

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
CRAIGMILLAR PARK ASSOCIATION
THURSDAY 13H NOVEMBER 2025
AT 7.00PM IN LARCH LECTURE THEATRE, NUCLEUS BUILDING,
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH KING'S BUILDINGS**

PRESENT: Ian Wright (Chair), Liz Philp (Treasurer), 3 members of the committee,
Cllr Tim Pogson and 51 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Charles Swainson, Dervil Dockrell, Christine Simpson,
Willie Grieve and Ann Simpson

1. WELCOME

Ian Wright thanked members for coming to the meeting on a very wet and windy evening.

2. JAMIE MCDONALD – SPEN (Scottish Power Energy Network)

Jamie explained that the Edinburgh & Borders Power Energy Team are planning to spend £200 million pounds over the next five years in modernizing the whole electricity network in our region – overhead lines, underground cables and electricity substations. In our area the Kaimes Project runs from Newbattle Terrace to Shawfair. Replacing the existing ageing network is necessary due to much increased use of electricity – notably the increasing use of EVs and a possible 8,000 heat pumps. 45 kilometres of cable will be laid with a starting date of April 2026 and estimated completion date of October 2027. When complete the system should last at least 40 years. There were a number of questions from the floor about how much disruption there would be to traffic due to road closures etc.

3. COUNCILLOR. TIM POGSON – Trams Networks & Cameron Toll Hotel (a)Trams

Cllr Pogson is a Labour Councillor, one of four councillors representing our Ward. He explained that he is not an expert on transport but that he is himself a fan of trams. The East-West tram route from the airport to Newhaven is now complete so plans are in place for a North-South route from Granton to the Bioquarter. There are two factors driving these plans – Granton is currently a deprived area with poor public transport provision, but there is a huge area of development nearby with new many new houses; as for the Bioquarter there are 6,000 people working there already and again there is a huge expansion of new housing in the area and beyond the Bioquarter to Shawfair. Edinburgh is a growing city. The current consultation on the tram project is soon coming to an end, people were urged to make their views known about it very soon. The proposed North-South route is going to be so expensive, an extraordinary £3 billion, that Edinburgh City Council cannot afford to pay for it and will need to get funding from the Scottish Government, this is not a given, they may turn it down. A member of the public helpfully explained that the new network would be different from the existing trams, different rolling stock which needs to be battery-operated because of crossing North and South Bridges. It is proposed that once the trams start running there would be a 30% reduction of the bus service. There were many questions from the floor, most of which were from people holding negative views on the trams – saying we already have an excellent bus service in our area, buses are more comfortable than trams, trams have fewer stops than buses and thus are not readily accessible for elderly people, we certainly do not want the main road reduced to only two lanes (reducing to three lanes because of the cycle lanes is bad enough) etc. It was pointed out that since almost all the buses are now electric there is no longer a carbon footprint issue. Cllr. Pogson said that he thought there would be no work on the new route for at least

ten years!

(b) Cameron Toll

Planning Permission has been granted for a new hotel next to the petrol filling station, although no plans for commencement of this development seem to have been made. It would involve the felling of several mature trees opposite the Travelodge. It is unknown whether there would be an entrance on Lady Road with vehicular access which would disrupt traffic on this busy road,. There are further (although vague) plans for the whole Cameron Toll site, including a cinema, games complex, residential accommodation and opening up access to the Inch Park.

4. SOUTH SUBURBAN RAILWAY – proposal to open it to passenger traffic.

A group of students from Heriot Watt University have produced an excellent study about opening up the line to passengers, it would cost considerably less than the trams. A map was shown showing the existing circular route which would go from Newington Station to Waverley via Morningside and Haymarket or eastwards via Portobello. Further information about this will be posted on our website.

5. MINUTES OF THE 2024 AGM

Copies were available at the meeting. Their approval was proposed by Ian Wright, seconded by Brian Cameron and accepted by the meeting as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING. None.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's Report. Those present at the meeting could, however, assume that the same situation applies as reported in the 2024 minutes (circulated). Last year Ian Wright outlined the role of the Craigmillar Park Association. We look very closely at all planning applications in the CPA area, we act as a forum for residents' opinions and we liaise with the Grange Prestonfield Community Council. We support the volunteers who work on the Nature Strips in the roads between Craigmillar Park and Mayfield Road.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT and REPORT FROM TREASURER

Receipts and Payments accounts for 2024-2025 were circulated. They showed that there was £3,675.69 in the account on 31st August 2025. In the past year expenditure has been on website maintenance, our subscription to the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, continued support of the Nature Strips and last year's Newsletter & AGM. Since we are in a good financial position and expenditure this year would be lower than last year (due to flyers for the AGM instead of a glossy Newsletter and the King's Buildings venue being free for community groups) the committee had decided that subscriptions should be suspended for this year. The accounts were accepted by the meeting, (prop. by Liz Philp and sec. by Peredur Williams).

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Willie Grieve was appointed as Independent Examiner (proposed by Liz Philp and seconded by Peredur Williams).

10. ELECTIONS OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ian Wright (prop. Philip White, sec. Tom Drake) was re-elected as Chair. Liz Philp was re-elected as Treasurer, Charles Swainson as Vice-Chair and the following committee members were elected unanimously:- Brian Cameron, Dervil Dockrell, Wilma Elton, Christine Simpson, Hilary Vandore. (all prop. Ian Wright, sec. Fanny Grieve) We are currently in urgent need of an IT expert and also someone with expertise in planning matters. We have a website <https://craigmillar-park.org.uk> with a link if people wish to alert us to any issues affecting our area.

9. A.O.C.B. None