

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 from 7.30pm to 9pm in Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room).

1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Attendance / Apologies**
Elected members: Des Loughney (Chair)(DL), Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), Euan Robertson (ER), John Allan (JA), William Sturgeon (Engagement)(WS), Anastasia Muri (AM)
Co-opted members: None
Nominated Representatives: None
Ex Officio: None
In attendance: Andres Lices (CEC Senior Project Manager)(AL), Sophie Cooke (Friends of HQP)(SC)
Public Visitors: 4

Apologies were received from Mary Hill (Vice-Chair), Sonia Masson (Acting Head LPS), Cllr Ross McKenzie, Cllr Kevin McKay, Cllr Cathy Fullerton & Cllr David Key.

3. **Minutes** of the regular monthly meeting held on Monday 08th September 2025 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
 - AG advised the Lanark Rd pedestrian crossing at Dovecot Park was delayed due the contractor pulling out. Job has been packaged up with others in the city to make it more attractive when tendered again. Installation now expected Jan 2026.
 - AG advised vegetation on Cross Keys gable end has been removed.
 - AG advised overhanging vegetation at viaduct has been reported a few times now. Still not actioned.
 - AG confirmed Cllr McKay has written to Slateford House owners to request the clock be fixed and regarding whereabouts of the David Chalmers bronze plaque. He has also written to the head of service for Heritage, Cultural Venues, Museums & Galleries.
5. **Longstone Link Bridge Update** – Andres Lices gave a thorough presentation on work completed to date and next steps. Feasibility analysis completed early 2025 considering different bridge alignments/types which opens a new travel corridor to Gorgie in the SW. Two alignments ruled out due to flooding risks with the more direct option linking to New Mart Rd being acceptable. The favoured design therefore is the ‘hybrid’ option. The deck width for a shared crossing mandated by Transport Scotland’s ‘Cycling by Design’ is 5 metres to reduce interactions between different users. Discussions have been held with Accessibility groups, Water of Leith Conservation Trust, Living Streets, and LCC to gauge thoughts on how to proceed. Some concerns of visual impact of wider bridge, but accessibility groups welcome designing for a better future than replicating existing poor local bridge widths. Andres explained that to secure funding from Transport Scotland, the 5m bridge width will score higher during application assessments, making delivery of the crossing more likely. Observations made by those present:
 - Flooding considerations are of course extremely important.
 - Was Andres aware of the De Marcos ‘no-car’ development on New Mart Road with over 1000 bikes parking spaces allocated in the design? The 5m bridge would likely favour this volume of cycles locally, and the crossing will be well used in any case. We want to minimise conflicts between users. AG to forward details to AL.
 - Could UK Gov ‘Pride in Place’ funding (£20 million for Edinburgh) be applied for? AG to forward info to AL.

- Delivery timescales & next steps? AL thought 18 – 24 months. Funding already secured for detailed/technical design stages and of course wider consultation work as the stages progress.
- Existing ramps and path on Chesser side of river are too narrow for existing traffic, and wider options welcome that avoid having to cycle past the visitor centre.
- Would wider bridge cost more to maintain. Andres says not significantly and will forward further info on this.
- Paths connecting to bridge on either side may be narrower than 5m. This will be the case but sections connecting to the bridge will be widened to access and exit bridge. If people pause on the bridge to view the river there will be plenty shared space.
- General agreement that best option is for the deck width to be 5 metres to cater for all users.

6. Police Report

AG advised no update available other than the latest SW quarterly newsletter. Next ward forums to be held on 12/11/25 and 14/11/25, venue tbc. AG to chase.

7. Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising

- Proposed local history project** – AG advised a funding application has been submitted for recording equipment and training costs. Outcome awaited.
- Kingsknowe Court/Place & Longstone St public realm improvements** – AG advised still no update from housing officers.

8. Planning

- Student flats in Slateford on the former Westside motors site.** AG reported no change.
- Former Bookers site / Longstone Link** – See Andres Lices update in item 5 above.
- Former Longstone Inn site** (21 flatted dwellings & 1 commercial unit) – AG advised no change.

9. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

DL reported he had attended the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) meeting at the City Chambers. Approx 60 people attended. Main points were:

- Desire for planning application support from CEC with perhaps a designated officer being made available to CCs. Training courses for CC members are available too.
- There was presentation on transportation and future considerations for Edinburgh as the city rapidly expands. 5000 extra resident per year with economics being the main driver as Edinburgh is a very desirable city to live and do business in.
- Tram consultation was covered and its important role providing mass transit across the city, as well as bus priority and active travel. Transport and housing go together so where tram lines are built, developers will see house building as very attractive.
- DL suggested we invite Deborah Paton to speak at our next meeting on trams and transportation in Edinburgh. AG to extend invitation.
- DL to prepare LCC response to tram consultation.

10. Environment

- Burnside Path Sinkhole** – AG advised he is meeting Craig Dunlop this week on site to learn more about the repair works that will be commenced soon. Further update to follow.

11. Ward Councillors' report(s)

- None present.

12. Treasurers Report

RD reported three transactions since the meeting in September (1 x £4.25 service charge to BOS, £50 for church hire, and a refund to RD for £36.30 for the Remembrance Day wreath. Block grant from CEC received of £754.54 leaving a balance of £771.11.

13. Questions from the public

- Residents present raised issues in the Redhall Avenue/Crecent area with weeds, poor conditions of local steps there, collapsed water hydrant points. They had been trying contact the council as part of the #OurEdinburgh Sighthill/Gorgie ward cleanup initiative without success. AG agreed to investigate these matters along with similar issues raised by other residents in Kingsknowe Court/Place and forward to the CEC team leading the clean-up for actioning, as well as the local councillors.

14. AOCB

- RD raised the spate of car break-ins and properties locally on Lanark Rd, Redhall Drive and Redhall Crescent on the same night. Young men caught on numerous cameras. Another resident present thought the police had made some arrests as a result.
- AG advised the Remembrance Day ceremony will take place next month. RD has the wreath to lay. DL may attend also, and AG if able.
- SC raised three items relating to Friends of Hailes Quarry Park's work:
 - o Reminded those present of the consultation on playpark improvements for younger children and encouraged people to engage on it.
 - o Noticeboards are being proposed for the Longstone St entrance to the park as well as the access path from Kingsknowe Court. People were in favour of the larger noticeboards.
 - o Advised that a 'Halloween Lantern Festival' for children will take place in the park. Look out for it being advertised.

15. Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 10th November 2025 at 7.30pm in the Slateford Longstone/ Church session room.