

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th December 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), Mary Hill (Vice-Chair)(MH), Anastasia Muri (AM), Euan Robertson (ER), John Allan (JA).
Co-opted members: None
Nominated Representatives: None
Ex Officio: Cllr Ross McKenzie (RMc), Cllr Kevin McKay (KMc).
In attendance:
Public Visitors: 3

Apologies were received from William Sturgeon, Cllr Cathy Fullerton & Cllr David Key, Cllr Denis Dixon, MSP Sarah Boyack & SW Community Police.

3. **Minutes** of the regular monthly meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025 were approved and adopted.
4. **Matters arising from the last minutes**
 - a) AG confirmed he has invited Stephen Macgregor (CEC Officer) to come back in March 26 to follow up on matters relating to the Living Landscapes/Nature Estates presentation he made at the meeting in November.
 - b) AG advised the SW Community Police had tried to obtain some clarity why the grassy area next to the prison was excluded from the Longstone Firework Control Zone. It was claimed this was because it was a public area, but as the police pointed out, so are Redhall & Hailes Quarry parks, but they were both included. They will seek further explanation.
 - c) ER raised point (not related to previous minutes) re the empty housing block at the bottom of Craiglockhart Ave and whether CEC have taken it on. KMc to check further and respond to ER.
 - d) DL raised the Visitor Levy/Participatory Budgeting and noted CEC intended to allocate £5m annually to build housing. RMc advised the intent was to get people out of temporary BnB accommodation, thus freeing this up for tourist accommodation. It was noted that £5m does not build many new homes but is welcome none the less.
5. **Police Report**
 - AG advised Police were due to attend but had to send apologies to a family bereavement. Focus is now on festive period drink driving activities and property security advice in the winter months.
 - ER attended the Police Ward 8/9 forum in Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre on 14/11/25 12/11/25 and reported the following issues: Shoplifting in Colinton Co-op, drug dealing, traffic congestion in Fairmilehead, and speeding on Lanark Rd.
 - AG attended the Police Ward 7 forum in the Broomhouse Hub on 12/11/25 and reported the following: Firework night had mostly passed without incident and considered quietest in recent times. Longstone FCZ considered successful with vast majority of residents observing it.
 - AG advised the Police team confirmed the incident at Sainsbury on 28/11, reported as a knife attack on staff by local media, was in fact a 'male having a mental health episode, he was restrained by officers, searched with nothing recovered. He was arrested for resisting officers. No knife was used and no taser deployed'.

6. Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising

- a) **Longstone Living Memories project** – MH advised the funding bid submitted to the CEC Community Grant Fund for £563 was successful. This allow LCC to purchase recording equipment necessary for interviewing residents and for 6 people to attend a training course with the Living Memory Association. Once funds are received we can progress the project.
- b) **Kingsknowe Connected – Making Places for Everyone** – AG confirmed the initial consultation had now closed with the design team expected to return with concept designs based on the feedback they received in the new year, when a further round of consultation will take place with local residents.
- c) **Redhall Park – Tree Planting** – ER confirmed the 100 tree saplings received from the Woodland Trust had been planted in the top level of Redhall Park with help from LCC & Friends of Redhall Park members.

7. Planning

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

8. Reports from any LCC member attending meetings obo LCC

- AG confirmed he had attended the SW Community Grant Funding Panel at which LCCs application for £563 had been approved.
- JA & AG both attended Dr Scott Arthur MPs community meeting at the Broomhouse Hub on illegal electric motorbikes/modified eBikes being ridden irresponsibly. JA reported the meeting was well attended, with a large cohort of motorcyclists present demanding action on motorcycle theft, proper resourcing of police, and allowing the police to knock people of motorbikes. AG advised he had spoken against knocking people of bikes and the problems that could cause individual officers. Also noted other members of the community present felt the motorcyclists were dominating the meeting and had requested others be allowed to speak. Concerns raised about Sur-Ron (eMotorcycles usually stolen) being ridden at speed along Canal & Water of Leith by young men in balaclavas. Also speed of some people cycling on local paths raised. RMc advised he had been unhappy as a local ward councillor not to be invited to the meeting and had written to the MP's office regarding this.

9. Environment

- a) **Burnside Path Sinkhole** – AG reported the repair works were at an advanced stage and expected to conclude soon. Had asked Craig Dunlop if very muddy temp path could be improved by contractor for pedestrians, which It had. RMc advised the amendment to the report at TEC had not passed but officers had confirmed subsequently CEC would not adopt the path, although CEC will maintain the grass/brambles along it, do maintain the lighting previously installed along it by CEC, and expect the short bridge will be improved when the Longstone Inn site is developed (if it's approved by planning).
- b) **Lanark Road Pedestrian Crossing** – AG reported it's still currently expected to proceed in Jan 26, but will be surprised if this is the case.
- c) **Safer School Streets** – AG advised the Local Travel Improvement Programme was open until 25/01/26 for applications. These are 'quick win' improvements such as pavement widening, junction narrowing, bollards or speed reduction measures. Good opportunity to improve safety further for local pupils. Local resident present welcomed measure already announced and also to consider High School students routes to school. AG to circulate detail to members and suggestions. RMc described improvements he had helped deliver elsewhere previously.

10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

- Cllr McKay advised he contacted the Slateford House owner and is pursuing action on having the external clock maintained. No further clarity yet as to the whereabouts of the David Chalmers bronze plaque from them. Has also been pursuing action on the advertising hoardings still present outside the new apartments at the bottom of Craiglockhart Ave. Advised that he is dismayed at the general standard of communications from CEC officers to Councillors, Community Councils, and members of the public and will be raising this. A resident present confirmed she had been badly let down by a housing officer recently who never turned up to meet her and ignores emails.
- Cllr McKenzie advised most items covered already but wished to advise those present that he has joined the Scottish Green Party and is now a Green aligned Independent Councillor. He laid out his reasons for this and was questioned robustly by those present on what this means, and his motives for doing so.

11. Treasurers Report

RD reported two transactions since the meeting in November (1 x £4.25 service charge to BOS & £50 for church hire, leaving a balance of £662.61.

12. Questions from the public

- Resident present raised issues with communications with a CEC Housing Officer as being extremely unsatisfactory and would provide details to KMc.
- Resident present expressed thanks for work done to help bring planned road safety improvements for local pupils to the area.

13. AOCB

- a) AG advised the West Edinburgh Link active travel project running from Colinton through Wester Hailes to the Gyle and beyond had commenced with phase 1 works being progressed on Torwood path, South Gyle Access, Bankhead Drive/South Gyle Access junction, and Bankhead Avenue initially.
- b) DL raised issues with water flooding over the main path in Hailes Quarry Park between Longstone St and Dumbryden. DL also questioned whether solar spot lighting was intended to be installed on this path previously. AG to check plans and raise with Parks Officer, Craig Dunlop.

14. Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Slateford Longstone/ Church session room.