

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025 from 7.30pm to 9pm in Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room).

1. AG welcomed everyone to the meeting agreed to chair it.
2. **Attendance / Apologies**
Elected members: Alan Gordon (Secretary)(AG), Ray Donnelly (Treasurer)(RD), Euan Robertson (ER), William Sturgeon (Engagement)(WS)
Co-opted members: None
Nominated Representatives: None
Ex Officio: Cllr Ross McKenzie (RMC), Cllr Dan Heap (DH)
In attendance: Stephen McGregor (CEC Parks, Technical Officer)(SM)
Public Visitors: 1

Apologies were received from Des Loughney (Chair), Mary Hill (Vice-Chair), Anastasia Muri, Cllr Cathy Fullerton & Cllr David Key.

3. **Minutes** of the regular monthly meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
 - a) AG advised that since the last meeting, the New Mart Road development had been given permission from the Scottish Government reporter to proceed. It was noted the cycle parking provision is expected to be in excess of 1200 spaces, which would likely favour a 5m deck width on the Longstone Link discussed at the previous meeting.
 - b) AG confirmed he had corresponded with Deborah Paton (CEC Head of Transport) to invite her to a meeting to discuss the future of transport in the city. Deborah thought it best if she were to arrange to make a specific presentation via the EACC so all Community Councils could benefit.
5. **Stephen Macgregor - Living Landscapes/Nature Estates** – SM delivered a comprehensive presentation covering progress on the Living Landscapes/Nature Estates initiative across the Southwest locality, learning points since its inception, and how it is evolving to meet climate targets but also local communities needs. Detail here - <https://www.thrivinggreenspaces.scot/project/grass-cutting-standards>
 - Questions from those present included concerns about an increase in ticks in Redhall Park affecting residents/pets in Inglis Green Gate.
 - Dog waste not being picked up and left in longer grass.
 - Lack of places to sit or have a picnic on the top level away from the football pitches for families wanting to enjoy the park. Previous request to keep a section cut shorter, although better, was not kept in a condition suitable to sit on.
 - Can SM provide LCC/Friends of Redhall Park with resource/materials to further improvements? – SM confirmed yes. AG to follow up.
 - Residents would like more detailed information on grass cutting schedules pertaining to different sections of the park and public realm so it's clear what frequency grass will be cut for these areas.
 - Request for CEC to provide better storytelling over the seasons focusing on what plants/wildflowers are growing and what animals/insects are benefiting from them at different points in the year, rather than just saying it's good for biodiversity, which doesn't tell residents much.
 - SM agreed to come back in March to meet with us again. AG to follow up.

6. Police Report

AG advised no update available but ER and AG are attending next ward forums to be held on 12/11/25 and 14/11/25.

AG advised police had mainly been mitigating firework related disorder and reported the Firework Exclusion Zone had been well adhered to by the vast majority of residents within the zone. Some at the top of Longstone Street and some extremely loud ones being set off from Dovecot Park area. It seemed to have peaked by 10pm and minimised on other nights. Majority opinion was quietest 5th of Nov for a number of years.

- Residents next the prison in Gaskell St were unhappy the large grassy area had been removed from the zone applied for by LCC. LCC and residents have received no feedback as to why the original zone boundary was changed. DH agreed to find out more detail on this.
- Other residents had already requested LCC apply for a zone again.
- AG advised DH that LCC had initially applied for a three year zone but again this was changed to one year with no reasons given as to why. DH to find out more.

7. Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising

- Longstone Living Memories project** – AG advised a funding application has been submitted to the CEC Community Grant Fund for recording equipment and training costs. Outcome expected towards the end of November.
- Kingsknowe Connected – Making Places for Everyone** – AG reported he had attended the Atkins Realis engagement event along with Cllr Ross McKenzie at the Kingsknowe Bar on 4/11/26. Residents affected had all had fliers delivered through their doors, inviting them to the event, to complete a short survey, and feed back their thoughts on improvements they would like to see to the public realm in the project area. Following this initial consultation, concept designs will be prepared and presented back to the community with further consultation in the new year.
- Redhall Park – Spring Bulb Planting** – RD advised another large section of the banking facing the football pitches has been planted up with daffodils with Andy from the Parks team. Additionally, another 500 bulbs planting around the tunnel area and path up to Redhall Drive.
- Redhall Park – Tree Planting** – ER advised he has taken delivery of the saplings from the Woodland Trust and they are ready to plant. AG to reach out to the Parks officers to arrange a date.

8. Planning

- Student flats in Slateford on the former Westside motors site** - AG reported no change.
- Former Bookers site / Longstone Link** - AG reported no change.
- Former Longstone Inn site** (21 flatted dwellings & 1 commercial unit) - AG reported no change.

9. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- AG confirmed he gave an interview to 'That's TV' in relation to the Kingsknowe Connected project.
- AG confirmed he attended MP Dr Scott Arthur's coffee morning in Longstone Church at where residents raised concerns relating to poor driver behaviours on Kingsknowe Road North, safety of school children traveling to school, poor condition of pavements, request for speed reduction measures on KRN and KRS, issues with bin hubs, weeds, dissatisfaction with the play area at the top of Longstone St, and a lack of community spaces locally. General consensus was the Firework Control Zone and bonfire night initiatives had made a big difference this year.

10. Environment

- Clean Streets #Our Edinburgh CEC Initiative** – AG reported that following requests from the residents at the previous meeting he requested CEC attend to the following streets.

Kingsknowe Court, Kingsknowe Place, Longstone Grove, Redhall Crescent, Redhall Avenue, Redhall Road, Redhall Drive, area In front of Longstone Inn, and graffiti on the pavilion in Redhall Park. All of these apart from Redhall Drive had been cleaned on weeds, rubbish, and graffiti. Feedback from residents had been very positive.

- b) **Burnside Path Sinkhole** – AG reported he had met with Parks officer Craig Dunlop on-site. Work compounds have now appeared with repairs progressing. RMc advised the motion he'd previously brought to the Transport & Environment committee was in the papers for the next meeting with a recommendation it now be closed. This left matters a little unclear as to who was responsible for maintenance of the path, grass cutting, gritting and the lighting that had previously been installed along it. LCC members present decided clarity should be obtained on these matters. DH agreed to work with RMc to submit an amendment to the item seeking a further report. AG agreed to write to the TEC councillors regarding our concerns.
- c) **Lanark Road Pedestrian Crossing** – AG reported it's currently expected to proceed in Jan 26.

11. Ward Councillors' report(s)

- DH spoke about the Firework Control Zones and had noted our feedback (see item 6) and encouraged LCC to get another application in for 2026. DH was concerned at the lack of transparency when changes were made to zones and no feedback given. DH spoke about concerns that Police attendance at Community Council meetings in Edinburgh were not being down on an equal basis. There was concern that CCs in more affluent areas were being attended more frequently. An FOI has been submitted to find out if this is the case. DH's casework has included housing issues, getting a parking fine rescinded, and was pleased to report Gorgie Farm was expected to partially open to the public soon.
- RMc had covered Kingsknowe Connected (see item 7b) and still had concerns as to the projected potential costs, and whether this would be slow down delivery of some of the less contentious items needing remedied for residents. Progress is welcome and was pleased to see sense prevailed and weeds were removed from parking areas, although under Housings remit. RMc previously covered off the Burnside Path issues (see item 10b). RMc spoke about the general disappointment with School Travel Plans across the city. It seems some have been audited and it's likely that Longstone Primary/Redhall School plan was deemed complete before the audit was undertaken so it might be worth seeking clarity on it. It might allow for a more robust plan.

12. Treasurers Report

RD reported two transactions since the meeting in October (1 x £4.25 service charge to BOS & £50 for church hire, leaving a balance of £766.86).

13. Questions from the public

- None

14. AOCB

- a) **Community Grant Fund & Visitor Tax Levy – Participatory Budgeting** – AG asked members whether LCC should reply as 'interested' to CEC who had raised this question with him. Some concerns about potential process but members would like to know more. AG to confirm to CEC.
- b) **Remembrance Ceremony** – RD laid a wreath on behalf of LCC at the War Memorial during a ceremony conducted by Reverend Bob Henderson, Chaplain to the Forces on 8/11/25. WS, Cllr Ross McKenzie, Cllr Cathy Fullerton and Cllr Denis Dixon were in attendance too.
- c) **Safer School Streets** – AG noted some new items had appeared on the Scottish Road Works Commissioners website and in the coming Transport & Environment papers.

- Raised table and build outs at junction between Redhall Road and Kingsknowe Road North. (Expected in Feb 26)
- School entrance gate to be raised, coloured with red stone chippings, bollards installed to highlight priority to school pupils and pedestrians. (Expected in Feb 26)
- Pedestrian crossing to be installed on Kingsknowe Road North linking to key school route at Longstone Place & Duncans Gait. (Expected pre Apr 26)
- d) AG advised sections of Redhall Drive near the school had been marked up for repairs. It has been confirmed the school had requested the surface be improved as pupils 'bikeability' training takes place here. More area are expected to be marked up for attention in early 2026.
- e) AG advised that 'carriageway resurfacing' had appeared on the Scottish Road Works Commissioners website for Longstone Road. It seems this is only to repair the bus stop surface beside the depot and the stop near Calder Road roundabout.
- f) AG raised the issue of the overgrown hedge on Redhall Grove which is still blocking the school pavement and causing a lot of distress to residents there. RMc advised he had been engaging with 'empty homes' within CEC but this has not led to a resolution yet.

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