

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023 from 7.30pm to 9pm in
Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room)

1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting
 - a. DL proposed that LCC would hold an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) in advance of the next monthly meeting as advised by the CEC Governance team. This was agreed by all present.
 - b. DL expressed thanks to Margaret Campbell for her years of service to LCC.
 - c. DL expressed thanks to Stuart Campbell for his years of service to LCC.

2. Attendance / Apologies

Elected members: Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Alan Gordon (Acting Secretary, Treasurer & Engagement Officer)(AG)

Co-opted members: John Allan (Vice Chair)(JA), Ray Donnelly (RD), William Sturgeon (WS)

Nominated Representatives: None

Ex Officio: None

In attendance: Tricia Hill (Scottish Canals), Rebecca Smith (City Edinburgh Council), PC Jack Denwood (SW Community Police Team)

Public Visitors: Euan Robertson (ER)

Apologies were received from Anastasia Muri, Angela Pearston, Cllr Ross McKenzie, Cllr Denis Dixon, Cllr David Key, Cllr Christopher Cowdy & Cllr Val Walker.

3. Union Canal

Tricia Hill & Rebecca Smith provided an update on the partnership that's been established between Scottish Canals and City of Edinburgh Council. The 2013 strategy is being refreshed by the team and the results of the 2023 consultation integrated into it.

JA observed the 2013 strategy is now very out of date and many things have moved on, needs risk assessments & safety audits, money and resources.

AG enquired whether Scottish Canals relationship with Sustrans might help secure funding towards a new bridge crossing on the former Bookers site which could help relieve some pressure on the aqueduct.

DL observed there seems to have been an issue with green algae.

4. **Minutes** of the meetings held on Monday 9th October 2023 and Wednesday 1st November 2023 were approved and adopted.

5. Matter arising from the last minutes

- EGM – AG confirmed he will liaise with the CEC Governance team

- *Neighbourhood Watch Schemes* – JA confirmed the police no longer oversee the schemes. Used to be 1700 and now 600. There are no rules as such meaning anyone can form a scheme for a street, group of houses or an area if they wish.

6. Police Report

PC Jack Denwood confirmed there had been 12 cars vandalised locally having had all four tyres slashed. Cars parked on pavement appear to have been targeted by an individual captured on CCTV. It was confirmed the car blocking the Redhall Drive/Road junction pavement with four slashed tyres had been moved.

- Redhall Star container broken into and park swings vandalised
- Concerns about fights in Redhall Park between gangs of youths
- Community Alcohol Partnership starting up again
- Speeding on Lanark Rd / Kingsknowe Rd North and South / Inglis Green Rd and boy racers starting to gather in Sainsbury again.
- Quad bikes in Redhall Park

- DL confirmed he'll be attending the Police ward forum on Friday 17th November.

7. Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising

AG requested members think about what sorts of activities/initiatives we could progress, as a new item on the agenda at future meetings. How can we help improve things locally? DL suggested reaching out to Friends of HQP to see what support they need.

8. Planning

- Student flats in Slateford on the former Westside motors site.*** AG reported no changes.
- Smart's proposal to redevelop the former Bookers site.*** AG reported no changes.
- Student flats in Inglis Green Gait.*** WS confirmed some tree survey & flood management documents had been uploaded but nothing significant. It was observed that a van seems to have been perpetually present in the car park there carrying out valeting work of sorts, contrary to the title deeds of residents. The factor had been contacted to no avail. AG agreed to contact the factor to seek clarity.
- Longstone Inn redevelopment.*** AG confirmed no changes.

9. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

AG reported there had been a meeting of the SW funding panel but he had been unwell and unable to attend. Funds are still available to apply for by community groups.

10. Environment

- Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets*** - AG advised the hedge blocking the pavement has still not been cut back and Cllr McKenzie pursuing.
- Travelling Safely ETRO scheme*** – It was observed that Lanark Road was almost fully reinstated, but progress extremely slow.
- Slateford speed limits and traffic control*** – It was agreed to remove this item as the CEC citywide 20 mph speed limit consultation will remedy issues.
- Hailes Quarry Park path lighting to Murrayburn Rd*** – AG confirmed no change.
- The Burnside closure and bridge repair*** – AG advised that the tenders are back and the contract will be awarded next week. It's now hoped the works to reopen the bridge and path will be progressed before Christmas.

11. Ward Councillors' report(s)

None

12. Questions from the public

ER enquired whether the fate of the missing David Chalmers bronze relief plaque in the Slateford House development had been established yet by the developer. AG agreed to chase this.

13. AOCB

- AG reported that Ray Donnelly had laid a wreath on behalf of LCC at a Remembrance service alongside Cllrs McKenzie and Fullerton as well as representatives from the Royal Artillery. It was observed the path and area around the war memorial had been tidied up although unclear who had done this. AG agreed to ask the Parks team and offer thanks if it was them.
- DL had an action to speak with Angela Pearston re Duncan Colquhoun. AG confirmed he will meet AP and cover this off for DL.

14. EGM followed by normal monthly meeting scheduled for Monday 11th December in Slateford/Longstone Church session room.