

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th October 2024 from 7.30pm to 9pm in Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room)

1. SN welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as Chair for the meeting.
 - AG confirmed local resident Mary Hill was happy to co-opted in her absence.
 - RD proposed we co-opt Mary Hill & this was seconded by AM. Agreed by all members. Mary Hill now formally co-opted as a member of LCC.

2. Attendance / Apologies

Elected members: Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), Sonya Nemeč (SN), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), William Sturgeon (Engagement Officer)(WS), Euan Robertson (ER) and Anastasia Muri (AM)

Co-opted members: None

Nominated Representatives: None

Ex Officio: Cllr Ross McKenzie, Cllr Val Walker, Cllr Denis Dixon

In attendance: None

Public Visitors: 4

Apologies were received from Des Loughney, John Allan, Kenneth Chisholm, Mary Hill, Angela Pearston, Samuel Torrens, Cllr Cathy Fullerton and Sarah Boyack MSP.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 9th September 2024 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
 - AG confirmed contact made with Neil and Keanu via Airbnb message the Slateford House regarding the whereabouts of the bronze relief of David Chalmers and the incorrect time on the clock's public faces. AG awaits an update.
 - AG confirmed he contacted the owner of Cross Keys apartments regarding vegetation growing on the gable end of the building potentially damaging it.
 - AG confirmed graffiti on both aqueducts reported to Scottish Canals
 - AG confirmed Lothian Buses turned down our invitation to come and meet with us and residents. WS to provide AG with different contact.
 - AG confirmed the footbridge behind Redhall Walled Garden has been re-opened.
 - AG confirmed the Inglis Green Gate PBSA appeal was declined on 11/09/24.
 - AG confirmed he had made contact with SW Parks officer & Cllr Val Walker to find out more about possibilities of improving play options locally. AG to discuss options with MH.
5. **Police Report**

No police report. (See ward forum reports below in item 8)
6. **Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising**
 - **Millennium Woods – wayfinding sign/bench & planting** - RD confirmed the plinth base is ready to paint, funds are in LCC account. AG advised creation of the bench top progresses.
 - **Dovecot Park Tree Planting** – ER confirmed delivery of 240 saplings expected by 15th November from Woodland Trust. AG to liaise with ER and Craig Dunlop (SW Parks Manager) to identify suitable dates for planting and then advertise locally for volunteers.
 - **Proposed Junior Park Run HQP** - AG confirmed LCC was successful in securing £4800 from the SW Community Grant Fund to initiate a Junior Parkrun in Hailes Quarry Park. AG to meet with Susan Morrison (Parkrun Ambassador) and Paul Bullen (SW20) to discuss the next steps, training of volunteers and finding a launch date, likely early 2025.

7. Planning

- a. **Student flats in Slateford on the former Westside motors site.** AG reported no change other than CCTV unit has been removed. AG emailed the site owner for update.
- b. **Former Bookers site / Longstone Link** - AG advised a consultation on the Longstone Link will be advertised by CEC in early 2025.
- c. **Slateford House** – Cllr Walker advised the planning application for change of use is still outstanding but planning permission currently has not been agreed for the apartments being let at STLs.
- d. **Former Lanark Rd Nursery – 11 Flatted dwellings** – AG advised decision remains outstanding but notes quite a few objections made again.

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- AG confirmed he had attended the SW Community Grant Funding panel at which the Junior Parkrun application was approved for funding. (£4800)
- ER & AM attended the Police ward forums relevant to the LCC area. Under discussion was reductions in police numbers, firearm response team, drug deaths, Lanark Road, dirt bikes and antisocial behaviour. As always, the police encourage everyone to report crime via 101 or online as it helps prioritise resource and allows them build a picture of what's happening and where. Cllr McK confirmed he spent a 10-hour shift with a response team where many calls were false alarms or mental health incidents.
- AG confirmed he attended a meeting on the Burnside Path sinkhole with Cllr McK, Cllr Fullerton and a Stenhouse resident Peter, at the City Chambers. (See item 9G below)
- AG advised he met with Stuart from the Edinburgh Community Rehabilitation and Support Service on Longstone Street. They run a weekly drop in café for people affected by different neurological conditions. AG placed a poster in the noticeboard.

9. Environment

- a. **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – SN mentioned issues with school staff parking and Cllr McK advised CEC has yet to formally publish all the plans.
- b. **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing & SW ETROs** – AG confirmed an update – officers looking to commence procurement in next month or so with expectation of work starting on site in April 2025. AG advised that the ETRO for the Travelling Safely changes on Lanark Rd, Longstone Rd and Inglis Green Road is still live for residents to comment on. Previous comments will be rolled over and included. Closes 16/12/24.
- c. **Hailes Quarry Park path lighting to Murrayburn Rd** – AG advised work is provisionally now expected to commence around 4th Nov, pending contractor confirming.
- d. **Redhall Park lighting proposals** – AG confirmed he had provided members feedback on red solar stud lighting on north and south paths to the SW Parks Officer.
- e. **Scottish Power** – Calder Rd streetlights / Longstone Rd works – AG advised he has been pursuing Scottish Power and CEC on behalf of an affected resident impacted by the dark subway and paths on Calder Road towards the prison. Once works on Longstone Rd completed the issue is expected to be resolved. AG to monitor.
- f. **Scottish Water – Longstone Rd & Inglis Green Rd sewer works** – AG confirmed works continue at the Sainsbury junction. Works expected to take approx. 6 weeks.
- g. **Burnside Path Sinkhole** – Covered in Cllr McKenzie's ward report below in item 10.
- h. **Bin bag / littering issue at Redhall Park pavilion** – AM raised the issue of complaints from residents about the foxes ripping open big bags left beside the bin outside the pavilion and litter then spreading throughout the park. AG confirmed the SW Parks Manager had emailed Redhall Star to request they remove bags with rubbish post-match offsite to mitigate this issue.

- i. **Kerb Ramp into local driveways** – AM raised an issue local residents had reported to her who were unhappy about the number of rubber ramps placed against kerbs locally, gathering rubbish in them and blocking the gutter, also a potential trip hazard. It was agreed these have likely been sited without permission from CEC.
- j. **7/7/7 bus lane trial** – KC had asked for this to be discussed, although not present at the meeting. General consensus was that it's important that buses get priority and infringements need enforced to be effective. Cllr Mck advised these are existing bus lanes where operational times will be extended on the #44 route. WS advised he'd heard enforcement officers will be riding on buses as part of this.
- k. **Murrayburn Roundabout** – Weeds – RD raised the issue of the previously landscaped roundabout being left to rewild. AG confirmed he has written to Waste who are now responsible for weed control.
- l. **Handrail rotted away on steps from canal to Water of Leith walkway** – RD raised issue of handrail having rotted away. AG confirmed now reported to Scottish Canals.
- m. **Condition of Longstone's roads** – RD raised the poor condition of some roads in the area, particularly Redhall Road at school end, Redhall Drive at top end, Redhall Grove and car dealership end of Redhall Crescent. Agreed by all that AG will request a full review of our worst affected roads to ensure they are given the correct priority for repair.

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

Cllr McKenzie confirmed he'd met with Cllr Fullerton, AG and local Stenhouse resident Peter Hawkins, at the City Chambers. Unfortunately, CEC officers don't seem to be engaging and so it was agreed a motion will be made to the Transport & Environment committee on 18th November to request; a proper survey of the affected section of Burnside Path embankment, accessibility improvements be made to the temporary path access point at Longstone Inn, barriers to protect people from falling into the hole be more robust, ownership of land to be confirmed and a plan to resolve the issues with the embankment. LCC confirm happy to support with a deputation. Cllr McK added that he had also been monitoring the bin hub outside 80 Longstone St. Cllr McK provided an update to residents present from Kingsknowe Court who had raised ongoing issues regarding contractors working on Kingsknowe Place. A list of issues (damage to trees, kerbs, drains, streetlight) has been fed back to CEC officers following him meeting with the residents on site. Cllr McK will push for a meeting on site with residents and the responsible council officer. AG wishes to attend too.

11. Treasurers Report

RD reported two transactions since the meeting in September (Block CEC grant £747.64 received and £3.60 for email account, leaving a balance of £1156.20 with two further transactions pending (room hire £46 and Remembrance wreath £33).

12. Questions from the public

- Resident present asked for advice regarding a property she lets in Longstone that was damaged by a water leak from an empty council property above while renovations were being carried out on her property. The insurance company had said they would not cover this due to her property being empty. This was felt to be wrong. AG will put the resident in touch with Cllr Walker who will assist.

13. AOCB

- AG confirmed a Remembrance Ceremony will be held on Saturday 19th November, led by Rev Bob Henderson. Meet in Redhall Park by pavilion at 10.50am, then move up to the war memorial for the service at 10.55am. All welcome. RD to purchase LCC wreath.
- AG advised Edinburgh Community Council meeting are now expected to be held in early 2025.

- AG advised the Scottish Gas Networks are due to commence works on Craiglockhart Ave, beginning at Lanark Rd, for 18 weeks from 14/10.
 - AG confirmed a dropped kerb request has been made to improve accessibility to the post box at the top of Redhall Gardens after a local resident using a mobility scooter was unable to reach it and had to wait for a passer-by to post her letters.
 - AG advised City Plan 2030 has been proposed for adoption, pending a planning committee meeting and subsequent full Council meeting in Oct and Nov.
- 14.** Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Slateford/Longstone Church session room.