

## Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 from 7.30pm to 9pm in  
Slateford/Longstone Church (Session room)

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1. DL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Attendance / Apologies

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

*Co-opted members:* None

*Nominated Representatives:* None

*Ex Officio:* Cllr Ross McKenzie & Cllr Val Walker

*In attendance:* Sergeant Coull & PC Greenshields (Community Police Team)

*Public Visitors:* 1 member of the public

Apologies were received from Cllr Denis Dixon & Cllr David Key.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved and adopted.

### 4. Matter arising from the last minutes

- *Pace Based Investment Fund – Cllr Walker confirmed she will forward details she has received relating to hydro electric schemes on the Water of Leith. AG confirmed Cllr McKenzie has received some additional thoughts from officers on the Longstone Link bridge costs and specs. They expect funding to come from Transport Scotland and are confident of obtaining the design fees in the first instance.*

- *CEC Community Council Boundary Review – AG advised the review is out for consultation and will forward details to members. Boundary proposed to include Longstone St & Longstone Gardens.*

- *Canal Fly Tipping – AG confirmed Scottish Canal have been chased to collect fly tipped rubbish on the Lanark Rd side of the canal.*

- *Redhall Park Dog Fouling – AG confirmed that notices have been put up along the path to Redhall Park and Enforcement Officers have been monitoring.*

- *Speeding Drivers – AG confirmed a request has been made to the police to speed check Lanark Rd / Inglis Green Rd / Kingsknowe Rd North/South.*

### 5. Police Report

Sergeant Coull & PC Greenshields provided an update covering

- Next ward forum is 10/04/24, venue tbc.

- Housebreakings and thefts from cars account for much of the local crime. Theives particularly targeting high performance cars & targeting houses for keys to them. Recommend use of Faraday pouches/box for car keys and highly recommend antisnap locks for house doors.

- They have requested speed checks on some local roads and looking to bring 'community speedwatch' back, allowing them to train community volunteers in speed trapping.

- They have been running 'coffee with a cop' events around the SW and welcome suggestions for venues. Water of Leith visitor centre was suggested.

- Questions were asked about whether being part of a neighbourhood watch area brought any additional benefits from police perspective. Sergeant Coull will forward some additional info to circulate. Questions about prevalent local graffiti taggers 'balls' and 'esra'. Confident one has been identified already.

### 6. Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising

- AG confirmed new bike racks for both Redhall Park and Hailes Quarry Park have been installed and offered our thanks to the SW Parks Manager for arranging.

- Proposed Junior Park Run HQP - AG confirmed next steps are being planned with the Secretary of SW20 (Paul). CEC Parks Team have no objections and are supportive. AG to report back on progress.
- Redhall Park Spring Clean – AG confirmed the litter pick and tree planting arranged for 17/03/24.
- Dovecot Park Tree Planting – ER confirmed he and AG met with Craig Dunlop and team to discuss planting more trees there after locals requested to LCC. Craig will prepare a plan and circulate to LCC. ER will prepare application to the Woodland Trust once details known.
- SN suggested maybe local businesses, perhaps Sainsburys might be interested in doing more to support the community. Possibly funding local projects or sending a rep to our meetings. Would also be good to see more activities in Redhall Park, particularly healthy ones, and for all ages. Suggestions were made relating to previous wildlife walks and other activities beneficial for dementia sufferers. AG to contact ELGT /CEC to explore.
- SN raised issue of large amount of broken glass and burnt out debris on middle path to Dumbryden in HQP. AG to report to CEC for action.

## 7. Planning

- a. **Student flats in Slateford on the former Westside motors site.** AG reported no change.
- b. **Smart's proposal to redevelop the former Bookers site.** AG reported no change. Report due back at the April Transport & Environment committee relating to bridge details and costs. Cllr McKenzie says it looks like officers may want to push for a 5 metre wide bridge. AG to keep members informed of developments.
- c. **Student flats in Inglis Green Gait.** AG reported permission has been refused due to impact on the existing trees on site.
- d. **Former Lanark Road Nursery.** AG reported a new application has been made to construct a block of 14 apartments. AG will forward details to members for consideration. Comments to be made by 30/03/24.

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

- None

## 9. Environment

- a. **Redhall Grove – Safer School Streets** – AG confirmed he has invited Mark Symonds (CEC) to attend an LCC meeting to discuss in more detail the 'travel plan' for the school on Redhall Grove. Comments from a member of public on issues with teachers parking in Redhall Grove, also with works vehicles from contractors working in Redhall School. Suggested the school build more car parking on site. Option of controlled parking on the street was mentioned by Cllr McKenzie if desired by residents by way of resolution.
- b. **Lanark Rd Pedestrian Crossing** – AG received an update confirming some minor issues requiring further investigation, including speed surveys were in progress, with tenders being reviewed (6/2/24) and commissioned during Feb. That will allow designs to be finalised and put out to tender. AG to chase again.
- c. **Hailes Quarry Park path lighting to Murrayburn Rd** – AG reported no change.

## 10. Ward Councillors' report(s)

Cllr McKenzie referenced the communication he'd had with council officer relating to the Longstone Link bridge on the Bookers site. Next TEC committee is 25/4/24 so will liaise with LCC secretary as details are published for the meeting. Raised the CEC Community Council boundary review and consultation and asked how LCC felt about inclusion of Longstone Terrace and Longstone Gardens within our CC area.

## 11. Treasurers Report

RD reported three transactions since the meeting in Feb (£3.60 for web domain, £45 for room hire and £35 to the Information Commissioners Office) leaving a balance of £279.74.

**12. Questions from the public**

- None

**13. AOCB**

- Katesmill Pipeline Bridge – AG confirmed works have commenced on repairs; expected to last 6 weeks.
- ER mentioned it was a shame the wall covered in graffiti at the east end of the aqueduct had not been cleaned prior to the heritage panel being attached to it last year. AG will raise with Scottish Canals.

**14. Next monthly meeting scheduled for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm in Slateford/Longstone Church session room.**