempt break ins to garages. Both of these have been investigated and no suspects traced at this time.

There has been little of road traffic incidents of note, however a drink driver was arrested and also charged with careless driving.

We have continued our plain clothed patrols at Craigleith and there has been a slight downturn in youth ASB calls.

Also, we have been doing a number of school visits this month, with an emphasis on talking about knife crime etc.

The subsequent discussion highlighted concerns about shed break-ins in the Blinkbonny area, where the culprits were using the Roseburn Cycle and Walkway to gain access to the sheds.

Community Council Matters

Community Council Elections - with 9 nominations received, 3 above the minimum threshold of 6 members, there will be sufficient members for Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council to continue for the period up to 2029.

As the new community council has to meet by 18 April, there was a need to change the date of the April meeting from 21 April. Having regard to other bookings for the Small Hall, it was agreed to meet on Monday 7 April at 7.30pm when the meeting will be called by the Returning Officer, Councillor Hal Osler.

Financially Supported Bus Services

Service 38 - the approval by the Finance Committee on 13 March of financial support up to December 2025 was welcomed. Councillor Vicky Nicolson

commented that that if the service was not financially viable, it may still disappear after the new funding expires in December 2025. The Chair asked about a breakdown of the fully funded fares and the concessions, as the council part funds these as well. Councillor Nicolson said that the community council could complete a written deputation to request this information at the next Finance Meeting. There was a feeling that the 38 was well used, and although the community is encouraged to use it further, but it may be that most of the users are concession holders, so it would be challenging to get more people to use service 38.

Service 13 - the Secretary reported on the monitoring of the recently awarded contract to McGill's Midland Bluebird. Council officials are keen to learn of good experiences as well as problems.

Ward Councillor Report -

Councillor Vicky Nicolson reported on Maidenraig Court district heating system and the 3 options that were being considered.

Blackhall Library Car Park - while the Library is closed, Council officials were relaxed about the car park being used by Blackhall Mosque worshippers as a short term use. The Mosque had been informed.

Next meeting - 7 April 2025

Alan Denham

Outgoing Secretary

Craighleith/Blackhall Community Council

18 March 2025