

## **Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 16 June 2025**

#### **at Blackhall St Columba's Church**

**Present** - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Peter May, Darlene Jeffrey, Russell Murdoch, James Burr; Inverleith Ward Councillor Max Mitchell; PCs Colin Cursiter and Paul Gunderson

**In attendance** - 6 members of the local community

**Apologies** - Martin Riddell, Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Vicky Nicolson, Murrayfield Ward Councillor Alan Beal; Angus Robertson MSP

**Minutes of 19 May meeting** - approved.

**Matters arising - Hillhouse Road/Hillpark Way** - following concerns about the potential fire hazard from dried storm damaged trees, a local resident had contacted the factor responsible for Hillpark Wood shared landscape area. The factor had agreed to move the matter forward with an undertaking that the works to remove the fallen trees would be completed by end of June.

**Police Report** - PC Cursiter provided the following update :-

There were 142 calls to Police this month (19 less than last year)

In relation to housebreaking, there has been a number of calls to Police. Kimmerghame area has seen 2 attempts of pedal bike theft and also an attempt HB to a shed. Further, a car was stolen in the Craigleith area recently which is currently still under investigation. Officers will be carrying out patrols in these areas due to this spike in activity.

In terms of Road traffic incidents, officers have arrested a drink driver in the area this month, as well as another vehicle being uplifted due to no insurance. There appear to be less calls in relation to electric bikes this month with only a handful of calls being received.

A number of calls were reported to Police in relation to a youth with a knife at Morrisons on Ferry Road. The youth was apprehended swiftly and charged accordingly. This appeared to be an isolated incident.

Further youth calls have again been reported at Craigleith retail park, and Police Scotland has been carrying out uniformed/passing attention patrols where possible.

There has been abstractions this month with Gala Days and other events, including Blackhall Sports Day. Police Scotland also appreciate the public's patience with the closure of Roseburn path last week.

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

[EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.police.uk)

The following matters were brought to the attention of PCs Cursiter:-

**Dirt Bikes on Hillhouse Road** - community concern about dirt bikes on wrong side of road and doing wheelies on one wheel - problem is between 10am and 2pm.

**Electric bikes** - increasing concern about their speed, riders' dark clothing and the disregard for the rules of the road by some riders.

**Quad bike on Craigmack Road** - concern about quad bike carrying a child on Craigmack Road adjacent to Ravelston Park.

**Red light jumping** - problem from emerging traffic from Drum Brae on to Queensferry Road. It is also a problem at Quality Street/Craigmack Road junction on Hillhouse Road.

**Forthcoming 30 mph speed limit on Queensferry Road/Hillhouse Road** - will there be speed checks.

Additionally the Community Council agreed that a PC Bob would be purchased.

### **Community Council Matters**

**Review of polling stations/polling places (City Council consultation)** - discussion acknowledged that the present polling station at Davidson's Mains Parish Church was not ideal in terms of distance from some of the community, the need to cross Queensferry Road, and problems in accessing the car park. Agreed that the Community Council would submit comments asking the City Council to explore whether there was capacity at Blackhall St Columba's Church to accommodate its relocation.

**Proposed Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in Blinkbonnys and Craigmack Road/Drive** - 50% of the residents do not want the extension but it was pointed out by Councillor Mitchell that rejection would mean that alternative proposals would go to the bottom of the priority list. There were questions whether a mixed scheme for parts of the area time limited for 2 hours per day and a full CPZ elsewhere was possible - this however was not possible for legal reasons; visitor permits 90 minute restriction; blue badges and reduced restrictions. A public information event is to be held by the City Council on 26/27 June at Flora Stevenson Primary School between 15.45 and 18.15 both days.

**Litter Banners** - wrap around posters at Hillhouse Road shops and Blackhall Primary School invite suggestions for areas that could do with a clean up. It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate suggestions including dog fouling in Ravelston Park and surrounding streets; graffiti at bus stops and bus shelters; weeds and overgrown vegetation on Roseburn Path Bridge at Queensferry Road.

### **Ward Councillor Report -**

**Councillor Max Mitchell** - Craigmack Retail Park - following complaints by adjacent residents about the noise from the methane withdrawal plant located at the north east corner of the development, Savills and a Council team are looking into the problem.

Orchard Park - a tree has been planted in the footpath build-out opposite Craigleith Drive, which ties in with the tree planting undertaken as part of the swale in Orchard Park.

Scottish Water funding is to be made available to address flooding issues in heavy rains - could include boxes to collect water in heavy rains.

New Council app - a new reporting app will be available soon and should be able to cover all types of incidents to report to the council. A date for its introduction is still to be finalised.

Blackhall Library - a resident was concerned that the delay in approving the planning application for a temporary library at Davidson's Mains Primary School would lose the summer holiday window for installation.

**Councillor Hal Osler** provided the following written information :-

Community connections - Last month at Transport and Environment Committee had a motion passed looking into the possibility of using smaller providers for localised bus servicing. This was largely on the back of residents writing to me from D'Mains to Stockbridge about the loss of the 42 which is still impacting many members of the community.

Orchard Park

The flood mitigation works are continuing with planting and tidying of the Park itself being done as well as the excavation of the tree pit on the build out. Had a pleasure of talking to some residents around the area recently who said they were delighted with the improvements as it also gives a safe passage to individuals to reach the Queensferry Road on the left side.

March Grove / March Road Yellow Lines

Confusion and alarm was caused by a sign (for a TRO) going up on March Road talking about double yellow lines being introduced. Just to be clear these are only at the entrance to March Grove to allow for safe entry/exit.

Flood Mitigation

At last month's TEC in the Business Bulletin you will see there is an update about flood mitigation (starting page 5). The point I want to bring to your attention is under Programme 4, lots of really positive things happening in the wider Craigleith basin area and in particular is the innovative new look at doing localised SUDS in "Craigleith Streets". This is very good news and due to the fact that a significant £2m was put into the flood budget a couple of years ago when the Lib Dem budget passed, Scottish Water are now putting in additional funding and we are starting finally to look at preventative and smaller mitigating measures. I know there are a number of concerns about flooding and the streets being looked at are based in Ravelston/Craigleith I have asked that Craigcrook be looked at especially with the junction with March Road. This is early days but very positive news in general.

[https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s83894/6.1%20-%20Business%20Bulletin\\_May%202025.pdf](https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s83894/6.1%20-%20Business%20Bulletin_May%202025.pdf)Next meeting - 16 June 2025

## **AOCB**

Bin calendar - a member of the community sought information on the revised bin calendar. Councillor Mitchell will look into the matter.

South Groathill Road - a member of the community asked for information on the planning application. A decision is still awaited.

**Next meeting** - to be held on 18 August 2025 (there is no meeting in July)

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

18 June 2025