

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 18 May 2026 at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Russell Murdoch, Martin Riddell, Peter May, Darlene Jeffrey, James Burr;

Inverleith Ward Councillor - Vicky Nicolson;

Police Scotland - PC Colin Cursiter, PC Holly Matheson;

In attendance - 8 members of the local community

Apologies - Grant Roger, Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell.

Minutes of 20 April - Minutes approved.

Police Report - PC Colin Cursiter spoke to his report :

There were 132 calls to Police this month (25 less than same period last year)

We received no reported housebreakings or attempted HB's. There was a call relating to a suspicious person in the Orchard Brae area. Police attended soon after and carried out an extensive search with a negative result.

In terms of road traffic, there were a few damage only accidents at Crewe Toll. Road Policing officers also carried out a stop on a vehicle that was driving erratically. It transpired that the male driver was wanted on warrant, and enquiries also confirmed that there was no insurance on the vehicle. Driver arrested and vehicle seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act.

A youth was charged with driving offences after being stopped riding an electric bike.

Police have been made aware of youths on electric bikes on the walkways causing disorder. With 3 reports of minor assaults. Also, there were a number of calls relating to youths throwing stones at Groathill Road South. One of the youths has now been identified and there are further lines of enquiry to be carried out to establish the other youths.

We are going to be carrying out high visibility patrols over the next few evenings in an effort to quell these incidents.

There has been a number of abstractions this month, with officers dealing with the May Day parade, local elections and the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The following matter was raised in the follow-up discussion : vandalism involving window damage at Baillie Signs on Queensferry Road;

modified electric bikes - pedestrians on Roseburn Path had experienced aggressive behaviour from some cyclists. PC Cursiter said that the Police cannot stop moving cyclists and they can only be charged when stationary.

PC Matheson said that Police Scotland are keen to make contact with the community through both social media and neighbourhood watch links and requested contact information where available.

PC Cursiter said that it was his last meeting as he was moving to another role at Fettes. The Chair thanked him for his regular attendance, reports and support for the community. PCs Paul Gunderson and Holly Matheson would maintain the community link in future.

Community Council Matters

13 bus service - the service is supported financially by Edinburgh Council. The Council has appointed consultants to review the operation of the service. While there were no comments offered, it was noted that the change to the timetable resulting in irregular bus times was unhelpful to potential passengers.

Dates of 2026/27 meetings - agreed to look for an alternative to a possible meeting on 21 December.

Storage Units at South Groathill Avenue - the planning application had been approved despite local objections. Martin Riddell noted that there will be CCTV to monitor the premises as well as improved fencing.

Other matters - weeds - following the reduction in chemical treatment of weeds by the City Council, some streets were now suffering from unsightly weeds eg Queens Avenue area. Councillor Nicolson recommended using the “report it” facility on the Council web site.

Graffiti - noted that a new bus shelter at Hillpark Steps had been graffiti damaged within days. Again the “report it” facility was recommended.

Davidson’s Mains Roundabout - the closure of the road and the diversion of bus services had made accessing Cramond from Blackhall area difficult for non car users. While the works are outside the CBCC boundary, it appeared that the bus diversion of the 47 service had resulted in a reduction in passenger numbers, which might have longer term implications for bus services in Blackhall.

Ward Councillor Report - Councillor Vicky Nicolson :-

Davidson’s Mains diverted traffic using Corbiehill Road and Hillhouse Road junction - the absence of traffic lights at the junction had resulted in dangerous traffic movements at times. The speed of traffic on Corbiehill Road was at times excessive;

Bus lane near Maiden Craig Crescent - closed to 31 May;

Belford Road - pavements are to be improved to help pedestrians including those accessing the Galleries of Modern Art. Works will begin in June and last until October, resulting in delays for traffic;

Temporary Blackhall Library -

There is currently not an opening date but this is expected in the next couple of weeks. The delay has been due to issues regarding a large shelving order which has now been resolved and the Library team are working hard to get the library ready to receive customers.

The road safety improvements that are planned in front of the school and library are still to take place. The Library team had hoped the work would be complete before opening the temporary library but due to the current improvement works at the Davidson's Mains roundabout the timeline has been changed and these will now be carried out in the summer holidays, once the upgrades to the roundabout are complete.

Once the temporary library is open we will provide an update on how the community can engage on a permanent solution for Blackhall Library.

Next meeting - to be held on 15 June 2026.

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

19 May 2026