

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 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 & Engagement Officer)(AG), John Allan (Vice Chair)(JA), Euan Robertson (ER), William Sturgeon (WS)

Co-opted members: None

Nominated Representatives: None

Ex Officio: Cllr Ross McKenzie

In attendance:

Public Visitors: 1 member of the public

Apologies were received from Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), Sonya Nemeč (SN), Anastasia Muri (AM), Angela Pearston, Cllr Denis Dixon & Cllr Val Walker.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 11th March 2024 were approved and adopted.

4. Matter arising from the last minutes

- *Canal Fly Tipping – AG confirmed Scottish Canals have cleared the fly tipped rubbish on the Lanark Rd side of the canal.*

- *AG confirmed he had emailed ELGT to see what activities might be provided locally in the community parks.*

- *AG confirmed he had again invited Mark Symonds from CEC to engage with LCC on the safer school routes / school travel plan.*

5. Police Report

No police report but the latest quarterly SW Police newsletter is now available. It was noted that break-ins to steal high value cars are still happening locally. Parks officer had reported issues with motorbikes being ridden in Redhall Park. Details passed to the police.

6. Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising

- WS talked about producing a LCC newsletter using Mailchimp to distribute locally via social media & email and perhaps a limited number of paper copies. It was agreed Will should proceed by all present.

- Proposed Junior Park Run HQP - AG confirmed he had met with the Junior PR rep and Paul Bullen (SW20) in HQP, had walked and measured the course, assessed potential risks & learnt more about the practicalities on running it. PR rep will submit an application to the Community Grant Fund for the one off start up costs.

- AG advised the Wester Hailes Fun Run will come through Hailes Quarry Park on 02/06/24. People can register using the QR code on posters advertising it.

- Dovecot Park Tree Planting – ER confirmed the application to the Woodland Trust was successful for 200 saplings. These will be delivered in November when support will be needed to plant them. AG advised the top section of grass in Dovecot Park has been left to grow long and desire line paths will be cut into it.

- AG suggested LCC apply for a community grant for materials to provide a proper seating surface on the concrete plinth the wayfinding sign is embedded in by millennium woods. An area has been cleared with Ray and Will's for wildflowers and planting as well. Agreed by all to progress this.

- AG advised applications are open for funds (up to £5K) for events as part of the 'Celebrating 900 years Edinburgh' initiative if anyone has any ideas.

7. Planning

- a. **Student flats in Slateford on the former Westside motors site.** AG reported a security cctv monitoring station has been placed on site, perhaps indicating works may be due to commence.
- b. **Smart's proposal to redevelop the former Bookers site.** RMcK confirmed he has spoken at TEC meeting. Report came back from officers advising bridge needs to be 5m wide to satisfy funders & questioned why planning officers had not therefore asked Smarts to provide costs for 5m rather than 3m? Needs to be part of work programme & encouraged to hear it 'could' be delivered ahead of occupation by residents.
- c. **Former Lanark Road Nursery.** AG reported permission has been refused.
- d. **Slateford House** AG reported a 'change of use' application from offices to serviced apartments has been made. Original application was for apartments suitable for first time buyers, but have been let on Airbnb since completion.

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- None

9. Environment

- a. **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – AG confirmed he has again invited Mark Symonds (CEC) to attend an LCC meeting. RMcK will make contact to find out more.
- b. **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing** – AG has chased a response again as the officer is on parental leave until July.
- c. **Hailes Quarry Park path lighting to Murrayburn Rd** – AG reported lighting will now be installed during sep/oct before the darker months. Additional spot and LED lighting on other paths will be included.
- d. **Flood Mitigation Works Redhall School/Peatville Terrace** – AG advised works are expected to complete before summer & residents have received a letter to this end.

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

Cllr McKenzie advised the CEC reduced mowing strategy has increased enquiries to him. Provided an insight into the impact of funding cuts to B Healthy Together and the work they do in local communities. Highlighted concerns the funding cuts to health & social care are having on people and the expected closure of the care homes in Clovenstone and Fords Road.

11. Treasurers Report

AG reported four transactions since the meeting in March (£15.60 for web domain, £3.60 for email account, £45 for room hire and £78 annual website maintenance, leaving a balance of £137.54. Can only afford one more meeting in church before block grant is received in August.

12. Questions from the public

- None

13. AOCB

- JA proposed LCC co-opt local resident Kenneth Chisholm as a member. Seconded by DL and agreed by all. AG to contact Kenneth and CEC Governance team with details.
- DL asked whether Longstone Primary are presenting the Duncan Colquhoun award this year. AG to check available funds with RD and check with the school head.
- RD raised by email additional rubbish dumped on canal side opposite the TA centre. AG to check and raise with Scottish Canals.
- ER raised issues with vandalism and safety of derelict Longstone Inn site. RMcK to check with officers what can be done to make the site secure.
- ER raised issue with Slateford House clock faces showing different time. AG to contact owner to see if this can be corrected.
- AG advised RD can save LCC the £60 auditor fee this year by using a contact at his place of employment. Agreed by all.

- 14.** Next monthly meeting, inc. AGM scheduled for Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.30pm in Slateford/Longstone Church session room.