

## Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 from 7.30pm to 9pm in  
Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room)

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1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves as newly elected members of LCC.

### 2. Attendance / Apologies

*Elected members:* Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Alan Gordon (Secretary & Engagement Officer)(AG), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), John Allan (Vice Chair)(JA), William Sturgeon (WS), Euan Robertson (ER), Sonya Nemeč (SN)

*Co-opted members:* None

*Nominated Representatives:* None

*Ex Officio:* Cllr Ross McKenzie (RMc)

*In attendance:* Angela Pearston (Longstone Primary Headteacher)

*Public Visitors:* Amal Al Sayegh

Apologies were received from Anastasia Muri (AM), Cllr Denis Dixon & Cllr Val Walker.

3. **Minutes** of the meetings held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were approved and adopted.

### 4. Matter arising from the last minutes

- *A response was received from the Inglis Green Gait Factor requesting further info/evidence from residents of the issues reported. If provided they can write to residents reminding them of responsibilities.*

- *a response was received from the original architects confirming they know nothing further regarding the fate of the David Chalmers bronze relief plaque in Slateford House. No response from the current owner/developer. To be chased again.*

- *The SW Parks Officer confirmed his team had cleaned up the war memorial area and path and passed thanks onto his team. Also thanked locals for their help planting bulbs in Redhall Park.*

- *Duncan Colquhoun – Angela Pearston confirmed a new outdoor classroom area is being progressed and there may be an opportunity to site a new plaque on this once confirmed. Perhaps also an info board on Duncan could be displayed in the School somewhere.*

### 5. Police Report

AG confirmed he attended the Police ward forum on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November in Broomhouse. The forums are likely to replace Police attending CC meetings. Main asks from the Police were for locals to keep reporting incidents, no matter how trivial as it helps them quantify issues and direct resources. DL wondered what lessons were being learned from the gas explosion in Baberton.

### 6. Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising

- AG confirmed a favourable response from Parks about installing some cycle racks in Redhall Park. The Active Travel team can add us to the next round for the new financial year. All present agreed to do this.
- AG had spoke with the Secretary of Friends of HQP about the possibility of establishing a Kids Park Run perhaps in partnership with WH Community Trust. Amal Al Sayegh mentioned her husband Paul, was interested in this. AG agreed to investigate matters further and report back.
- RD mentioned the scarcity of benches in Redhall Park (4 currently outwith playground) – Could more be provided by way of funding.
- AP asked whether the Community Grant Fund could be used for initiatives within the school such as the new library. AG confirmed not a straight ‘no’ but tricky as needs to be

something of benefit to wider community as well. RMc and AG agreed to explore possibilities further.

- Also agreed AG to reach out to PALs re options for supporting them and the school more.

## 7. 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.** AG reported no change
- Longstone Inn redevelopment.** AG advise some new docs uploaded detailing phased dev approach and drainage details.

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

- AG attend the Police ward forum – see report under item 5

## 9. Environment

- Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** - Angela Pearston said the school had not been engaged re whatever surveys had previously been done or plan prepared. AP will make contact with Mark Symonds & seek to re-establish the active travel group.
  - AG advised the hedge blocking the pavement has still not been cut back - Cllr McKenzie pursuing.
- Travelling Safely ETRO scheme** – RMc had received an update confirming the ETROs for the area were likely to be re-advertised pre Christmas. Lanark Rd scheme now reinstated.
- Hailes Quarry Park path lighting to Murrayburn Rd** – AG reported Parks hope to meet the consultants later this month and some stakeholder engagement would be lined up before matters progress.
- The Burnside closure and bridge repair** – AG advised works have commenced with shuttering prepared and concrete to be poured to stabilise the abutment, weather permitting. Hope is open pre-xmas.
- Pavement Parking / Dropped Kerb / Double Parking ban** – AG confirmed the ban is now in force with penalties imposed from January.

## 10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

RMc confirmed he had been looking at the information provided relating the Pavement Parking ban now in force. He highlighted Redhall Place as the only street locally classified as 'Red' in the study. Homeowners in Red/Amber streets will be written to by CEC. LCC expressed surprise that only one street was classified as Red and wondered what time the officers visited streets to ascertain levels of pavement parking as streets such as Redhall Drive are awful in evenings.

## 11. Treasurers Report

AG reported four transactions since the meeting in Oct (3 x £3.60 for web domain and £45 for room hire leaving a balance of £415.54

AG had also projected forward to next block grant and LCC have £68 available to spend.

## 12. Questions from the public

None

## 13. AOCB

- Bus Stop Audit – AG reminded members we had agreed to carry out an audit. ER and RD still happy to do this.
- Cllr Dan Heap had agreed to find out who owns the new noticeboard on Kingsknowe Court but was not present. AG will seek an update.
- AG advised a request for sponsorship/funds had been received from KS Dance Academy to support their attendance at the Dance World Cup in Prague 2024. It was agreed given

the lack of money in LCC accounts at present we were unable to help financially, but wish them well.

- AG advised a reminder had been received from the 'Place Based Investment Fund' for suggestions of projects that could be progressed locally from CCs and local Cllrs. JA talked through an idea for a power generation idea utilising the Water of Leith.

**14.** Next monthly meeting scheduled for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm in Slateford/Longstone Church session room.