

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th September 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)(AG), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), John Allan (Vice Chair)(JA), William Sturgeon (Engagement Officer)(WS), Euan Robertson (ER) and Anastasia Muri (AM)
Co-opted members: None
Nominated Representatives: None
Ex Officio: Cllr Ross McKenzie
In attendance: None
Public Visitors: 3

Apologies were received from Sonya Nemec, Kenneth Chisholm, Angela Pearston, Cllr Val Walker and Scott Arthur MP.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
 - AG confirmed no response from the agent for the Slateford House 'change of use' application, regarding the whereabouts of the bronze relief of David Chalmers and the incorrect time on the clocks public faces. AG to try again.
 - AG confirmed no response regarding vegetation growing on the Cross Keys building.
5. **Police Report**

No police report. Next ward forums will be attended by ER and AM. AG to confirm details.
6. **Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising**
 - **Millenium Woods – wayfinding sign/bench & planting** - RD confirmed the community grant funds (£455.02) have been received and he's started cleaning the concrete plinth. AG confirmed the local gentleman who volunteered his time to build the bench top has now started.
 - **Duncan Colquhoun Award** – AM really enjoyed attending the Longstone Primary School event, was very impressed by the pupils and happy to present the £50 book token to the School Eco-group in recognition of their good work.
 - **Proposed Junior Park Run HQP** - AG confirmed LCC has submitted an application to the Community Grant Fund for funds to initiate the Junior Parkrun. Next panel meeting is 08/10/24.
 - **Local Play Parks & lack of equipment for small children** – A local resident who had emailed to express her disappointment at the suitability of local play parks for small children spoke about having to go as far as Saughton Park or the Meadows for anything decent. It's acknowledged that it's very difficult to get local play park improvements and Cllr McKenzie confirmed there are currently no plans to upgrade play equipment in the LCC area and previously shared two reports on playpark investment. Cllr Dixon has emailed Parks for an update. AG will contact Cllr Val Walker to see if more can be found out about possibilities. The local resident offered her help to see what might be possible which is appreciated and it was suggested LCC might co-opt her as a member at the next meeting.
 - **Meeting Hub Options** – AG raised a question from member Sonya Nemec about the lack of meeting places locally, ideally a café, and whether a pop up space could work, maybe in the old Sainsbury café space or Longstone Inn. People present agreed but felt that

unlikely, but suggestions were made on using the Bowling club or The New Kingsknowe as meeting spaces.

7. Planning

- a. **Student flats in Slateford on the former Westside motors site.** AG reported no change.
- b. **Former Bookers site / Longstone Link** - AG received an update from CEC advising the Active Travel team have commenced work on a feasibility study on a new bridge connection which they expect to be finalised by end of 2024. Cllr Mck confirmed it's also on the TEC 'rolling actions log' which is good.
- c. **Slateford House** – AG confirmed Cllr Walker provided an update by email – “There is currently a live planning application (24/01728/FULSTL) in for a ‘Change of use from commercial office to serviced apartments’ which is still under assessment. This application has not been decided at the time of writing and so any alleged use of the building as a short-term let currently does not benefit from planning permission.”
- d. **Inglis Green Gate** – AG confirmed the appeal decision will be made at a CEC Local Review Body meeting on 11/09/24.
- e. **Former Lanark Rd Nursery – 11 Flatted dwellings** – AG advised a new application has been submitted after the previous one fell foul of Colinton Conservation Area rules.

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

AG confirmed he had attended the SW Community Grant Funding panel at which our application had been approved.

9. Environment

- a. **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – Member Sonya Nemecek asked we raise issue of parking by school staff in Redhall Grove, which regularly spills over into Redhall Rd and Kingsknowe Rd North. The parking in KRN during school hours is particularly concerning as the no 20 bus had to weave itself between cars parked on either side of the road, while pupils attempt to cross between. People present felt more needed done to protect children. Cllr Mck suggested we get a meeting organised to get local knowledge on improvements that could be made and added to the school travel plan. AG to liaise with Cllr Mck.
- b. **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing** – AG confirmed no change but as staff resource is expected to have increased in July, an update will now be sought.
- c. **Hailes Quarry Park path lighting to Murrayburn Rd** – Designs have been confirmed and are expected to be implemented before winter.
- d. **Redhall Park lighting proposals and reduced mowing strategy** – AG confirmed he had forwarded members thoughts on lighting in the park to the Parks officer with a preference for it remaining a valued dark space locally, perhaps only using solar spot lighting appropriately. ER also wanted to raise the reduced mowing strategy and when Parks were going to cut down the vegetation which he felt unsightly. Cllr Mck confirmed a review of the strategy will be taking place. AG will contact Parks officer.
- e. **Flood Mitigation Works Redhall School/Peatville Terrace** – Works now complete, including 7 new teacher parking spaces and a new growing/play area for pupils. Acknowledged these works caused a lot of stress to adjacent neighbours.
- f. **Scottish Water – Longstone Rd & Inglis Green Rd sewer works** – AG confirmed works have now moved to the Sainsbury junction with Redhall Drive closed to through traffic. Works expected to take approx. 6 weeks.
- g. **Stenhouse Mill Lane Sinkhole** - Cllr Mck advised he had a response from Bridges & Structures who think ownership of the path is unclear. Cllr Mck has asked for a named contact in the absence of an Access Officer to gain clarity. JA felt that as CEC had installed lighting on the path and maintain it that this is a nonsense and that

CEC should make it safe. Cllr McK suggested a motion to TEC with a deputation might help progress matters quicker.

- h. **WOL footbridge closure behind Redhall Walled Garden** – AG confirmed the bridge had closed due to its dangerous state. CEC is seeking finance to progress matters.
- i. **Sainsbury Recycling Facilities** – AG raised a question from member Sonya Nemeč about whether the facilities could be reintroduced as local people found them useful. WS confirmed has already raised and is awaiting a response from Sainsbury.
- j. **Bonnie Prince Charlie aqueduct graffiti** – ER raised the matter of the graffiti on the side facing Longstone and whether it could be raised. AG confirmed not in our area but happy to liaise with Craiglockhart CC and Scottish Canals to see what can be done. ER also mentioned the wall at the start of the aqueduct where the heritage plaque was installed has been vandalised again.

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

Cllr McKenzie confirmed we'd covered a fair bit of his update already but added that he had been keeping an eye on the bin hub outside 80 Longstone St. He'd secured an additional general waste bin, was frustrated to see bins with no lids in Longstone St tenement cupboards. He also paid tribute to Rainbow Recovery Services who support families

11. Treasurers Report

RD reported seven transactions since the meeting in June (£50 for book token, £3.60 x 3 for email account, £45 for June room hire, £46 for Sept room hire and a Community Grant credit of £455.02 leaving a balance of £412.16. AG confirmed the annual block grant is late and expected w/c 16/09.

12. Questions from the public

- Two residents from Kingsknowe Court raised numerous issues with the works being progressed at the adjacent sheltered housing on Kingsknowe Place.
- Very unhappy about concrete being mixed under mature cherry trees, spoil being piled on top of the root systems, trees being damaged, kerbs being damaged, mounds of spoil in front of residents windows, machinery blocking residents parking, issues with rats/mice, blocked drains and the length of time the works are taking.
- They were also very unhappy the #20 bus service no longer goes to the Gyle shopping centre following the route changes. AG to invite Lothian Bus rep to a meeting to find out how local people can be heard.
- Cllr McK arranged to meet the residents to learn more and find out what the contractor is doing.

13. AOCB

- AG confirmed a number of local people are very unhappy at #33 bus service being re-routed away from Murrayburn Rd. Cllr McK confirmed the same.
- Longstone St Bin Hub – AG confirmed already covered in Cllr McK's ward report.

14. Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.30pm in Slateford/Longstone Church session room.