

Longstone Community Council

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

1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting and paid tribute to Cllr Val Walker who had sadly passed away since chairing our inaugural meeting in April. Val was a much-liked councillor and a regular attendee at our meetings. Condolences to her family, colleagues, and friends.

2. **Attendance / Apologies**

Elected members: Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer), William Sturgeon (Engagement Officer)(WS), Euan Robertson (ER).

Co-opted members: None

Nominated Representatives: None

Ex Officio: Cllr Ross McKenzie & Cllr Christopher Cowdy.

In attendance: None

Public Visitors: 3

Apologies were received from Mary Hill (Vice-Chair), John Allan, Anastasia Muri, Sonya Nemec, Angela Pearston, Cllr Cathy Fullerton, Cllr David Key, Cllr Denis Dixon.

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

3. **Minutes** of the inaugural meeting and regular monthly meeting held on Monday 07th April 2025 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
 - None
5. **Police Report**
 - None
6. **Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising**
 - a) **Millennium Woods – wayfinding sign/bench & planting** - RD advised the plinth has now been painted, the wooden bench top attached, and the area in front planted up with a selection of wildflowers, bulbs and other plants.
 - b) **Proposed local history project** – AG advised MH is progressing matters.
 - c) **Kingsknowe Court/Place & Longstone St public realm improvements** – AG and Cllr McKenzie met with the Housing team at the SW Locality office. Contractors had been out prior to the meeting to clear up all the path edges, cut back shrubbery, and clean the moss of the communal drying areas. Contractor will next clear weeds from the kerbside with spraying expected to commence first. A follow up walkabout to be arranged in early August.
 - d) **Proposed Junior Park Run HQP** - AG confirmed the training sessions for run directors have been arranged and a launch date has been requested.
 - e) **Duncan Colquhoun Award** – AG advised LCC will present a £50 book token to a pupil selected by the teaching staff. DL agreed to make the presentation. RD to purchase token.
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 an EIA Screening Notice for the Longstone Link Bridge project had been submitted and planners assessed as not required 05/06/2025. Additionally, the council officer tasked with progressing the project wants to hold a session with LCC, WOLCT, Spokes and others to discuss the proposals. To secure funding the officer has reinforced the need to support a 5m wide

bridge going forward. Agreed by all to support. AG to invite the officer to a future meeting.

- c) **Former Longstone Inn site** (21 flatted dwellings & 1 commercial unit) – AG advised no change.
- d) **Inglis Green Gait – PBSA** – WS confirmed the application was again rejected by planning due to impact on trees and lack of amenity space for future residents of proposed development.

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- None

9. Environment

- a) **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – No change
- b) **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing** – AG confirmed construction expected to commence between 02/06/25 and 01/09/25.
- c) **Hailes Quarry Park lighting** – AG confirmed the lighting works have now been completed.
- d) **Burnside Path Sinkhole** – AG advised no change and await developments.
- e) **Bogsmill & Katesmill bridges (storm damage)** – AG confirmed Bogsmill bridge is open again while repairs are awaited. Katesmill bridge is still closed, but the barriers are ineffective and the bridge remains in a dangerous condition.
- f) **SGN Works** – Lanark Rd – AG confirmed works have are now completed.

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

- Cllr Cowdy advised he has mostly been dealing with graffiti and was aware of the funding issues Redhall Walled Garden were experiencing as a result of proposed EIJB cuts.
- Cllr McKenzie met with the housing team leaders and AG to find out what they were doing after the walkabout with residents previously. (see item 6C above)

11. Treasurers Report

RD reported nine transactions since the meeting in April (2 x £4.25 service charge to BOS and £12 payment to LCC website domain host for the year, refunds of £42.72 to RD, £22.14 to AG, £120.97 to Julian Miglierini for materials for wayfinding plinth upgrades, 2 x £46 for church hire, £303.75 to RD for plants for planting area, leaving a balance of £219.87.

12. Questions from the public

- A question was raised about a tree still overhanging the path next to the canal at Kingsknowe Court. RMc suspects it's on Scottish Canal land and that may be why the contractors did not cut it back.
- A question was asked whether some of the previously removed bench seating in HQP would be reinstated. AG thought he had seen something in the Friends of HQP plans relating to additional seating recently. He will check with the friends.

13. AOCB

- ER raised issues with grass cutting in Redhall Park. He feels the current reduced mowing strategy leaves areas as an eyesore and nowhere for families to picnic in the top section. AG had previously asked the parks officer to keep a section cut shorter for this purpose, but it seems not to have happened. AG will speak to Parks again.

14. Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 8th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Longstone/Slateford Church session room.