



23rd February 2026

Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre

Minutes

Present

Mhairi Curran (Interim Chair), Pam Whitefield (Secretary), Hatice Tugler (Treasurer), Jason Whitefield (Community Councillor), Cllr Vicky Nicolson, Jennifer Porter (Community Councillor), Rossen Kissov (Local Resident), John Stuart (Community Councillor), Annette Gray (Local resident), Jennifer Dunnett (Local Resident), Sylvia Sils (Local Resident), Patricia Finlay (Local Resident), Elaine Mcmillan (Local Resident), Eileen Brash (Church Representative), Josen Mundencherry (Community Councillor)

Apologies:

Cllr Hal Osler, Cllr Max Mitchell

1. Mhairi welcomed everybody to the meeting. Introductions made.
2. Declarations of Interest. Hatice is going to suggest doing something with Plant Edinburgh Beautiful which Hatice is associated with.
3. Minutes of last meeting - Approved by Eileen, seconded by Mhairi.
4. Chair Report
 - Brief discussion about bus routes at last meeting. Pam emailed Stuart Lowrie to attend March meeting. No response from Stuart Lowrie as of yet. Advised to copy Councillors in on future correspondence. Will mark as an agenda item for April meeting to discuss all bus routes in the area including 17, 37, 27, 24 etc to potentially include access to Craighleith Retail Park. If there is no solution from this - could we put proposals to the transport committee?
5. Secretary report
6. Treasurer report
 - Hatice has gone through all paperwork and reports. Last bank statement 24/12/26 was £371.63 - monthly bank service charge of £4.25. Outstanding invoice for room rental Sept, Oct, Nov = £90 and new invoice for Jan/Feb = £60 - new balance £273.13. Cash of £19.79 - Hatice will look to change to current sterling as old bank notes.

- Cheque book = £5968 to ELGT on 4/6/24. Spreadsheet from report shows £440.45 outstanding which has not been returned to us. Hatice to contact ask about the return. Hatice looking into other funds that look into our green spaces. Perhaps a collaboration with DNC and Plant Edinburgh Beautiful (COI). All members with the exception of Hatice who cannot vote due to the conflict of interest have agreed for this to be looked into. Hatice has confirmed with DNC to use as correspondence address. Once nominated signatories (Hatice, Eileen and Pam), have completed forms - Hatice will submit to bank.

7. Church Report

- Church - numbers improving. People using the halls regularly so increase in income. Advised that locum minister in post until July. Potholes that were talked about last month have now been permanently repaired.

8. Councillors Report

- Voi bikes - lots of complaints been received. The worst spot is beside the entrance to the cycle path on Telford Drive due to them all falling or being pushed over. There is someone employed within Edinburgh to tidy the bikes. Report that there were some having batteries ripped out in ED park however those who manage Voi have not had any reports for this. Asked if the community could take pictures and send to Vicky or post on the DTC chat Facebook page. Josen has asked if "Sheffield racks" (bike stands) could be used - but no - these are for people with their own private bikes. Also, The City Car club is not at capacity so potential for some of their bays to be made into Voi bike bays. It is currently a 2-year pilot scheme so the company is reluctant to spend a lot of money in case it does not remain permanently.
- Complaints due to Groathill Road North surfaces - specifically around speedbumps and the roundabout (north - south).
- Due to the success of a walk round last Monday that John led looking at accessibility with the DNC walking group, Vicky will be leading the walk round on the 23rd March. Looking at suggestions of local issues e.g., littering, fly tipping.
- Parking issues in Easter Drylaw Avenue - local resident having issues with people parking in the middle of the cul-de-sac. There is disabled bays and a boat parked. It is causing issues for residents reversing out due to the bow of the boat and those parked in the middle of the road. Also issues with cars parking over/overhanging driveways. Residents have tried the Police, Highways etc who have not offered any support. Vicky has suggested due to already dealing with significant parking issues in Telford Drive, with the DTCC permission, can the parking team come and have a look at all the cul-de-sacs in the area and look at a "whole area solution". DTCC happy for Councillor Nicolson to take forward.
- Mhairi asks if a deep clean can be organised for the Ferry Road and Groathill Road North shops? Cllr Nicolson to look in to this. Mhairi also raised issues on the impact of fly tipping. Can we raise awareness on the impact and how we can report fly tipping etc? Perhaps a poster to put on the website and some to hand out to local

people before the AGM? Including reporting, council pick-ups, offering free on FB, fresh start etc.

- The block that had the fire on Telford Drive- the flat affected is about to be inhabited.

9. No police report.

10. Community Renewal Trust

- Community Renewal Trust Consultancy & Training carrying out a new piece of research to better understand what's out there and how these spaces and services are supporting communities across the city. The findings will feed into a wider analysis report later this year. To help shape this work, they are launching two surveys to hear directly from those involved in our communities. This first stage of research is all about gathering a broad set of data that we can then review, verify, and refine as the project develops. Input from stakeholders, providers, or those connected to community spaces and services in Edinburgh would be valued. The more responses we received, the stronger and more representative the final research report will be. Surveys sent to community councillors.

11. Any Other Business

- Potential hustings on 30th March. All agreed. Pam, Mhairi and Jason to meet to organise.
- Combination lock purchased by residents but only lasted 3/4 days on Wester Drylaw Drive (see previous minutes). People tipping stuff again. Advised to keep reporting to council and back to DTCC. Local residents to meet with Alex Cole Hamilton and Hal Osler regarding the state of the building inside and the security of the door. Hal has made contact with the Council and local residents affected will be taking further action as necessary.
- Sylvia (DNC Board member) – Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre (DNC) cafe - pilot scheme. No charge for the products but donations appreciated. 2 weeks now and good attendance. Please share with everyone so more people know and come along. Volunteers always welcome. Please contact DNC for more information. Also, trial of "recycle crafts" sessions with children. First session was full. Looking to do more sessions like this during school holidays.
- Question from local resident - can people buy houses, develop them and rent back to the council to house the homeless? Cllr Nicolson is unaware of this and has asked for the resident to forward her information.
- Question from local resident regarding privately owned houses and planning permission. Outbuilding being proposed which is bigger than the resident's garden. Consultation period has closed. Previous damage to property from renovations within the same house and causing a lot of distress and frustration. Cllr Nicolson has advised resident to contact her with all the information and feedback when she has some information.
- Question from local resident regarding illegal motorbikes. Police not allowed to chase. (Add to next month's agenda when police are attending). Bins on Wester

Drylaw Drive overflowing. Any update on new tramline? Cllr Nicolson advises a report and recommendations will be released in March. Feedback will then be received and amendments made. Planter at roundabout – Wester Drylaw Avenue is very dangerous and causing many issues. Can a traffic warden patrol every so often? DTCC can raise this with local Cllrs and ask for removal/potential patrols. Bonfire night is a nightmare every year at Wester Drylaw field. Cllr Nicolson said it has been raised with the police and it is difficult as there is a long standing community bonfire there. Resident is not concerned about the bonfire, but what people are throwing on to the bonfire. DTCC will raise this asap with the police. Potentially a Marshall to prevent people throwing toxic material on the fire? Add to agenda for April. Woods between Drylaw House Paddock and Drylaw House Gardens. Resident sure that this is the property of the residents of the Paddock but there is lots of fly tipping in these woods. Likely to be residents as it is an enclosed space only accessible by the surrounding houses. Cllr Nicolson advises to take pictures and report the fly tipping on the council website and send the reference number to the local councillors for them to keep up to date with the progress.

Date of Next Meeting – 27th April 2026. Hustings on 30th March