

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th March 2026 from 7.30pm to 9pm in Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room).

1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Attendance / Apologies**
Elected members: Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), Mary Hill (Vice-Chair)(MH), Anastasia Muri (AM), Euan Robertson (ER), John Allan (JA).
Co-opted members: None
Nominated Representatives: None
Ex Officio: Cllr Ross McKenzie (RMc)
In attendance:
Public Visitors: 2

Apologies were received from William Sturgeon, Sonia Masson, Cllr Cathy Fullerton, Cllr David Key, Cllr Denis Dixon, & Cllr Kevin McKay.

3. **Minutes** of the regular monthly meeting held on Monday 9th February 2026 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
 - AG advised Scottish Power Networks had agreed to resolve the exposed high voltage cables at the sub-station on Redhall Grove. Timescale within 2-3 weeks.
 - AG advised residents had noticed an improvement around the Flat Roof Company premises although others had also reported ongoing issues with vehicles blocking the pavement, forcing pedestrians into the bus lane.
 - ER mentioned he had found an alternative business address for the Slateford House owners and would forward details to Cllr McKay.
5. AG proposed co-opting local Kingsknowe resident and regular meeting attendee, Hannah Doughty, as a LCC member. This was seconded by JA & agreed by all present. Hannah gave a brief introduction to herself and was warmly welcomed as a co-opted member.
6. **Police Report**

No police present but WS and ER due to attend quarterly ward forums with them over the next week. AG reported ongoing issues with masked youths targeting vehicles and trying door handles. Police patrols seen in Hailes Quarry Park, perhaps in relation to ongoing issues with drug dealing but may have also been looking for someone with a reported head injury.
7. **Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising**
 - a) **Longstone Living Memories project** – MH advised the training with Living Memories has been arranged for 20/03/26 @1pm. RD confirmed the recording devices have been ordered and delivery expected the following day. AG authorised reimbursement to RD.
 - b) **Kingsknowe Connected – Making Places for Everyone** – AG & RMc agreed to keep pressure on officers and Atkins now the consultation phase has finished. Concept designs will be finalised, following design phases progressed and funding sought. AG advised the council officer present at the engagement had indicated the project was budgeted for in financial year 27/28.
8. **Planning**
 - a) **PBSA & New Substation** – 35 Lanark Road - AG reported the variation of planning had passed and the separate application for a new substation to serve the site had been granted permission. Site had been cleared in advance of nesting season so activity expected soon. AG noted the ‘informatives’ attached to the original planning decision re

car club provision, continuous pavement, cycle parking, motorcycle parking and others. AG to monitor.

- b) **Former Bookers site / Longstone Link** - AG reported no change. AG to seek further update from Andres Lice prior to meeting in May.
- c) **Former Longstone Inn site** (21 flatted dwellings & 1 commercial unit) - AG reported no change other than a site flooding report the developer had provided being made available to planning.

9. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- AG confirmed he had met with Dr Arthur MP, Hannah Cuthbertson and two Network Rail employees on site at Kingsknowe Station to discuss matters in detail following the survey of local people. Installing a bridge is not impossible but would be very expensive and need to meet current accessibility standards. Building one on the existing platforms was ruled out due to impact on neighbours. Focus turned to the golf club side. Tunnels were ruled out. The current crossing has a high safety standard and has few issues typically. Additional issues on approach to the crossing (but CEC responsibility) were identified from feedback from residents (driver speeds / 40m bell mouth junction / poor crossing point with tactile paving but no dropped kerb / can park on bus stops and road at crossing).
- AG also attended Dr Arthur MP's online session with other residents, Dave Sinclair (CEC) and Network Rail to examine the survey results and feedback from the on-site meeting. An interesting suggestion was made regarding moving the eastbound platform to the west side of the level crossing. This would allow trains to stop at the platform without the barriers coming down in advance, allowing residents to cross to catch the train. This is what happens on the westbound side already. It would reduce the number of times the barriers came down as well, although also an expensive option. Dave Sinclair confirmed that CEC teams were looking at four large junction mouths locally as well as getting the correct signage on the #20 bus stops to prevent cars blocking them following highlighting these issues in the LTIP application. These items are expected to come to the Transport & Environment committee in April.

10. Environment

- a) **Safer School Streets/Local Traffic Improvement Programme** – AG confirmed works were complete on the pavement build out on Kingsknowe Road North at the junction with Redhall Road. Majority of drivers now slowing considerably on approach. MH had noted the new priority signs are unlit at night. AG to enquire if lighting possible for the signs. Works on the school entrance are almost complete, pending a couple of new bollards.
- b) **Firework Control Zone** – AG asked whether LCC should apply again for 2026. Agreed by all present this should be done. Noted that some very intense fireworks are getting set off at the prison to 'celebrate' prisoners being released, has happened a couple of times recently. AG to check with Dr Arthur MP where a colleague had got to with legislation relating to regulation of fireworks.
- c) **WOLCT – Tree Planting Beside Prison** – AG confirmed that WOLCT had already planted up one of the mounds with over 200 saplings which in time will form a copse. Further plantings will take place later in the year. Acknowledgment of the tremendous amount of work Johnny, Helen and the volunteers have completed recently along that stretch of the river. Separately, RD mentioned that children had removed all the canes from saplings planted in Redhall Park. AG to contact the Parks team. A resident mentioned the tree outside Block 66 on Longstone Rd was getting closer to collapsing, and part of it may hit the building if it does. RMc to follow up with officers.
- d) **Potholes / Carriageway Patching** – AG confirmed several bad potholes had been filled after reporting them and the carriageway patching had been completed on the top end

of Redhall Drive which is used for Bikeability training by school pupils. Morningside CC had reached out to discuss 'road issues' having seen some of our work previously. A meeting with Ken from EACC is being arranged to see if a more transparent/visual approach to road maintenance prioritisation could be taken to CEC.

- e) **Lanark Road Pedestrian Crossing** – AG reported it's currently expected to proceed in Sep 26 and will seek an update before the May meeting.

11. Ward Councillors' report(s)

- Cllr McKenzie enquired whether drivers blocking the junction at Sainsbury was as bad when temporary lights not in action for utilities after complaints. It was agreed he would ask officers if yellow hatching could be added across the junction. ER enquired if hatching could also be placed at the entrances to Inglis Green Rigg and Gait as drivers regularly block the exits there. AG suggested stopping cars turning right into Redhall Drive if travelling south on Inglis Green Road. Not many drivers do as it's an awkward turn. RMc also raised the damaged step down to Sainsbury which they had confirmed would be fixed quickly. AG confirmed not yet fixed. RMc was asked about the budget by DL and why the council tax rise had not been kept at 5%. This will mean cuts later to mental health services as an example later. Suggested by others that a political choice with an eye on May elections. RMc talked about the recent knife incident in the Calders and the subsequent protest and counter protest. JA felt both sides were using the community to further their own agendas. DL noted the lack of mental health care across the city not helping these matters.
- AG advised Cllr McKay had sent a report as follows: No further update on the clock or the apartments block although I did pass on your comments about social housing, but no answer as yet. For note at the next full council meeting I have submitted a motion to address the lack of budget and funding for the Union Canal. The strategy is there but no funding.

12. Treasurers Report

RD reported four transactions since the meeting in February (1 x £4.25 service charge to BOS & £50 for church hire, and a repayment to RD for the digital recorders he purchased for £356 leaving a balance of £756.86.

13. Questions from the public

- Resident present made a suggestion regarding the #20 bus service and route. He felt a small change to the route on Bankhead Drive could avoid a choke point in the Sighthill industrial estate and the placement of bus stops at the end of the pedestrian path from Hermiston Gate to Cultins Road would greatly improve matters for older folks not wanting to hike all the way down and back to the shops from the top of the road. RMc will investigate further.

14. AOCB

None

- 15.** Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Slateford Longstone/ Church session room.