

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 15 December 2025

at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Grant Roger (Acting Chair and Treasurer), Alan Denham (Secretary), Russell Murdoch, Duncan Osler, Martin Riddell, James Burr; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Vicky Nicolson; PC Paul Gunderson (Police Scotland).

In attendance - 10 members of the local community

Apologies - Stuart Pinkerton, Peter May, Jim McLennan; Inverleith Ward Councillor Max Mitchell.

Minutes of 17 September 2025 - a member of the public commented on the absence of the agreement to publish the community council's comments on the tram consultation agreed at the meeting. The minutes were approved subject to the comments being available with these minutes

Police Report - PC Paul Gunderson reported :-

Call volume - year-on-year call volume remains steady

Trends - it is common around this time of year to see an increase in frauds and scams in the lead up to Christmas. The link below to the Police Scotland website has advice around in different types of scams/fraud and what steps you can take to stop yourself becoming a victim.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/scams-and-frauds/>

With the darker nights upon us, it is important to remain vigilant around vehicle and home security.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/your-home>

In visiting populated areas like the Christmas markets and shopping centres at peak times, be mindful of your valuables and opportunities this present to opportunists.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/your-valuables>

Notable incidents

An incident on 24 November was brought to a safe conclusion.

A cannabis cultivation was found and dismantled; enquiries are ongoing into the suspect(s).

Proactive works at Craigleith Retail Park saw over £200 of goods recovered and a male arrested on 6 warrants.

Police Scotland are inquiring into a report of graffiti at Craigleith play park - the offensive graffiti has subsequently been removed by the Council.

What your Community Team have been involved in :-

We have been on foot and mobile patrols in the areas dealing with concerns, we have been assisting across the city at the Christmas markets, protests and other

local initiatives and we have been involved with beavers and cubs visits to help with their badge work.

The team has also taken part in training on the Neighbourhood Alert system, linked to Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. A sign-up leaflet is attached to the minutes.

What is planned for the coming month:

Retail patrols are planned to prevent and detect those involved in acquisitive crime and also school visits planned for inputs on hate crime.

During discussion the following additional matters were raised :

Diesel tanks stolen from Handicap minibuses parked overnight at Blackhall Library; bikes stolen;

The possibility of theft as people unload their cars and take some of their goods indoors, leaving the car unlocked. Likewise, bikes stolen as bike clothes are changed indoors and garage remains unlocked;

Video doorbell pictures can be shared with Police Scotland - photos can be uploaded;

Parking on zig zag lines at Hillhouse Road shops - local business appears to use it as a private parking area, affecting access by buses to the adjacent bus stop. PC Gunderson confirmed it is an offence to park on zig zag lines. It was noted that the lines have faded and need to be replaced .

Community Council Matters

Local Improvement Programme 2026/27

Following discussion it was agreed that the following would be put forward for consideration :-

Maidencraig Steps - addition of a ramp to aid the elderly walking;

Area around Ravelston Park, particularly the need for traffic to be slowed down to aid pedestrian access;

Queensferry Road/Hillhouse Road - provision of safer crossings to bus stops where there are no current pedestrian lights.

The Secretary agreed to set out in more detail for consideration at the January meeting.

Substandard Road Surfaces

The proposal to add double yellow lines at the junction of Jeffrey Avenue and Craigcrook Road highlights the poor road condition on this section of Craigcrook Road. Other roads in poor condition were highlighted :-

Craigcrook Road - section between March Road and March Pines;

Queensferry Road/Hillhouse Road - bus stop at Corbiehill Road, section at Hillhouse Road shops, current patching abandoned at Maidencraig Crescent; and

South Groathill Avenue.

It was agreed that the Secretary would email Ward Councillors with a view to seeking their inclusion in forthcoming road programme for 2026.

Ward Councillor Reports -

Councillor Vicky Nicolson reported on :-

Temporary traffic lights at both Craigleith Hill Avenue and Telford Road;
Camper van parking in Fettes Avenue continues to be problematic, particularly in relation to crossings to Broughton High School;
Service 13 - Stuart Lowrie (CEC public transport manager) is seeking suggestions for alternative routes.

Councillor Hal Osler reported on :-

Pedestrian lights top of Hillhouse Road - the lights allowing pedestrians to cross by the shops seem to be faulty. They have been looked at and supposedly fixed but residents say once you cross to the middle the second phase may or may not be working. They are being checked again;
Racist and offensive graffiti Ravelston Playpark - reported horrific graffiti sprayed in the play equipment at Ravelston play park. Officers have informed me that it has now been removed. She also wrote to the community police;
Blackhall School playground - Max & Hal met with officers and parent council about an update with regards the petition about improvements to the playground facilities. A report is going to the Education Committee in January with a number of options. Sadly all are presently unfunded but we will pursue;
Bin hub issues - around the Dip usual issues including overflowing bins;
Road safety measures around the school - looking at different options and trying to get these agreed and on to the next stage, slow but getting somewhere;
VASS sign on Hillhouse Road - flashing sign used to be by Gardiner Road but was removed recently and so far has not been replaced. Hal has now chased 3 times but no response - still pursuing.

Additionally Councillor Osler commented on the absence of responses from Council officials. This is disrespectful and a motion was put to the recent Council meeting.

Councillor Alan Beal provided a written report :-

1. The Craigleith tunnel works are progressing (being prepared for tender, with works expected to be completed by the end of March 26)
2. Speed monitoring has taken place on Craigleith Crescent
3. Gullies on Craigleith Crescent/Craigleith AV south have finally been cleared, with others to follow
4. The tram consultation reached 11,500 replies. My inbox suggests that the majority of these will be against the extension.
5. I am chasing the timing for the improved access to the Roseburn Path from Ravelston Dykes

Next meeting - to be held on 19 January 2026

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

19 December 2025