

Longstone Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th February 2026 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), William Sturgeon (Engagement & Diversity)(WS), Euan Robertson (ER), John Allan (JA).

Co-opted members: None

Nominated Representatives: None

Ex Officio: Cllr Denis Dixon (DD), Cllr Kevin McKay (KMc).

In attendance: Hannah Cuthbertson (HS) on behalf of Dr Scott Arthur MP & PC Jack Denwood (JD).

Public Visitors: 2

Apologies were received from Anastasia Muri, Cllr Cathy Fullerton, Cllr David Key, Cllr Ross McKenzie.

3. **Minutes** of the regular monthly meeting held on Monday 8th December 2025 were approved and adopted.

4. Matters arising from the last minutes

- KMc advised he had contact with the owners of Slateford House regarding the poor state of the exterior clock. It seems no special provision was made to ensure it is kept in good condition by the owners and CEC have no authority to do anything either. KMc did however forward them details of contacts who could help them repair and maintain it and hopes they will do so.

5. Police Report

PC Jack Denwood provided an update on relevant local issues. Reports of drug dealing in Hailes Quarry Park, issues with parents driving into Redhall Grove during prohibited hours, car break-ins & no house break-ins recorded. Questions from those present re reporting suspected drug use within properties and what can be done. Jack also confirmed there were no suspicious circumstances around the death of a local resident found on Redhall Gardens. Condolences to his family & friends.

6. Community Events / Campaigns / Fundraising

- a) **Longstone Living Memories project** – MH advised the funding is in place and a date is being arranged for the training. AG to order the recording devices.
- b) **Kingsknowe Connected – Making Places for Everyone** – AG advised the second engagement event took place at the Kingsknowe pub and the consultation is now closed. Atkins will work on finalising the plans and CEC officers will take forward. Expectation for potential delivery is financial year 27/28.

7. Planning

- a) **PBSA & New Substation** - AG reported a new developer has acquired the site and has made an application for non-material variation of planning. Additionally, a new substation is required to serve the site.
- 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 School Travel Plan Workshop online which walked through the new process. This new process introduces two different workflows.

Responsibility will now be shared where Road Safety carry out the audits and Schools develop their travel plan. This gives them ownership and the opportunity to include behavioural or educational interventions. AG reported being underwhelmed.

- AG confirmed he had met with Places for People rep Lauren and Helen & Johnny from the Water of Leith Conservation Trust onsite at the grassy area next to the prison. It was agreed that WOLCT would lead on tree planting and biodiversity improvements on the land, pending approval from the residents who own the land.

9. Environment

- a) **Redhall Grove Substation Condition** – RD reported the poor state the substation had been left in by Scottish Power Networks over a year ago. Exposed cables lying in a deep trench filled with water. AG to chase SPN.
- b) **Flat Roof Company** – WS reported ongoing issues since they started operating out of the unit next to the Slateford Bowling Club. Residents unhappy with the pavement being blocked, parking bays being blocked all day, Lothian Buses unhappy at the bus lane being blocked, Firrhill pupils and pedestrians being forced into the bus lane and rubbish strewn around the site and onto neighbouring land. KMc and Community Police to make contact with business owner.
- c) **Kingsknowe Station & Pedestrian Bridge** – HC talked through the online survey results that Dr Arthur’s office had conducted around the idea of bringing a pedestrian bridge back to the station. A meeting with Network Rail has been arranged on site. AG to attend.
- d) **Safer School Streets** – AG confirmed works were now almost complete on the pavement build out on Kingsknowe Road North at the junction with Redhall Road. Works on the school entrance will commence in the Feb school break. Carriageway patching will also commence on the top end of Redhall Drive which is used for Bikeability training by school pupils.
- e) **Local Traffic Improvement Programme** - AG advised an application has been submitted to the Local Travel Improvement Programme with various options to improve safety along Kingsknowe Road North & South. Comprised of observations made by residents at meetings.
- f) **Lanark Road Pedestrian Crossing** – AG reported it’s currently expected to proceed in Sep 26.
- g) **Katesmill Footbridge** – AG confirmed repairs are now complete and the bridge has been re-opened and looks good.

10. Ward Councillors’ report(s)

- Cllr McKay spoke about the pending CEC budget, noted that 50K had been allocated for a ‘liaison officer’ to support community councils across the city although what they really need is money and resource. A new phone mast has been applied for near ASDA (outwith LCC area). He also met with Scottish Canals and the Canalside Community trust. Waiting on response re the advertising hoardings still present outside the new apartments at the bottom of Craiglockhart Ave and also seeking clarity on what is happening with the empty new housing block, considering the declared housing emergency.

11. Treasurers Report

RD reported four transactions since the meeting in December (2 x £4.25 service charge to BOS & £50 for church hire, with a credit from CEC for £563 leaving a balance of £1167.11.

12. Questions from the public

None

13. AOCB

- a) RD raised the amount of litter on the canal tow path on the section between Kingsknowe Station and behind the primary school.

- b) AG advised he made contact with the Redpath & Mclean car dealership on Inglis Green Road after residents had made contact to complain about the extremely bright new security lighting. It seems drivers are being dazzled when turning into Redhall Road and are worried it may cause an accident. The director confirmed he would look at having the lights pointed more down to see if that helps.
- 14.** Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Slateford Longstone/ Church session room.