

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 18 August 2025

at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Peter May, Russell Murdoch, James Burr, Matin Riddell, Jim Mclennan; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; PCs Colin Cursiter and Paul Gunderson

In attendance - 9 members of the local community

Apologies - Duncan Osler; Inverleith Ward Councillor Vicky Nicolson,

Minutes of 16 June 2025 - approved.

Police Report - PC Cursiter provided the following update :-

There were 168 calls to Police this month (This was 3 less than last year)

There was 1 reported housebreaking which is currently under investigation and there were 2 reported break ins to garages.

In terms of road traffic incidents, there was one minor vehicle accident and there was a notable capture where a 16 year old was caught on an off road bike. He was charged with a number of offences and reported accordingly.

There have been a number of calls to the Western General Hospital involving youths climbing scaffolding. There were also 2 calls in relation to youths trying car doors. It looks like these incidents took place on different days and there is nothing at present to suggest they are linked.

We have been abstracted for some periods in the past 4 weeks due to the visit of President Trump and then the later arrival of JD Vance.

Planning is underway for Op Crackle and our shifts are in place for this.

If there are any other concerns/queries, please let Police Scotland know at:
EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.police.uk

The following matters were discussed or brought to the attention of PCs Cursiter and Gunderson :-

Queensferry Road new 30mph limit - there was at present no information on whether the new limit is being complied with.

South Groathill Avenue zig zags - parking on the zig zag lines at the pedestrian crossing is an increasing problem.

Roseburn Path - a dog walkers pet became very ill due to ingesting suspected drugs

Quality Street Junction - a motor bike in black, with the rider in black, and no number plate passed through the red light and then turned right into Queensferry Road again going through a red traffic light. The discussion noted that there were wider problems with e-bikes and motor bikes and those residents affected require reassurance.

Maidencraig Crescent Hit and Run - the front of a car was removed by a delivery vehicle that did not stop to report the accident.

Additionally following agreement at last meeting, agreed to go ahead with the purchase of PC Bob from Police Scotland.

Community Council Matters

Service 38 bus - Jim Mclennan voiced concerns on behalf of residents in the Craighleith Road area regarding the rumoured loss of service 38 as since the removal of service 42 it is the only bus service providing access to Stockbridge, albeit requiring a change of bus at Comely Bank. It provided an important service for elderly residents. The recently published bus changes by Lothian Buses show the service continuing.

It was noted however that some of the funding for the service 38 will run out in December.

The disappointment in the loss of service 42 was noted again. It was explained that for services to be commercially viable they require a minimum of 16 full paying passengers and those passengers who travel with a concession card are not included in the passenger figures as Lothian Buses receives significantly less income for such passengers.

Tram Extension Consultation - The consultation will start on Monday 25 August 2025 and run for 12 weeks, finishing on Monday 17 November 2025. The November meeting would not provide sufficient time to prepare comments and it was agreed to consider the community's views at the next meeting on 15 September, leaving the option open for a further follow-up discussion at the October meeting.

South Groathill Avenue - a resident of the street had expressed for a second time concerns about the deteriorating road surface and the impact of HGVs and buses on their building structure. The potholes and crumbling road resulted in vibrations and with 7 buses per hour, there were frequent vibrations. There was an urgent need for the road surface to be reinstated.

Councillor Hal Osler said she was already in contact with road officials about the Blackhall Dip section of Queensferry Road where she was hopeful that it will be included in the road programme for full treatment. She would use this contact to make the case for similar works on South Groathill Avenue.

Queensferry Road 30mph Speed Limit - the general consensus was that the implementation of the new 30 mph limit by Edinburgh Council had been inadequate. There had been a poor information campaign. A small sign, often

concealed by overgrown trees, was inadequate and more confusing when the 40 mph road markings were left (only removed 2 months after the new speed limit introduced). It was also noted that sat nav systems have not yet caught up with the changed speed limit. Some residents from outside the city were not yet aware of the changes and the lack of signage does not assist in the implementation of the policy change.

It was suggested that painted 30 mph signs on Queensferry Road would assist. Councillor Mitchell said that this would require a speed survey to justify painted speed markings.

Graffiti in Bus Shelters - a local resident had expressed concerns about the current appalling state of bus shelters after the recent spate of graffiti vandalism. A subsequent survey showed that between Hillpark Steps and Orchard Parks on Queensferry Road 17 bus shelters had graffiti damage. Although the shelters are Council owned, Lothian Buses are responsible for their maintenance. Agreed that the Secretary would contact Lothian Buses.

Wider graffiti problems were identified including graffiti on equipment boxes linked to mobile telephone companies. The companies should be contacted directly where the name of the operator is on the equipment. Councillor Max Mitchell said that it wasn't always obvious who the companies were as there were no signs on some boxes. In these cases, details of the location, issue and type (i.e. is it an energy supplier's box or lamp post etc) should be to him and Hal as they have details of who owns what on a database (which isn't available to the public) and they will forward the details.

Community Council Noticeboard - agreed the Secretary would seek estimates to deal with corroded support.

Ward Councillor Report -

Councillor Max Mitchell -

Service 47/47B - forthcoming service changes will see the service moved from Straiton Park and Ride.

Queensferry Road - although the road surface was graded as category 4 damage, the view was that it could be patched. Works were however 6 weeks behind and the immediate priority was Health and Safety Week.

Blackhall Primary School - a petition to improve the outside space at the school will go to a meeting of the Education Committee.

Park Rangers - the Council is recruiting to fill current and forthcoming vacancies. The meeting noted the concerns of the Friends of Orchard Park on this matter.

Orchard Park - equipment has been installed in the new swale to monitor how much water is held back in order to reduce surface drainage and enable a view to be taken whether further measures will be required.

Proposed Blinkbonny parking zone - many comments on the proposed restrictions have been received and these are being analysed.

Councillor Hal Osler -

Keith Terrace - pavement blocked by caravan. The current legislation only relates to motorised vehicles and the Council is looking at other ways of addressing the problem.

Blackhall Library Bins - although the library is not in use because of RAAC concrete problems, the bins are still being emptied.

Fettes Avenue - the street has become a focus for motor caravan parking with between 20 and 40 vehicles often using it during a summer day. With end on parking the vehicles overhang the pavement restricting access for pedestrians, the motor caravan users hold picnics and there has been evidence of them urinating in sight of children from adjacent Broughton School. It is not designated as a camping site although it is being promoted unofficially on social media sites.

Councillor Hal Osler has put a question to the next full Council meeting about the problem.

AOCB

South Groathill Avenue Storage Application - a resident asked for information on progress. Councillor Max Mitchell subsequently provided an update from planning officials -

“This application is still being assessed – the applicant has recently provided Planning with additional supporting information which I will be reviewing shortly with a view to preparing a report of handling and concluding our assessment. The application is within the threshold to be decided as a delegated decision.

There is currently an extension of time in place which runs until 30th August. Should there be a further extension of time request, this will be updated on the planning portal.”

SPEN - Martin Riddell reported that Scottish Power had weeded the area at Maidencraig Crescent and planted seeds. They had also planted replacement trees at the Dip bend

Riding of the Marches - noted the invitation to community councils to take part.

Next meeting - to be held on 15 September 2025

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council

20 August 2025