



27th April 2026

Drylaw Parish Church

Minutes

Present

Mhairi Curran (Chair), Pam Whitefield (Secretary), Hatice Tugler (Treasurer), Jason Whitefield (CC), John Stuart (CC), Cllr Nicolson (Councillor), Tremaine Bilham (Community Grants Fund), Sylvia Roose (DNC rep), Eileen Brash (DPC rep), Paul Gunderson (Police)

Apologies:

Cllr Hal Osler, Jennifer Porter

1. Mhairi welcomed everybody to the meeting. Introductions made.
2. Declarations of Interest.
 - None
3. Minutes of last meeting
 - Proposed by: Jason Whitefield Seconded by: Hatice Tugler
4. Community Grant Fund – Tremaine Bilham
 - There has been no evaluation of the community Grants Fund since the start of the current evaluation which started in 2024. Looking to shape ideas of how the Fund could work better, how people want decisions to be made, who gets funding, the criteria etc. All of this work over last 2 years has led to current survey where options with other people using the Fund, service users etc across Edinburgh have been put together.
 - Option 1 - to give a funding panel no longer made up of elected members, cc's and organisations in each area, but a panel of residents from each area (living in and using the services that will be funded). Criteria will remain to be set by ccs and elected members.
 - Option 2 - for everyone living in the ward being able to vote for which project will be funded. Funding criteria will be decided by the same as above.

- Option 3 - very similar to 2nd option except rather than criteria being set by a selected group of people, they will be set by the whole community.
- Pam to share link to survey on Drylaw and Telford Community Chat Page.
- First round of Community Grants for 2026/2027 to open within the next month and will close on 30th June. There is not a huge number of applications for Inverleith - would like to encourage more applications, particularly from the North side of the ward.
- Question from Councillor Nicolson - a lot of requests coming the DTCC encompass neighbourhood issues which would fall under the remit of the Council. Is there guidance for what people can and cannot apply for? Yes, there is guidance to this within the application process.
- Question from Jason - if the decision is made for the community to make all decisions (option 2 or 3), what happens if we do not get community engagement? A. Once the decision regarding how grants are awarded is made, it cannot be changed. Therefore, if there is not enough engagement from the community, there may be funding available for promotion or incentives.
- The Community Council can also apply to the fund if we are looking for something to be done to a community space that another group are not leading. Multiple projects can also be applied for.
- The limit that can be applied for is £5000. The whole ward fund is approximately £29,400. Deadline for funds to be spent is 1 year from the award.
- Tremaine is happy to support small organisations with applications if required.

5. Police Report

- Call volume: Year-on-year, call volume for this month's report has remained steady.
- Trends: Youth antisocial behaviour has been significant during the Easter break. This has been the main focus of our time over the last few weeks and has included projectiles being thrown at moving vehicles, people, and from bridges over the cycle path. Enquiries are continuing into those responsible and the necessary action will be taken once concluded.
- There have been reports of bogus workers in the Inverleith ward, and we would generally anticipate further reports of this as we come into the nicer weather with homeowners looking to have work done to their properties. Please visit the below link for advice, and consider signing up to the Neighbourhood Alert system: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice/scams-and-frauds/>
- Notable incidents/pieces of work: Nothing of note.
- What your Community Team have been involved in: Unfortunately, our staffing levels continued to be lower than normal, and we have had various absences to events in Edinburgh & elsewhere, along with assisting colleagues in other areas of Drylaw.
- We conducted more speed checks and gave suitable advice where it was required without the need for any additional action. We have also conducted parking patrols at Ferryhill Primary School.

- What is planned for the coming month: We have further speed checks planned and now have bike marking events in the diary for over the summer months. The dates planned are as follows:
- Saturday 30th May, 1500-1800hrs at Craigleith Retail Park
- Sunday 12th July, 1400-1700hrs at Inverleith Park
- Friday 28th August, 1100-1400hrs at Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre
- Question re motorbikes - has there been an increase in motorbike reports? A. Not an increase, but steady calls. We cannot do tactical contact and if they are not wearing a helmet, we cannot pursue. We are unfortunately limited to what we can do.

6. Chair Report

- The Hustings went well last month, well attended and no problems arose.
- AGM next month. Weeks hope to remain the CC's that we have and recruit a couple more. Hopefully we can get a full complement of Office Bearers - we are looking for a Vice Chair.

7. Secretary Report

Report from Cllr Hal Osler

- The long-awaited works to the shopping centre area will commence on 5th May more information on what is being done can be found here <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/drylaw>.
- Secondly there were reports of wheel marks being left in Easter Drylaw Park from waste vehicles this has since had a response from a senior officer

Please accept my apologies for the below, it was indeed a cleansing vehicle that caused the damage.

In this case the supervisor had asked a crew from another area to service the litter bin and never advised them not to drive on the path as this may lead to damaged grass.

I have again issued the instruction to all of my staff that vehicles should not be taken on pathways where it is likely that damage to green area's would occur and that they should walk into service bins, etc and that they should report difficult locations so that we may provide another solution should it be required.

I would also comment that the service no longer utilises narrow gauge vehicle as they are often impractical and expensive and that in almost all cases a standard vehicle or crew member walking can gain the required access without causing any damage.

- Working with Vicky and some residents in Wester Drylaw Drive on some outstanding improvements to 139-153. This has been outstanding for a number of months and we are chasing down the officers to get things moving.

- Engagement with regards the “new” Blackhall library is starting with a number of meetings planned with the community and also schools including Ferryhill. Updates can be found here <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/area-regeneration/new-blackhall-library>. We have not as yet got an exact time for the opening of the temporary facilities but it is very soon.
- Outside of that delighted to say that in the budget that was passed in May an amendment submitted by the Lib Dem’s providing an additional £1m for playground upgrades and resources to review the present situation across the Education estate was included. Many playgrounds in the city including Ferryhill desperately need investment and there was no funding or even an idea as to how this could be done. A report is due to go to Education Committee setting out some ideas and hopefully we can work towards getting improvements to Ferryhill.

8. Treasurers Report

- We have got confirmation from the Bank that as of 21 April 2026, they have completed our request to add: Hatice Tugba Ikizler, Eileen Brash, Pamela Higgins, and to remove: Jacqueline (Jackie) Brown and Jimmy Galloway as signatories.
- Our Bank balance as of this morning (27 April 2026) is **£354.63**. We also still have the cash in hand amount of **£19.79** still in old note and coins.
- We have an outstanding invoice of £180 from the Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre.
- We need to reimburse Pam Higgins Whitefield for the refreshments she kindly provided for the Hustings we organised in March. If she could confirm the amount, we will sign a cheque accordingly at this meeting.
- I have made an initial contact with Ross Woodside and Abby Boulton from the Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust (ELGT) regarding the balance of **£440.45** on our account for the ELGT’s report on the Community Consultation of November 2023. However, they stopped answering my emails despite a few follow up emails I have sent. Any ideas how we can proceed on that front would be appreciated.
- Now that the account is available to work with, I will look into grant funds that we can apply to fund greening and other projects in our area. **If agreed**, we might look into collaborations with DNC and Plant Edinburgh Beautiful. This might pose a **conflict of interest** as I am also the Coordinator for Plant Edinburgh Beautiful.

9. Church Report

- local minister Derek Munn in Geneva on church business the last 4 weeks but will return on 4th May.
- DPC hold a monthly service at Northcare Suites which is well received. It is taken by 2 congregation members.
- Summer Fair - May 30th, 11-2pm.

10. Social Media Report

11. DNC Report

- Continue to post community updates on Social Media and our website.

12. Community Engagement Report

- Potential sports day with DNC on Easter Drylaw Gardens grassed area. Potentially use DPC for refreshments and toilets.
- Why can S5 and S6 pupils not sit on a community council? A - You must be 16 or over to sit as a Community Councillor. If they are 16, they can join their local Community Council. This is due to understand 16s being minors which would require all other attendees requiring PVGs/disclosures.

13. Councillors Report

Cllr Vicky Nicolson

- CEO of Fetlor - Ritchie is leaving. Currently recruiting.
- Anti-Social behaviour is a big problem in Telford Drive particularly with fly tipping. Cleansing team were out today clearing this.

14. AOB

- None

Date of Next Meeting – AGM on 25th April 2026