

## Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 from 7.30pm to 9pm in  
Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room).

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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), Euan Robertson (ER), William Sturgeon (Engagement Officer)(WS).  
**Co-opted members:** Mary Hill (MH).  
**Nominated Representatives:** None  
**Ex Officio:** Cllr Ross McKenzie & Cllr Christopher Cowdy.  
**In attendance:** PC Nicola Goodall, PC Mark Coull, Laura Goodall (PALs).  
**Public Visitors:** 2

Apologies were received from Kenneth Chisholm, Anastasia Muri, Sonya Nemec, Sam Torrens, Cllr Cathy Fullerton & Cllr David Key.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
  - None.
5. **Police Report**

PC Goodall introduced herself as a new member of the SW Community Police Team having moved from the Response team, & with PC Coull provided updates:

  - Continuing to monitor issues with dirt bike locally coming through Redhall Park and into Hailes Quarry Park. Police are unable to give chase due to the risk to the wider public were an accident to occur. They rely on building intelligence from CCTV network, and reports from the public. Emphasis on reporting to 101 or via online form when they appear. When they can identify individuals, targeted arrests are then made.
  - Community policing is very much about quality of life issues affecting people. They emphasise that the more reports are made on anti-social issues the more attention is brought to an area. Please always report crime, no matter how small.
  - Asked about Firework Control Zones and whether effective as LCC was considering applying. Police do a lot of work with local retailers to try to prevent sale of fireworks although a lot were also bought online and as far away as Birmingham.
  - Next ward forums are 17/03/25 and 01/04/25 which ER and WS will attend for LCC.
6. **Community Council Elections** – AG confirmed LCC had received enough nominations to continue for another term. AG to agree date with Cllr Walker for first meeting. Either 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> April.
7. **Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising**
  - a) **Millennium Woods – wayfinding sign/bench & planting** - AG advised in progress but waiting on better weather for painting the plinth first.
  - b) **Dovecot Park tree planting** – ER confirmed he had taken delivery of 120 saplings and is waiting on SW Parks team confirming location and date for planting. Also a representative from the Woodland Trust will visit to inspect the previous planting in Dovecot Park with ER.
  - c) **Proposed local history project** – MH advised she had met with the Living Memory Association: LMA are able to train a cohort of volunteers in oral history taking or reminiscence. Oral history taking is about gathering people's memories for projects like ours, whereas reminiscence is more about supporting people with conditions like dementia to access their own memories. Advised to obtain remote recording kit,

advertise locally for participants/volunteers. LMA cannot provide funding to us but are funded to support our endeavours. They suggest having a theme around which to gather memories, and are happy to help with a podcast and display of materials once complete. Suggestion also to link into local schools. MH to process with project initiation document. Members to make themselves known to MH if interested in receiving some training. A local present expressed a desire to be involved. AG will forward details to MH and another local he met who was interested.

- d) **Kingsknowe Court/Place & Longstone St public realm improvements** – AG advised he has twice requested an update from CEC officers on progress and not had a response. Cllr McKenzie confirmed he has chased a response and received nothing back which is concerning. AG/RMcK to pursue.
- e) **Proposed Junior Park Run HQP** - AG confirmed the invoice had been paid to Parkrun and Race Director training was due to take place at the Inverleith JPR. AG and WS are two of seven RDs. Next steps include child safeguarding training, PVG checks and ticking off some final administrative requirements when a start date will be provided by Parkrun.

#### 8. 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) **Former Longstone Inn site** (21 flatted dwellings & 1 commercial unit) – AG advised LCC had submitted its comments in relation to the development.
- d) **Inglis Green Gait – PBSA** – WS advised a renewed application has been made which is just a regurgitation of the previous application with the addition of a tree survey paid for by the developer. Development footprint has not changed, concerns about access for construction vehicles, land ownership issues. Agreed by all present that LCC will object to the development. Cllr McK pointed out that this application will be assessed against City Plan 2030 whereas the previous application was assessed against the old City Development Plan. AG to prepare and submit comments.

#### 9. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- a) AG advised he had attended the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils latest meeting a presentation was made by CEC Planning Officers and CC elections were also discussed.
- b) RD spoke about attending the Lord Provost's civic reception at the City Chambers with AG to celebrate 50 years of Community Council. AG had made a speech on what LCC had been doing as a CC this year.

#### 10. Environment

- a) **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – AG invited LG from 'Parents at Longstone' (PALs) to speak about the issues mentioned in her previous correspondence. PALs had the Council Officer responsible for school travel plans attend a meeting in Feb 24 but had heard nothing since then. Parents are fed up with lack of action and want LCC support pushing matters forward.
  - Improving safety for families crossing Kingsknowe Rd North to access local schools and Redhall Park and for returning towards Hailes Quarry Park.
  - KRN is a very busy road for families crossing, vehicles parking or mounting kerbs when turning corners and parents feel it isn't safe.
  - Drivers not obeying speed limits.
  - Ideally a build out or a zebra crossing would help slow drivers and improve safety.
  - Main entrance to both schools prioritises vehicles and they don't always stop to allow children to cross safely to the pupils' entrances.

Long term members remember safety measures being discussed to slow driver speeds on KRN 30 to 40 years ago.

- b) **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing** – AG confirmed officers expected construction of the crossing to be June/July 2025 at the earliest due to ongoing SGN mains replacement work commencing at the end of April for 50 days.
- c) **Hailes Quarry Park lighting** – AG confirmed the new lighting columns have been installed along the path from Longstone St to Murrayburn Rd. Just need the lights attached now. Resident present advised one has graffiti on it already.
- d) **Burnside Path Sinkhole** – AG advised no change and await developments.

#### **11. Ward Councillors' report(s)**

- Cllr McKenzie advised he has been assisting residents with anti-social behaviour issues and has been questioning the significant drop in landlord enforcement action in the private rental sector with damp and mould being a recurring theme.
- Cllr Cowdy spoke about issues around the junction at the bottom of Craiglockhart Ave with the closure of bridges along in Harrison area causing additional problems for local transport.

#### **12. Treasurers Report**

RD reported two transactions since the meeting in February (£35 to Information Commissioners Office and £4800 payment Parkrun, leaving a balance of £904.20 of which £455.02 is for the Wayfinding Plinth upgrade. RD advised that BOS was also about to start charging a monthly fee for the bank account.

#### **13. Questions from the public**

- Question about how to know whether a fire extinguisher is still viable and not out of date. Advised to take it to the local fire station who can advise.
- Correspondence received complaining that the bin chutes on all landings within 80 Longstone St had been bolted up along with access to the bin shed by a previous tenants relative. These should be reopened for residents.
- Correspondence received advising the lock ups at 82 Longstone St have rubbish stacked up and has no door on it.
- Complaint received about food being left / thrown onto grass at back of 11 Kingsknowe Place. This is causing issues for local dog owners and is attracting vermin.
- Complaint received about cars parking on the footpath outside 15 to 13 Kingsknowe Place near the playground. Request for fencing or bollards to prevent this, similar to the top of Longstone St.

#### **14. AOCB**

- a) DL wondered about damage to roofs locally as a result of Storm Eowyn. AG had seen a few.
- b) RD raised issue of litter outside Sainsbury in the shrubbery behind the bus stop. AG had seen people in high vis possibly picking litter. RD to check.
- c) AG picked up on the Firework Control Zone with closing date for applications of 31<sup>st</sup> March. It was agreed LCC should make an application. AG to progress.
- d) AG advised the Community Grant Fund is open for the year ahead. Suggestions were to apply for equipment to support the History project and money for further planting in the area.
- e) AG advised there is a management plan for Hailes Quarry Park being circulated for feedback. Friends of HQP leading on this.

#### **15. Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Longstone/Slateford Church session room.**