

Craigeith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2026

at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Duncan Osler, Martin Riddell, Peter May, Jim McLennan, James Burr; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell, Murrayfield Ward Councillor Alan Beal.

In attendance - 12 members of the local community

Apologies - Russell Murdoch; Councillor Vicky Nicolson

Minutes of 19 January - Minutes of 19 January approved.

Matters arising - Blackhall Library - officials will attend a forthcoming community council meeting on 20 April as part of the Council's consultation process. Additionally there will be consultation with schools and it will be important that officials engage with the wider community.

Play facilities at Ravelston Park - the condition of the play park was raised by Councillor Hal Osler with council officials and she received the following response :-

"Thanks for getting in touch about Ravelston Playpark and whether it could be included in the programme. Unfortunately, that's not something we can take forward just now. I do recognise that the playpark is looking tired, but at present our funding priorities remain for playpark facilities at Allison Park, Clermiston Park, Muirhouse Linear Park, Dumbiedykes, Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park and Ratho Park.

I've spoken with our engineer about the seesaw and understand it wasn't possible to get it back to its original working condition, but we'll look at this again.

I'll also ask for the site to be checked for a possible repaint to help freshen things up. I was disappointed to learn about the weed growth over the summer and will raise this with our Grounds Maintenance team."

In discussion the possibility of self funding by residents was raised. The view was that it can be very expensive and from experience, a 6 figure sum buys very little.

Sale of Blackhall Nursery, Ravelston Park - officials have confirmed that the addition to the Common Good Funds cannot be used specifically to improve play facilities in Ravelston Park as Blackhall is already well provided and it would take moneys from approved schemes.

Police Report - PC Colin Cursiter provided a written report :-

"There were 135 calls to Police over the month- +2 from last year. A single house breaking was reported with is still being investigated by the HB team. In terms of

road traffic incidents there was a driver charged with careless driving and reported. Further a drink driver was also arrested in a separate incident.

Youth disorder has been fairly steady with the usual calls to Craigleith. there has also been a number of calls to the Telford Road area. There was vandalism to a vehicle in Maidencraig, but there is no obvious link to youths being responsible.

Two separate members of the public reported receiving a call from a bank looking to transfer funds. Both were suspicious and no transactions took place. I have had a look across other areas and this seems to be isolated. However, one to be aware of.”

Discussion points included car windows being damaged and the lack of progress on PC Bob purchase. The Chair said he would contact PC Colin Cursiter

Community Council Matters

City Plan 2040 - the City Council has commenced preparing an update of City Plan 2030 and is currently identifying issues for inclusion to be addressed in the Plan. An option for communities is the preparation of a Local Place Plan but for this to be recognised as an input into the City Plan, it would need to be completed by June and to meet a number of legal requirements. With limited community council resources and time to meet the requirements, it was agreed not to prepare a Local Place Plan, but to respond to the recent questionnaire and participate in the formal consultation process.

Ward Councillor Reports -

Councillor Alan Beal reported on :-

Craigleith Drive tunnel - works to start by end of March;
Craigleith Crescent - concerns about the speed of traffic

Councillor Max Mitchell reported on :-

Absence of white line road markings on Hillhouse Road - noted that there had however been painting of numerous 20 mph signs, zig zag lines at Hillhouse Road pedestrian traffic lights and the painting of white stop line at foot of Strachan Road;

Royal Victoria Hospital site - concern about both the neglected and dilapidated condition of the coach house and the removal of stones from the perimeter wall. The site is the responsibility of NHS Lothian;

Service 13 - adjustments to the time table. From 16 February there has been a varied time per hour which could have implications for reduced passenger numbers;

With Councillor Hal Osler, he had attended a successful meeting at Blackhall Primary School on what can be done to improve the playground and how it could be funded.

Councillor Hal Osler reported on :-

Blackhall Bowling Club - overhanging trees to be cut back;

Controlled Parking Zone Orchard/Craigleith - delayed because of problems at Orchard Toll which is a private road - it may go to Committee in June;

Trams Consultation - will go to Committee in May.

City Council Budget 2026/27 - an issue for consideration will include second home tax

AOCB - following a suggestion from a local resident that a Tree Preservation Order should be made on the trees at Blackhall Library, it was noted that any resident can request a TPO being made.

Next meeting - to be held on 23 March 2026

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

20 January 2026