

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th April 2025 from 7.30pm to 9pm in Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room).

1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members for their continued support, ensuring the community has a voice on matters for another term. DL paid tribute to former member Lily Campbell who had sadly passed away recently. Lily was a tireless campaigner locally, well known and fondly remembered. Condolences to her family and friends.

2. **Attendance / Apologies**

Elected members: Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Mary Hill (Vice-Chair)(MH), Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), William Sturgeon (Engagement Officer)(WS), John Allan (JA), Euan Robertson (ER), Anastasia Muri.

Co-opted members:

Nominated Representatives: None

Ex Officio: Cllr Val Walker & Cllr Denis Dixon.

In attendance:

Public Visitors: 3

Apologies were received from Ray Donnelly (Treasurer), Sonya Nemec, Angela Pearston, Cllr Cathy Fullerton, Cllr David Key, Cllr Ross McKenzie.

AG proposed co-option of Sonya Nemec. Seconded by WS. Agreed by all members.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025 were approved and adopted.

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

- AG confirmed an application was submitted by LCC for a Firework Control Zone. It will now be considered by CEC, Police and Fire Service and if approved will be taken forward for wider consultation.

5. **Police Report**

WS provided the following update from the Ward 7 Police Forum.

- Police are working on plans for firework controls this year.
- Some of their officers had been attacked recently in the line of duty.
- Blue badge thefts from cars have increased.
- Prison 'throwovers' continue to be an issue with the prison layout being an issue for encouraging this.
- XL Bully dog problems in Currie dealt with.
- Delivery bike initiative being progressed targeting illegal bikes.
- Dirt bikes continue to be an issue in local parks in the SW.

ER provided the following update from the Ward 9 Police Forum.

- Operation 'Sheath' being progressed targeting drug dealing and knife crime.
- Public engagement forums being held.
- Drivers speeding in vehicles continues to be an issue.
- Drug mis-use continues to be an issue.
- Firework Control Zone for Longstone area discussed.
- Mindless graffiti seems to be increasing locally.
- Dangerous dog incidents were reported up in Currie and one in Redhall Park.

A question was raised by a member of the public about issues with a gentleman living under a footbridge on the Water of Leith walkway. Concerns regarding the volume of gas cannisters, litter, sanitation as well as the conditions. The gentleman was well known locally with people often

concerned for his wellbeing and trying to assist. AG agreed to write to the local Councillors & Community Police to better understand what more can be done to help.

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 first.
- b) **Dovecot Park / Redhall Park tree planting** – ER confirmed 120 saplings were planting by SW Parks team, mostly in Redhall Park with extra being sent to Dovecot to plug gaps. A representative from the Woodland Trust may visit to inspect the previous planting in Dovecot Park with ER.
- c) **Proposed local history project** – MH advised a document is being prepared for circulation to members to consider.
- 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 next steps are Disclosure Scotland PVG checks, child safeguarding training, after which a launch date is expected to be provided by Parkrun.

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 although MP Scott Arthur had visited an engineering firm in Livingston who had mentioned they had the proposed new bridge as a piece of work for investigation.
- c) **Former Longstone Inn site** (21 flatted dwellings & 1 commercial unit) – AG advised no change.
- d) **Inglis Green Gait – PBSA** – AG confirmed an objection was submitted by LCC.

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- See Police Ward Forum updates in Item 5 above.

9. Environment

- a) **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – No change
- b) **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing** – AG confirmed a job has now appeared on the Scottish Road Works Commissioner's website with construction expected to commence between 02/06/25 and 01/09/25 once the Scottish Gas Network mains repairs have been completed.
- c) **Hailes Quarry Park lighting** – AG confirmed the lights are now being fixed to the columns but as yet, not switched on.
- d) **Burnside Path Sinkhole** – AG advised no change and await developments.
- e) **Bogsmill & Katesmill bridges (storm damage)** – AG confirmed bridges still blocked by fallen trees.
- f) **SGN Works** – Lanark Rd – Works now progressing down from Kingsknowe Rd South with temporary traffic lights in operation.

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

- Cllr Dixon reflected on the 14 years he has been attending LCC. He is expected moss removal to take place on the areas around Kingsknowe Court/Place and Longstone St raised by LCC to council officers soon.
- Cllr Walker advised very little raised with her for our area currently but highlighted the Parks and Greenspace consultation and urged people to complete it. Also pleased to see more cash for road safety measures, and welcomed the news on the Lanark Rd pedestrian crossing installation at Dovecot Park.

11. Treasurers Report

AG reported two transactions since the meeting in March (£4.25 service charge to BOS and £78 payment to LCC website provider for the year, leaving a balance of £821.95 of which £455.02 is for the Wayfinding Plinth upgrade.

12. Questions from the public

- A question was raised about whether any buildings locally had been identified as having Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) present in them. AG agreed to contact CEC to establish what was known.

13. AOCB

- DL advised the Friends of Hailes Quarry Park secretary had been in contact with him regarding organising bird/wildlife walks for children or perhaps dementia support groups.
- ER enquired about the Slateford House plaque. AG confirmed no further information has been able to be obtained.
- JL asked if Longstone Primary are presenting the Duncan Colquhoun this year. AG will enquire.

14. Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Longstone/Slateford Church session room.