

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in the McDonald Road Library on Monday 18 November 2013 at 7.00pm

Actions and decisions are **RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS**. **NEM CON** means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision. URLs added by minutes secretary.

1 Attendance and apologies

1.1 Attendance

Samuel Barron	LCCC	Pamela Grant	resident
Marion Donaldson	LCCC	Jane Hay	resident
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC (secretary)	Ross McEwan	resident
Anne Finlay	LCCC (treasurer)	Peter Mellors	resident
John Hein	LCCC (chair)	PC Craig McMillan	Police Scotland
Julian Siann	LCCC	Keith Hales	Leith Business Association
Irene Sweeney	LCCC	Ella Taylor-Smith	Broughton Spurtle
Harald Tobermann	LCCC (vice-chair)	Mark Lazarowicz MP	Edinburgh North & Leith (Labour)
Alex Wilson	LCCC	Sandra Bagnol	Broughton Primary School parents' council
Bruce Ryan	minutes secretary	Gail Clapton	Leith Links CC
		Senga Bethune	Leith Links CC

1.2 Apologies for absence

David Jacobsen	LCCC	Cllr Maggie Chapman	Leith Walk ward (Green)
Cllr Angela Blacklock	Leith Walk ward (Labour)	Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Cllr Deidre Brock	Leith Walk ward (SNP)		

2 Minutes of the meeting of 21 October 2013

Approved (proposed C Encombe, seconded Alex Wilson) subject to the deletion of 'New benches are not due until after Christmas.' from section 9.2.3

3 Matters arising

This section doubles as the Secretary's report.

3.1 Proposals for future meetings:

- Actions agreed at previous meetings will be covered in this section.
- Major matters to be included on the agenda need brief introduction, ideally in writing and in advance of the meeting, stating reason for inclusion, desired outcomes and actions LCCC could take.
- Open Forum will be for members of the public.
- AOCB will be for LCCC members to introduce minor matters.

The chair will ask at the beginning of the meeting if there are likely to be any OF/AOCB items so time can be allotted.

3.2 Actions from October meeting

For some actions, the delegate was not at this meeting. These will be carried forward to the December meeting. These actions, and their items in the October minutes, are:

- **ITEM 8.1: CLLR BROCK TO ENQUIRE INTO WHY OPERATIONS AT SHRUB HILL/ SHRUB PLACE RESTARTED WITHOUT AUTHORISATION.**
- **ITEM 10.1: CLLR BROCK TO RAISE LACK OF NOTICE OF PRESENTATION ABOUT BRUNSWICK PLACE PLANNING APPLICATION WITH COUNCIL OFFICERS.**
- **ITEM 10.3: CLLR BLACKLOCK TO REPORT ON APPROVAL PROPOSED HOTEL ON PICCARDY PLACE, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE NO DRAWINGS ON COUNCIL WEBSITE.**

All other actions from October had been achieved and are reported in appropriate places in these minutes.

3.3 Training for (new) community councillors

The Secretary has contacted Edinburgh Council's Community Council Liaison Officer about this. This training is 'in the pipeline'. (Minutes secretary adds that there is guidance online at <http://tinyurl.com/nt8t4ta>.)

3.4 Membership and co-options

A Wilson is an ordinary member of LCCC. **DECISION: K HALES WAS CO-OPTED (NEM CON) AS REPRESENTATIVE FOR LEITH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.**

P Grant and R McEwen stood for co-option. **DECISION: BOTH WERE CO-OPTED (NEM CON) AS ORDINARY MEMBERS OF LCCC.**

3.5 Representative to Leith Neighbourhood Partnership board

J Hein has been doing this for the last year. *DECISION: P GRANT TO BE SUBSTITUTE MEMBER (NEM CON)*

3.6 Recording meeting

The minutes secretary wishes to record meetings in case of doubt about what was said during future meetings. After some discussion about obtaining permission, *DECISION: MINUTES SECRETARY MAY RECORD MEETINGS (NEM CON)*

3.7 Cockburn Association

This organisation (<http://www.cockburnassociation.org.uk>) has been invited to speak at the December meeting. It turns out LCCC owed some membership fees. *ACTION: TREASURER TO MAKE PAYMENT (NEM CON)*.

3.8 Leith Walk/Constitution St issues

The Secretary has contacted Alan Dean (roadworks manager for Constitution St). He is not the right person to speak about the financial/contractual aspects of this matter.

4 Community Police Officer's report

The main issues this month were

- Anti-social behaviour and drinking in Kirkgate area. There have been regular foot patrols, leading to 1 fixed-penalty ticket this month.
- There has been an anti-drinking initiative in local parks.
- Anti-social behaviour and drinking in Leith links area. Regular patrols have stopped some such behaviour but there have been very few calls about it
- A joint initiative with traffic wardens was run to deal with speeding motorists and people cycling on the pavements in Leith Walk. Speeders were warned and some cyclists were cautioned.
- Halloween/fireworks joint initiative with fire service included talks at local schools. Trading Standards officers checked that fireworks were being sold responsibly. Officers patrolling on foot only had to stop 1 fire. 3 youths were arrested for letting off fireworks near a temple.
- Regular patrols have warned the few aggressive beggars operating near Tesco and ScotMid

C Encombe asked for the local police email address (October item 9.1) It is EdinburghLeithWalkCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

5 Friends of Pilrig Park report

FoPP has had its 3rd public meeting. Extra bins have been installed. Benches were ordered in June but still have not arrived. LCCC's help to expedite benches was requested. A woodland area has been cleared, to the benefit of children and dog-walkers. More clearing is due, while Edinburgh Council has already done some clearing. The Fields Trust will support new equipment for children. FoPP requested £100 for its current plans. After some discussion of this and other potential funding sources, *DECISION (NEM CON): IF FOPP WRITES TO LCCC ASKING FOR £200 OR LESS, EXPLAINING HOW THIS WOULD BE SPENT, THE DECISION WOULD BE MADE BY LCCC'S SECRETARY AND TREASURER.*

J Siann asked the Secretary to request that James Hunter (Edinburgh Council parks manager) speaks to LCCC about parks strategy

6 Planning subcommittee (PSC)**6.1 Process and documentation**

PSC is developing procedures and general principles, to bring to LCCC for approval in December. Procedures include a register of sites of interest. (During discussions of individual items, it was suggested that PSC includes proposed number of units in the register.) PSC is also developing a general work plan to cover issues that would affect the LCCC area, such as the proposed local development plan and new Forth bridge. J Siann suggested that large developments are likely (e.g. 241 flats in Brunswick Road, 76 units in McDonald road, 400 units in Shrub Place). C Encombe encouraged all LCCC members to become familiar with planning documents and legislation to increase the number of LCCC members able to submit relevant and appropriate comments to planning applications and consultations.

6.2 Piccardy Place PAN

This is outside LCCC's area, so is not of primary concern to LCCC. The application has been withdrawn, so nothing is currently happening. It was pointed out that if buildings are unused, they degenerate – an undesirable outcome.

6.3 13/02381/FUL Kinnaird Park

This application was refused. LCCC was tangentially involved because Ocean Terminal had requested LCCC's help in stopping potential loss of business at that shopping centre.

6.4 13/02459/LBC 154 Macdonald Road/Broughton Primary School

This proposal was refused by Edinburgh council by a very close vote (7:6). LCCC had helped oppose this proposal because it would have overlooked the school playground and the planned houses were uniformly small. Appeal by the developer against this refusal is now very likely.

S Bagnal of BPS Parents Association thanked LCCC and M Chisholm MSP for their support. She described how objections had to show that the proposed development would have broken planning rules. The background is that BPS is now overcrowded and has poor facilities. Edinburgh council plans to use 4 modular classrooms in the playground, which would put the square metres of play area per child close to the bottom of the permitted range. BPS PA feels strongly that 154 McDonald Road should be brought back into public ownership so it can be used to extend the school.

The next step will be monitoring for any appeal against refusal, and demonstrating that modular classrooms are not a future-proof solution. Community buy-out of 154 McDonald Road was discussed, even though the potential cost is not currently known. It appears that legislation allows such buildings to be sold at less than market value.

J Siann noted that a relevant Sustainable Design document talks about using buildings and settings well for school design. He suggested that BPS may not be getting a full hearing and so this matter should be referred to the Education Department on the basis of the Sustainable Design document.

M Lazarowicz suggested that the bid might have been subject to planning permission. Rejection means Edinburgh Council will have to defend their decision, so concerned people should liaise with councillors.

6.5 13/04323/PAN Site 157 Metres West Of 25 Brunswick Road

There are two concurrent processes about this site: Barratts have submitted a new planning application (exhibition due December-Jan) while appealing against refusal of a previous application for the same site. This appeal will be considered by Scottish Government in December.

It was asked whether LCCC objected to the proposed number of houses or to the type of development; also whether LCCC might suggest better ways of using such sites (e.g. mix of family, single-person etc houses). LCCC planning subcommittee does look at such mixes and will suggest what it believes to be best.

7 Councillors' and MP/MSP reports**7.1 Mark Lazarowicz MP**

MP has 10 CCs in his constituency. The following issues intersect his duties as MP and LCCC interests

- There is much concern about the 'bedroom tax' affecting social housing tenants. There is a discretionary housing payment fund available to those who have had housing benefit cuts. Community groups such as LCCC should publicise this fund.
- Crisis grants from the Scottish welfare fund are also available but are not being accessed enough. Community groups should also publicise this fund
- Edinburgh has been given funding for superfast broadband (SFBB) but this can't be used to cover areas where SFBB can be done commercially. M Lazarowicz asked for local experiences of broadband 'not-spots'.
- UK government wants to streamline energy tariffs. Ofgem has recommended reintroduction of standing charges. M Lazarowicz would be grateful for examples of where this increases energy bills.

8 Leith Walk repairs

A resident mentioned that a property opposite Lorne St has been dangerous for at least 10 years. It appears that matters await a reply from the owners.

H Tobermann and J Siann represent LCCC on the Leith Walk stakeholders' group. This has not met since September, and meetings have not been minuted. H Tobermann noted that a Traffic Regulation Order covering from the bottom of Leith Walk to Pilrig might be raised in January and hence work might start in May. Meanwhile the poor state of the pavements continues to cause distress and at least one case of actual injury.

ACTION: H TOBERMANN TO WRITE TO L HINDS REQUESTING REGULAR, MINUTED STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

A Wilson noted that there has been very little 'pick-up' of stakeholder input but lots of changes to plans without a definitive statement of what is to be implemented. These concerns were seconded by K Hales. For example, it is unclear how many parking places would be lost – stakeholders can only comment on precise information.

9 Open Forum

A resident asked about photos from Pilmeny Youth Group Leith Walk tree-planting. It was suggested that he contact Anne Munro (former LCCC treasurer).

10 AOCB

Leith Neighbourhood Partnership has grants available for improvements to council-owned public-realm spaces (e.g. dropped kerbs). LCCC was asked to publicise these grants. C Encombe will forward such requests to LNP.

COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities: <http://www.cosla.gov.uk>) has recently set up a Commission on strengthening Local Democracy. Submissions can be made at <http://www.localdemocracy.info/discuss/> Minutes secretary suggested that LCCC might make a submission. **ACTION: MINUTES SECRETARY TO POST MORE INFORMATION ON WEBSITE**

C Encombe spoke about the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill. This Bill proposes, among other things, that communities can buy land and property, and that subsidies may become available. Further information is online at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/5740>. CE proposed that LCCC members comment and that LCCC should make its own contribution to the consultation.

11 Date of next meeting

16 December 2013

12 Appendix 1: Income & Expenditure 2013–1014

DATE	DESCRIPTION	Cheque No	Credit	Debit	Balance	Bank Balance
2013	Balance b/f					£1,221.80
09-Apr	Minutes B Ryan	351		£30.00		£1,191.80
20-May	Minutes B Ryan	352		£30.00		£1,161.80
15-Aug	Minutes B Ryan	353		£30.00		£1,131.80
14-Sep	Minutes B Ryan	354		£30.00		£1,101.80
14-Sep	C Encombe- domain renewal	355		£20.94		£1,080.86
10-Sep	Edinburgh Council		£989.06			£2,069.92
21-Oct	LGBT	356		£18.68		£2,051.24
31-Oct	Minutes (Aug/Sept) B Ryan	357		£60.00		£1991.24
	TOTALS		£989.06	£140.94		

Balance b/f	£1,221.80
Income	£989.06
Total Income	£2,210.86
less expenditure	£219.62
BALANCE	£1,991.24