

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th September 2025 from 7.30pm to 9pm in
Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room).

1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke about two recent deputations to CEC he'd been involved in relating to the ongoing cuts to mental health services across the city affecting many third sector organisations and people they support. Some success had been achieved, and it was noted Redhall Walled Garden survived following a campaign by them. Cuts were still made however, and further cuts are expected to be proposed. DL also advised he had led a 'bird walk' in Hailes Quarry Park for two hours with Friends of Hailes Quarry Park providing a list of 32 birds that visit the area and for participant to spot.
2. **Attendance / Apologies**
Elected members: Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Mary Hill (Vice-Chair), Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), Euan Robertson (ER).
Co-opted members: None
Nominated Representatives: None
Ex Officio: Cllr Denis Dixon , Cllr Ross McKenzie & Cllr Kevin McKay.
In attendance: Hannah Cuthbertson (on behalf of MP Scott Arthur).
Public Visitors: 4

Apologies were received from John Allan, William Sturgeon, Anastasia Muri, Sophie Cooke, SW Community Police, Cllr Cathy Fullerton, Cllr David Key, & Cllr Christopher Cowdy.

3. **Minutes** of the regular monthly meeting held on Monday 09th June 2025 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
- None
5. **Police Report**
No report available other than the SW quarterly one. AG reported two main items from them as still having issues with the prison with regards to persons attempting to throw packages over the walls. The other issue is off road bikes, which is an issue city wide.
6. **Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising**
 - a) **Proposed local history project** – MH spoke about progress on reminisces & living memories project and had met with AG and local resident Hannah to discuss next steps. It was agreed AG would apply to the Community Grant Fund for recording equipment and training from the Living Memory Association for the group. We will form a trial group, identify key themes around which to frame the discussion with local folk, and to reach out to Longstone Primary via PALs to see if we can involve pupils. DL advised he found making short films with his Union members worked well.
 - b) **Kingsknowe Court/Place & Longstone St public realm improvements** – see Cllr Mackenzie's report below in item 10.
 - c) **Junior Park Run HQP** - AG confirmed the Junior Parkrun had a very successful launch attended by 83 children and with the support of 24 volunteers. MP Scott Arthur had counted down the inaugural run to see the runners off. The run will now be weekly, on Sundays at 9.30am.
 - d) **Duncan Colquhoun Award** – DL advised he had attended Longstone Primary and presented a £50 book token to a pupil who had been growing herbs, like chives for use in community cookery.
 - e) **Autumn Tree Planting** – ER advised an order of 120 saplings had been approved by the woodland trust for delivery in early November. AG confirmed he had emailed SW Parks

Manager for guidance on where best to plant. CD though Redhall Park and to replace any that had not survived this year's hot weather.

- f) **Hailes Quarry Park Disc Golf** – AG advised the application to install a Disc Golf course in Hailes Quarry Park had been approved at the recent Culture & Communities committee meeting following an amendment asking for a pause until further consultation with park users, was withdrawn by Cllr Dan Heap. Installation dates to be confirmed.

7. Planning

- a) **Student flats in Slateford on the former Westside motors site.** AG reported no change.
- b) **Former Bookers site / Longstone Link** – Cllr McKenzie confirmed that design funding had been applied for by CEC. AG advised the council officer in charge of the project is expected to attend one of our coming meetings to make a presentation on matters. AG to confirm.
- c) **Former Longstone Inn site** (21 flatted dwellings & 1 commercial unit) – AG advised no change but concerned that TikTok Urban Explorers (youths) had been accessing the building and flats above alleging the services were still connected. LCC had previously raised concerns about the services and had been advised they were disconnected. Cllr McKenzie to contact CEC Shared Services regarding this.

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

AG advised he had attended the SW Community Grant funding panel. Deadline for next applications is 30th Sep. AG noted both PALs and Friends of HQP had made successful applications although he had withdrawn from discussions despite having no part in either application.

9. Environment

- a) **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – No change and nothing further from CEC on any improvements. It was noted the hedge outside 10 Redhall Grove opposite the nursery was fully obstructing the pavement again forcing pupils into the road between parked cars. Cllr McKenzie pursuing 'empty homes' on this matter as the property has been empty for years now.
- b) **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing** – AG advised the expected construction date has been pushed out to 05/01/26 now without explanation despite having emailed the council officer twice for an update. Cllr McKenzie noted this has now appeared in Sep TEC papers at 'detailed design' stage 3 with funding being sought. AG will seek clarity from the officer responsible again.
- c) **Burnside Path Sinkhole** – AG read out the update from the TEC bulletin papers advising delays due to otter breeding season and remedial works may not commence until 2026 now. A question from a local resident was asked as to whether CEC intended to add additional lighting to the current path diversion were it to become permanent.
- d) **Bogsmill & Katesmill bridges (storm damage)** – AG confirmed Bogsmill bridge is open while repairs are awaited although coping stones have been shoved into the river below by vandals. AG advised Katesmill bridge remains open with better barrier system now in place and so far is ok. Works are being prepared by CEC for future repairs.
- e) **Longstone Firework Control Zone** – AG advised the zone has been approved along with others in the city. Additional work by the Police will be ongoing with schools, retailers, youth groups to mitigate issues with behaviour. Dispersal zones have not been advertised yet but are being finalised.
- f) **Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) / Water of Leith / Murray Burn** – AG advised that globules of fat had been found spread along the bank of the Water of Leith in the Bogsmill Woods and following ingestion a few local dogs had fallen ill. SEPA had been notified, and they requested Scottish Water investigate and clear. It was noted that CSOs have been discharging regularly into the river upstream in Colinton during

moderate rain which is of concern. MP Scott Arthur has been meeting with Scottish Water on this subject so hopefully we will learn more.

- g) **Slateford House** – ER asked the Cllr McKay whether he can try to make contact with the owners of Slateford House to request they have the exterior clock fixed and to find out the whereabouts of the David Chalmers bronze plaque. LCC have not had any useful responses thus far.
- h) **Cross Keys Vegetation** – ER raised the vegetation again growing out the guttering on the former Cross Keys gable end. AG agreed to email the owners again to make them aware.
- i) **Overhanging Vegetation between Slateford Aqueduct & Viaduct** – ER raised the issue with vegetation hanging down into pedestrian's & cyclists faces. Had raised with Network Rail but advised not their land. AG suggested raising via CEC report portal.

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

- Cllr McKenzie advised expected meetings with council officers in August had been rebuffed and emails were being ignored. Raised with housing team leader. Reported that Housing Revenue Account (HRA) land did not fall within the City Cleansing teams remit and this is likely why it is in such poor condition. It will likely not be included in the 'Pride in our city' clean up initiative when the CEC visit Sighthill/Gorgie ward because of this. Some weed removal has taken place at 31 Kingsknowe Rd North despite the block not containing any council tenants. This is because the land around the flats is still HRA land, despite the properties being sold off previously. Local present thought there had been some weed removal on Longstone Street recently so perhaps something is starting to happen. Cllr McKenzie and AG to chase up Housing team again.
- Cllr McKay reported that trees being cut down due to ash dieback will not be replaced nearby but has been assured by Scottish Canals that trees will be planted set back from the canal somewhere in the network.
- Cllr Dixon reported he had mainly been dealing with issues around tree roots near the sheltered housing on Kingsknowe Place.

11. Treasurers Report

RD reported four transactions since the meeting in June (2 x £4.25 service charge to BOS, £50 for church hire (increased), and a refund to RD for a £50 book token leaving a balance of £107.12. Block grant expected soon into account.

12. Questions from the public

- A question was raised about poor communications from CEC officers after she had been stood up after arranging to meet a housing officer in relation to shared repairs at a flatted property in Longstone. No reason, apologies or any communications had been forthcoming from the officer. Agreed by all present this was a very poor way to treat residents. Cllr McKenzie agreed to take this up on the residents behalf.

13. AOCB

- RD raised issue of the 24 hour bus lane filter being constantly abused by drivers approaching the Inglis Green Junction from Inglis Green Road and whether something could be done to improve matters. It was suggested that MSP Sue Webber had expressed annoyance at this situation previously and Councillors present suggested she might be willing to take this up on our behalf to advise if a bus lane camera could be fitted.
- AG advised there had been a big uptick in graffiti across the area mainly due to the 'Fast Flow Crew' who had documented their efforts on Instagram.
- AG advised the ETROs covering the West Traveling Safely/SFP schemes had been included in meeting papers for the TRO Sub Committee. This was not immediately apparent in the late report pack (over 600 pages) and had previously only been for the East ETROs. All schemes were taken forward for permanency over the coming years as a

result, although the meetings remit was purely related to traffic road orders underpinning the schemes, not the schemes themselves.

- 14.** Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 13th October 2025 at 7.30pm in the Slateford Longstone/ Church session room.