

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 09th December 2024 from 7.30pm to 9pm in The Kingsknowe Function Room.

1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Attendance / Apologies

Elected members: Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), John Allan (Vice-Chair)(JA), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), Sonya Nemece (SN), Euan Robertson (ER), William Sturgeon (Engagement Officer)(WS) & Anastasia Muri (AM).

Co-opted members:

Nominated Representatives: None

Ex Officio: Cllr Christopher Cowdy & Cllr Denis Dixon.

In attendance: Hannah Cuthbertson (on behalf of MP Scott Arthur)

Public Visitors: 3

Apologies were received from Mary Hill, Kenneth Chisholm, Angela Pearston, Francis Cassiday, Cllr Ross McKenzie, Cllr Val Walker, Cllr Cathy Fullerton, Cllr Dan Heap & SW Police.

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

4. Matters arising from the last minutes

None

5. Police Report

No police report but AG advised the Police were continuing to monitor dirt bikes being ridden locally. WS advised someone had been on a graffiti spree near Sainsbury but he had managed to clean most of it off while still wet.

6. Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising

- a) **Millennium Woods – wayfinding sign/bench & planting** - AG advised in progress but waiting on better weather for painting the plinth.
- b) **Dovecot Park tree planting** – ER advised a great turn out of volunteers, with 210 trees planted in a copse between the football pitch & upper field and 30 elsewhere. Woodland Trust taking orders for Spring planting now.
- c) **Redhall Park** – AG confirmed spring bulb planting complete up to path through to Inglis Green Gate. Mix of daffodils and aliums. Thanks to all who helped.
- d) **Kingsknowe Court/Place & Longstone St public realm improvements** – AG advised he met with officers from Housing, Cllr McKenzie & local residents on 15/11/24 and walked 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. Officers will now prepare a proposal to take forward to seek funding and then for consultation.
- e) **Proposed Junior Park Run HQP** - AG confirmed route now mapped, measured, videoed, and captured on drone by WS. All now passed to Susan Morrison (Parkrun Ambassador) to progress. Volunteer training to commence in the new year.
- f) **Community Council Elections 2025** – AG advised there will be elections in the new year. Nominations will open for candidates who would like to stand for election as a Community Councillor from 6/2/2025. Nominations will close on 27/2/2025. It is intended that where a poll is required an election will be held on 27/03/2025. AG will promote locally in advance.

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 no change.
- c) **Slateford House** – AG advised no change.
- d) **Former Lanark Rd Nursery – 11 Flatted dwellings** – AG confirmed the planning officer approved the application this time.

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- a) AG advised he had met with Cllrs McKenzie, Fullerton, Booth, Jenkinson, Aston, & local Stenhouse resident Peter Hawkins, to view the Longstone Sinkhole directly and better understand the issues. AG & Peter then attended the Transport & Environment Committee to present deputations on Cllr McKenzie's motion. AG confirmed the motion passed. Temp access improvements will be made to path diversion, and a report will come back to the committee with options. Security has already been improved around the sinkhole. Report will be made available prior to TEC meeting.
- b) (See item 6d above.)
- c) AG confirmed he met with a Senior Roads Officer, Cllr McKenzie & Cllr Dixon and visited many of the worst roads & pavements in the area. Many issues were highlighted regarding accessibility, particularly on Longstone Rd, and the crumbling state of local roads was noted, as well as substandard utility works repairs. No short cuts to prioritisation for proper resurfacing but we hope to see some of our local roads prioritised in next couple of years.
- d) AG advised he had met with Sarah from the Quarters community association and had walked about the area and learned a great deal from her. AG advised the streets there will become part of the LCC area following the CC elections next year. The residents living there have it in their title deeds that they are responsible for upkeep of the public realm there. Their main ask is whether CEC could take over cutting a huge hedge alongside Calder Rd for them. AG is arranging a further walkabout with local Cllrs in the new year.
- e) AG advised he had attended the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils AGM.

9. Environment

- a) **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – AG advised the school travel plan for Longstone Primary & Redhall School have been completed, not yet published, but remain quite limited in scope and a bit of a disappointment. AG confirmed LCCs offer to CEC officers to work with them to look more holistically at the plan and ensure the entire area had been analysed had been rebuffed. LCC will continue analysis of area and scrutinise how the travel plans stand up and what has been missed.
- b) **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing & SW ETROs** – AG confirmed officers had received the road safety audit and discussed its recommendations with the consultant and signals engineers. Most of the issues identified have been negated by the resurfacing that previously took place. Expect to be in a position to procure for construction to commence early in the next financial year. AG confirmed the consultation on the ETRO for the Travelling Safely changes on Lanark Rd, Longstone Rd and Inglis Green Road will close on 16/12/24. Any previous comments will be rolled over and included.
- c) **Hailes Quarry Park & Redhall Park lighting** – AG advised solar stud lights have been installed from Dumbryden park entrance to Murrayburn Rd entrance. Extra lighting columns also installed at Kingsknowe Court and Dumbryden Rd end of existing lighted path. New lighting column still to be installed from Longstone St entrance to Murrayburn Rd entrance. Concern was raised by a resident about the conditions of steps from Kingsknowe Court down into the park. AG will speak with Parks to assess. AG confirmed warm white solar stud lights had been installed along the paths leading from

the Tunnel to Redhall Drive via Kilncroftside access road. Feedback from park users very positive.

- d) **Redhall Park Steps** – AG confirmed the new steps from Redhall Drive down to Redhall Park have been installed and are looking great. RD noted the handrails could now use a lick of paint.
- e) **Burnside Path Sinkhole** – (see item 8a above)
- f) **Condition of Longstone's roads** – (see item 8c above)

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

- Cllr Cowdy asked whether LCC had had a home security briefing from the police team. (we have not) and advised extra money was made available to CEC for graffiti removal, if we need additional kit. Suggested LCC might want to consider collecting leaves from streets like Merchiston CC. Advised the Scottish Gas works will be delayed on Craiglockhart Ave for 3 weeks. Also pleased to hear the 'pipe bridge' near Katesmill is now fully open.
- Cllr Dixon advised his main input locally was centred around inspecting the roads and pavements with AG and Cllr McKenzie.

11. Treasurers Report

RD reported two transactions since the meeting in November (room hire £46 and a £3.60 credit from IONOS, leaving a balance of £1031.20 of which £455.02 is for the Wayfinding Plinth upgrade. AG advised grant for Parkrun has been signed off and monies will appear in account soon.

12. Questions from the public

None.

13. AOCB

- a) ER noted that since LCC had contacted the Cross Keys apartments owners to make them aware of vegetation growing out of the gable end stonework, nothing has changed. It was suggested the building maybe listed and it might necessitate maintenance of the stonework. AG will look into this.
- b) SN raised the ongoing issues with the bin hub outside 80 Longstone Street. AG advised he has again raised with the local Cllrs and Waste team and suggested perhaps an additional food waste bin may be required.
- c) SN also raised local concerns about the future of the diminished #20 bus service. Other residents present also voiced displeasure about not being able to go to the Gyle shopping centre directly now. Displeasure also expressed at change to #33 route. CEC want us to use buses instead of cars but it's being made more difficult for us. AG advised he had invited Lothian Buses to our meeting but had been rebuffed. WS has a contact there and will pursue matters.
- d) RD raised issue of overgrown hedges locally. Many have been reported and assessed by CEC, but no action taken yet. AG to send a list of known hedges obstructing footpaths.

14. Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Longstone/Slateford Church session room.