

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th May 2026 from 7.30pm to 9pm in Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room).

1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on the recent Scottish Government election results

2. **Attendance / Apologies**

Elected members: Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), William Sturgeon (WS), Anastasia Muri (AM), Euan Robertson (ER), John Allan (JA).

Co-opted members: Hannah Doughty

Nominated Representatives: None

Ex Officio: Cllr Ross McKenzie (RMc)

In attendance: PC Kelly McGarvey

Public Visitors: 1

Apologies were received from Mary Hill, John Allan, Cllr Cathy Fullerton, Cllr David Key, Cllr Denis Dixon, Cllr Kevin McKay, & Cllr Christopher Cowdy.

3. **Minutes** of the regular monthly meeting held on Monday 9th March 2026 were approved and adopted.

4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**

- None

5. **Police Report**

PC McGarvey introduced herself and advised there has been an increase in opportunist thefts from vehicles in the area, mostly committed by a handful of teens (15 – 17yo), typically between 1am – 4.30am. Reinforced need for residents to lock vehicles and not to leave valuables inside. A special team has a good idea who they are and are focused on apprehending them. Always report and send any videos/photos to the police.

- Questions about Flat Roof Company fly tipping and inconsiderate blocking of the pavement forcing residents and high school students into the bus lane. Police are aware following complaints from Lothian Buses and will monitor.
- Three big incidents locally attended by emergency services, top of Longstone Street to deal with a gentleman, A fatality at the builders yard, and an unexplained death on the Water of Leith path near Knockhillbraehead access path.

6. **Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising**

- a) **Longstone Living Memories project** – AG advised MH had sent apologies, but next step would be to agree on themes and then start conducting interviews.
- b) **Kingsknowe Connected – Making Places for Everyone** – AG advised the design team are finalising the concept design report, concluding the RIBA stage 2 process. This report will be made available to LCC when ready. If permission is given from LCC and local councillors for the concept design to be adopted, the formal design process RIBA stage 3 commences. Because of the size of the project a large-scale planning application will be required for stages 3 and 4.

7. **Planning**

- a) **PBSA & New Substation** – 35 Lanark Road - AG reported no change but activity expected soon.
- b) **Former Bookers site / Longstone Link** - AG confirmed he had circulated a briefing note to members with a lot of detail regarding potential funding sources, timescales and other considerations. Overall it seems positive with August 2028 as a projected date for

construction. AG noted activity on site recently with the many blue containers having been removed.

- c) **Former Longstone Inn site** (21 flatted dwellings & 1 commercial unit) - AG reported no change.

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- ER reported he had attended the ward 9 Police forum in Colinton library where the following issues were discussed:
 - o Speeding in Merchiston.
 - o Anti-social motorbike/Surron activity across the city, particularly in Oxfangs and the Calder. Please always report at the time as the police teams will be alerted, CCTV monitoring will engage, only to capture photos/vids as long as no risk to yourself.

9. Environment

- a) **Safer School Streets/Local Traffic Improvement Programme** – AG confirmed works at school entrance were now complete. The four junctions on Kingsknowe Road North identified for safety improvements were passed at the recent Transport & Environment committee as part of the LTIP package for Apr 27 – Mar 28.
- b) **Firework Control Zone** – AG confirmed a new application has been made again. Outcome awaited.
- c) **Lanark Road Pedestrian Crossing** – AG reported it's currently expected to proceed in Sep 26 and has sought an update from CEC but not had a response yet.

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

- Cllr McKenzie updated those present on actions from the previous meeting he'd taken. CEC officers confirmed a tree outside block 64 that a resident had concerns about was inspected in 2025 again in April this year. No safety concerns were found.
 - o CEC officers said no to yellow hatching at the Sainsbury junction as well as the Inglis Green Gate/Rigg junctions. They will continue to monitor traffic volumes.
 - o Noted fly tipping was an ongoing issue at Longstone St bin compounds.
 - o Reflected on the impacts from the Iran conflict on housing developers across the city with costs spiralling, Buy to rent pretty much dead, PBSAs halting, CEC purchasing a PBSA development in Leith to use as temporary housing, and with no one other than Greens proposing new revenue raising powers, further cuts to CEC budgets and services in the city are now baked in for the foreseeable.
- Cllr McKay had sent an email update advising his letter to the Slateford House owners had been returned to sender. Also provided an updated list of consultations due in 26/27.

11. Treasurers Report

RD reported five transactions since the meeting in March (2 x £4.25 service charge to BOS, £50 for church hire, £200 to Living Memory Association, £12 to IONOS for web hosting & £78 for the website support, leaving a balance of £458.36.

12. Questions from the public

- Concern and request for action on fly tipping at the resource centre on Longstone Street at nighttime. Could camera enforcement be an option. RMcK to arrange a walkabout with CEC officers.

13. AOCB

- DL raised issues he'd had with a mobile contract and wondered whether CEC had any remit re consumer issues.
- WS advised dodgy characters were going door to door pretending to sell wi-fi. Advised anyone doing so should have valid 'pedlars certificate' and to ask for it. Also contact police if ever concerned.

- AG advised he was not managing to attend EACC meetings due to them clashing with a regular event he attends. Requested members consider if anyone wanted to attend.
- AG advised the concerns had been raised regarding the Bridgeview Apartments at the corner of Lanark Rd and Craiglockhart Ave with local ward 9 councillors and MP Scott Arthur.
- AG advised the Community Grant Fund is open for applications and for members to consider potential idea for an application.
- AF confirmed the AGM will take place in advance of the next monthly meeting in June.

14. Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 08th June 2026 at 7.30pm in the Slateford Longstone/ Church session room, preceded by the AGM.