

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 20 October 2025

at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Russell Murdoch, Duncan Osler, James Burr; Inverleith Ward Councillor Hal Osler; PC Paul Gunderson (Police Scotland).

In attendance - 12 members of the local community

Apologies - Peter May, Martin Riddell, Jim McLennan; Inverleith Ward Councillors Max Mitchell, Vicky Nicolson, Murrayfield Ward Councillor Alan Beal,

Minutes of 15 September 2025 - approved.

Police Report - PC Paul Gunderson reported :-

There were 156 calls to Police over this period, 1 less than last year.

There were 2 garage break-ins which resulted in pedal cycles being stolen. There was also an attempted break-in to a garage. All of these incidents are still under investigation.

There has been positive results on road traffic matters - a drink driver was arrested and charged, 2 drivers were reported for careless driving, and 3 drivers were stopped and found to have no insurance, with the vehicles being seized.

There has been a number of youth calls - a report of eggs being thrown at vehicles on Hillhouse Road and also Crewe Road South. Police were also called to youths in possession of fireworks at South Groathill Avenue.

Op Crackle has been resourced for Halloween and bonfire night with a number of dispersal zones in the north-west.

Following complaints from local residents about a caravan that has been abandoned for over 2 years, this has now been removed following extensive Police intervention.

The following additional matters were raised in discussion - an attempted house break-in in Blinkbonny.

Social media is encouraging individuals to try car doors to establish whether any have been left unlocked. Similarly flat doors in common stairs are being tried to see whether any are unlocked.

Community Council Matters

Tram Extension Consultation

Following discussion at the September meeting, a draft of the Community Council's draft comments had been circulated. The general consensus was that subject to the removal of one sentence, they reflected the discussion of the meeting. However 2 local residents who did not attend the September meeting did not agree with the line adopted, arguing that unlike London, public transport in Edinburgh was not of a high standard.

Nevertheless concerns about the high costs of construction (£2.9 billion) were once again aired as was the absence of agreed funding. It was noted that despite the existing completed tram line being well used, it is financially non viable and the tram extension could add further to the City Council's financial burden.

The additional costs for strengthening of North Bridge to accommodate the tram ahead of any decision to proceed with the implementation of the second tram line was questioned and whether and how it had been authorised within the Council.

The results of the consultation and the next steps will be considered further by the Transport and Environment Committee in February 2026. Should the Council approve the next phase of developing a business case at a cost of £50 million, the view of the meeting was that other alternative solutions should be investigated that may provide better value for money eg bus rapid transit or lighter weight trams, and which can move new residents from Granton to the city centre and elsewhere without a major environmental impact on the Roseburn Path. Additionally, the Council should demonstrate what other city wide facilities could be provided for the same funding eg assisting the disabled and other social measures.

Additionally it was noted the absence of the Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee at a tram presentation at Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre had been due to a misunderstanding and a further drop-in information session will take place there on 28 October between 4pm and 7pm.

Craigleith Tunnel

A resident had e-mailed the community council expressing ongoing concerns about the proposed changes at Craigleith Tunnel on Craigleith Drive. Local residents at the meeting reported that various options had been considered including closure of the tunnel. There were however concerns that closure could lead to traffic being channelled, resulting in pinch points on other routes, some of which are school routes.

The proposed changes have been to Transport and Environment Committee and also to suppliers - and will implemented by March 2026. The plans will reduce traffic speed, there will be better sight lines and an improved matrix warning. It

will lead to a safer route for pedestrians, but it was acknowledged no solution will be absolutely safe. Plans are supported by Murrayfield Community Council.

Ward Councillor Reports -

Councillor Hal Osler reported on :-

Local traffic issues :-

Strachan Road pedestrian lights crossing - a TRO has been completed;

Groathill Road South tunnel - first meeting has been held and rumble strips are to be installed to assess traffic volumes. Rather than a no right turn on Telford Road, other measures are being considered;

Blackhall Primary School area - following a meeting, all measures including those in the school travel plan are being considered including a pedestrian crossing at the school and improvements to Ravelston Dykes Road / Craigcrook Road junction.

Other issues :-

Service 13 - concerns had been voiced about the reliability of the service. The operator says the delays are due to inconsiderate parking in the eastern part of the route. The western part of the route is well supported and will not be affected in any reconsideration of the overall route.

Blackhall Library - a temporary library at Davidson's Mains Primary School is being installed. Meeting with officers is to be held about the next steps for consulting on a permanent solution.

AOCB

Maidencraig Steps - disquiet was expressed by a resident regarding the poor condition of the steps and the fact that 2 residents had fallen recently. Recent repairs were of a questionable standard. Councillor Hal Osler said that no final decision can take place about a ramp until there is a decision about the tram.

Blackhall Dip Christmas Tree - the community council agreed to fund the tree and lights again.

Next meeting - to be held on 17 November 2025

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

23 October 2025