

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024 from 7.30pm to 9pm in
Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room)

1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke about the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board meeting, cuts to services & funding of organisations and the deputation he presented on behalf of Edinburgh Trade Union Council.
2. **Attendance / Apologies**
Elected members: Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), John Allan (Vice-Chair)(JA), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), Sonya Nemec (SN), Euan Robertson (ER) and
Co-opted members: Mary Hill (MH) & Kenneth Chisholm (KC)
Nominated Representatives: None
Ex Officio: Cllr Ross McKenzie
In attendance: None
Public Visitors: 4

Apologies were received from William Sturgeon, Anastasia Muri, Cllr Val Walker, Cllr Denis Dixon, Cllr Cathy Fullerton, SW Police, and Sarah Boyack MSP.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 14th October 2024 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
 - AG confirmed streetlighting issues on Calder Road & Longstone Rd now resolved.
 - AG confirmed Scottish Water work on Inglis Green Rd & Longstone Rd complete.
 - AG confirmed CEC will spray/strim the weeds on Murrayburn Roundabout in the Spring.
 - AG advised RD laid LCC's wreath at a remembrance ceremony led by Rev. Bob Henderson on Sat 9th at the war memorial in Redhall Park.
 - AG advised the Scottish Gas works have now moved on to Craiglockhart Ave.
 - AG advised the resident who asked for help at previous meeting was happy to report Cllr Walker had been very helpful and resolved her issue.
 - AG confirmed he had spoken to the SW Parks officer and they are happy to keep a larger area of grass cut shorter on the upper sections for families to use next season.
5. **Police Report**

No police report but AG advised the Police were monitoring a dirt bike being ridden in local parks and on local paths. They had also confirmed that a large police response in the Mathews Foods car park was in relation to a medical emergency. AG reported there had been another fire on the former Lanark Road Nursery site. KC advised there were issues with people gaining access to the site.
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 from Woodland Trust. Date for planting is Sat 30th Nov and Sun 1st Dec if required. AG to advertise locally for volunteers.
 - **Redhall Park** – AG confirmed spring bulb planting advertised for 17/11/24 at noon.
 - **Kingsknowe Court/Place & Longstone St public realm improvements** – AG advised he is meeting on 15/11/24 with officers from Housing, Cllr McKenzie & local residents to walk from Kingsknowe Court down to the bottom of Longstone St to assess what improvements can be made to paths, tree planting, accessibility issues, lighting, bins and better understand who is responsible for what. A plan will then be prepared for consultation with residents and funding sought to implement.

- **Proposed Junior Park Run HQP** - AG confirmed he had met 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. AG has captured video of the route, WS will capture drone footage and PB is measuring and mapping the route as part of the administrative requirements.

7. Planning

- a. **Student flats in Slateford on the former Westside motors site.** AG reported no change.
- b. **Former Bookers site / Longstone Link** - AG advised the site is clear of Scottish Water materials now.
- c. **Slateford House** – Cllr Walker previously 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. AG advised no change.
- d. **Former Lanark Rd Nursery – 11 Flatted dwellings** – AG previously advised decision remains outstanding but notes quite a few objections made again. No change.

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- AG confirmed he had met with Cllr McK, Kingsknowe Court residents & the council officer responsible for the works there. (see Cllr McK update in item 10 below)

9. Environment

- a. **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – AG advised the paper for the next Transport & Environment committee contain an update on the school travel plans with LPS & Redhall School plans showing as complete, but yet to be published. Cllr McK confirmed he has received a copy. AG advised he's been preparing some analysis on travel & school routes and intends to see how the school travel plan fits with that, whether opportunities for improvements are being missed and will report back once complete.
- b. **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing & SW ETROs** – AG advised no change from previous – officers looking to commence procurement by year end, with expectation of work starting on site in April 2025. AG again 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 5th Dec, when Scottish Power are available.
- d. **Redhall Park lighting proposals** – AG confirmed he had provided members feedback on warm white stud lighting on north and south paths to the SW Parks Officer.
- e. **Union Canal Japanese Knotweed** – AG advised he has reported three sections of knotweed near the bridge over the canal to Scottish Canal who will assess. AG has also reported some in Bogsmill woods on South side of the Water of Leith to CEC.
- f. **Burnside Path Sinkhole** – AG advised Cllr McK has lodged a motion at the next Transport & Environment committee requesting improvements to safety, accessibility, clarity of ownership and a report on options to secure it's future. AG is meeting on site with TEC Cllrs on 12/11/24 & Cllr McK. JA reminded those present that CEC previously installed tarmac, lighting and upgraded to LED and officers need to be challenged robustly. MH advised she used to push her buggy with child on the path but since the sinkhole appeared has stopped doing so. AG agreed to make a deputation on LCC's behalf.
- g. **Condition of Longstone's roads** – AG advised he has started mapping the worst affected roads in the area and has arranged a walkabout with local cllrs and a senior officer from the Roads team on 27/11/24.

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

Cllr McK provided an update following a meeting in Kingsknowe Court with the council officer responsible for overseeing the works, local residents and the LCC Secretary. It was noted that since the meeting two sections of pavement have been fixed, a dislodged kerb has been reset, lighting fixed and attempts at grading the soil for seeding in the spring conducted. Works are nearing completion with fencing and electric gates still to complete.

11. Treasurers Report

RD reported three transactions since the meeting in October (room hire £46, Remembrance wreath £33, and £3.60 for email account, leaving a balance of £1073.60.

12. Questions from the public

- Question about why our pavements are permitted to be lowered to make it easier for cars to enter properties at the expense of pedestrians? Pavements should be level for pedestrians and either rubber ramps or bevelled kerbs installed for cars. AG agreed to discuss with Roads officer when he meets him. Pavement on Longstone St felt to be a disgrace.
- Question about bin compounds outside 64/66 Longstone St, persistent fly tipping and what can be done? How much does CEC spend collecting fly tipping? Could they advertise regular "have you got big items to get rid off" and days it would be collected? This is done in areas of Wester Hailes occasionally.

13. AOCB

- AG advised the step from Redhall Drive down to Redhall Park will be repaired with works commencing on 18/11/24 for two weeks.
- AG confirmed the broken 'medpoint solo prescription locker' next to Scotmid has been removed after he contacted the owner.
- KC asked about 7/7/7 bus lanes discussed previously & felt they would cause congestion. Others felt buses need the priority although bus service #44 also needs to be more reliable. KC again mentioned the persistent speeding drivers on Kingsknowe Rd South & North. AG agreed to ask the police to do some speed checks.
- AG confirmed there would be Spring bulb planting in Redhall Park on 17/11/24.
- AG advised that 'Disc Golf' may be coming to Hailes Quarry Park. No timescale yet.
- RD raised issue of a number of local hedges obstructing the pavement and needing cut.

14. Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th December 2024 at 7.30pm in The Kingsknowe Pub function room (side entrance).