

Leith Central Community Council (LCCC),
Minutes of AGM held at 7.30pm on Monday 25th May 2009 at Out of the Blue,
Dalmeny Street, Leith

Present

Stewart Blaik	Chairman LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Ann Munro	Treasurer/Pilmeny Development Project
Jenny MacKenzie	Minute taker and LCCC
Rob Hainsworth	LCCC
Stan Eadie	LCCC
Lee Jack	L&B Police
Charlotte Encombe	Greener Leith
Alison Wilkie	Chairperson Leith Links.CC
Jim Scanlon	Vice-chair Leith Links CC
Cllr Angela Blacklock	(Lab) Leith Walk ward.
Ross McEwan	Art in Architecture/JUMP
Ann Stark	Friends of Calton & Hillside
Malcolm Chisholm MSP	Edinburgh North and Leith
Peter Mellors	Resident
Harald Tobermann	Pilrig Residents Association (PRA)
Keith Anderson	Port of Leith Housing Association (POLHA)
Cllr. Louise Lang	(SLD) Leith Walk ward.

1. Introductions and announcements:

The proposed agenda for the AGM was accepted. The agenda was as follows:

1. Introductions and announcements.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Chair and Secretary's reports.
4. Treasurer's report
5. Triannual Elections.
6. Confirmation of Membership and Office bearers.
7. AOCB
8. Welcome to Keith Anderson of POLHA.

Minutes for AGM 2008 approved by Stan Eadie and Ann Munro.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Deidre Brock	(SNP) Leith Walk ward.
Cllr Rob Munn	(SNP) Leith ward.
Cllr Gordon Munro	(Lab) Leith ward.
John Hein	LCCC member
Lorraine Duckworth	(CEC Neighbourhood Partnership).
Kenneth Jamies	(L&B Fire Brigade)

Martin Black
Mark Lazarowicz MP
Mohanjit Singh

(CEC Community Education)
(Lab) North Edinburgh & Leith
Former director POLHA

3. Reports

Chairman's report

The chair noted that the year has been productive for LCCC, with representation made at Neighbourhood Partnership level, public meetings and business meetings, plus sub-committee meetings, such as the Housing and Built Environment committee, the Health and Well-Being committee and the sub-committee for Children and Families.

The chairman has also attended the North Edinburgh Public Partnership Forum (6-8 meetings) as vice-convenor, and the NHS Lothian Community Health Partnership, Control of Infections Committee (4 meetings a year). He is also a member of the Licensing Forum.

LCCC has been helping to seek a solution to the Boundary Square issue for residents for the past eight years. It is hoped that the current involvement of the NP, the CEC Environment Committee and POLHA will finally result in some satisfactory solutions.

The Housing and Built Environment Committee has spent about £214,000 on projects in the area and is proud of its record for the year.

LCCC has been active in securing some money, with £500 allocated for development of the website, and a further £500 acquired for community consultation.

The chairman thanked members for allowing him to serve for the past year as chairman to LCCC.

4. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year were approved and adopted by LCCC member Stan Eadie. Auditor Ann Dargo is accepted for the next year. The balance at the end of March 2009 is £1,589.

LCCC to donate £50 to the Park Life, a project supported by Friends of Dalmeny Park.

5. Triannual Elections.

Elections will take place in October. Eileen Hewitt, CC liaison officer for CEC will organise a city wide programme to encourage more CC members to come forward. The chair noted that more active members for the CC are needed. The rules allow for 16 elected and eight nominated members. We currently have eight members. . We could consider posters displayed in MacDonald Road library to encourage interest in LCCC.

Charlotte Encombe suggested that LCCC should review its website, update the information and make it more topical and informative. A good website is crucial and

dialogue is needed with the community. A website is now a very important part of an organisation's communication strategy.

The secretary noted that all relevant planning documents could be posted also.

Harald Tobermann noted that editing a website is full-time job.

The idea of investing some money in paying a fee to have the website updated will be considered.

6. Membership and office-bearers.

Joan Corbett is standing down as a member.

7. AOCB

Funding for CCs

Ross McEwan asked what provision would be made for those who do not have a computer. He suggested that there should be a lobby formed by Councillors and MSPs for funding CCs properly. He notes that this is an important political issue. Community councillors are increasingly being asked to take on more tasks. Planning issues can be very time consuming.

The LCCC agreed that this proposal should be submitted to both the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) and the Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC). Ross McEwan suggested that the three CCs should unite to make this request. Reference needs to be made to the fact that Parish Councils in England receive money directly from central government.

Draft Open Space Audit

Cllr Lang encouraged participation in the audit and distributed questionnaires. The audit can also be found online.

8 Welcome to Keith Anderson, new director of POLHA

Keith was Director of the Waterfront Partnership for three years. As such he was working to meet both public and private expectations. As new director of POLHA he asks 'How can we make sure that Leith continues to grow?' The current recession provides a really good opportunity to rethink. POLHA is an organisation that has been around for 36 years, consistently increasing its stock of affordable housing in the area. . It wants more low-energy homes integrated with good open spaces. There are great examples of this type of housing in Europe, in Stockholm and Denmark for example. He plans to continue their steady growth. POLHA is currently working with other housing associations, Hillcrest and Cairn to discuss how each can benefit from working together.

A civic reception will be held at the City Chambers on 12th June to recognise the contribution to housing in the city by outgoing director Mohanjit Singh.

LCCC business meeting. 25th May, 2009..

Minutes of previous meeting, held on 20th April 2009.

Charlotte Encombe requests an amendment to Item 9 Open Forum.
It was never Greener Leith's intention that any part of the Eduardo Paolozzi's piece be separated from the whole work. The Manuscript of Monte Cassini should remain together.

Minutes approved by Stan Eadie.

Police reported presented by PC Lee Jack, standing in for PC Mark Muir.
Underground car parks provide opportunities for car thieves and do increase the number of successful thefts from cars. Ten of the 16 break-ins to vehicles during April took place in underground car parks. Secretary Roland Reid stated that all housing developments should be "Secure by Design", so some thought can be given at the design stage, to prevent this type of crime occurring.

There were five house-breakings in April, which included a Licensed premises in Easter Road. An 18-year-old was arrested for this crime. There were 13 instances of vandalism, mainly to vehicles in Smiths Place, Easter Road and Pilrig Street. Three pedal cycles were stolen from common stairs in Stead's Place and Leith Walk. £200 was stolen by an opportunist thief who entered a bakery in Leith Walk and made off with the contents of the till.

Secretary's Report

Correspondence received:

CEC has confirmed to LCCC that the development of the Waterfront walkway is now underway.

Director of Mela, Liam Sinclair is seeking a meeting with Harld Tobermann (PRA) to address local concerns about the return of the Mela to Pilrig Park this year. A big meeting is planned, but there is no information from the Mela Committee. Cllr Steve Cardownie is chair of this committee. The secretary will write to him and request a meeting at the earliest opportunity to discuss current plans for the festival.

Thanks to letters written by MSP Malcolm Chisholm and enquiries by Councillor Brock the broken gate in Pitt Street which was enabling access to young people causing a disturbance has now been repaired. Malcolm Chisholm also wrote a letter of enquiry on LCCC's behalf about the former Leith Walk primary school empty janitor's house.

Consultations

Re the Open Space Consultation. There will be an information stand at Leith Gala (Saturday 13th June) and a workshop will be held on 16th June at Leith Academy from 6.30-8pm.

Events

A CC Joint Meeting entitled Community Engagement will be held on Monday 1st June, at 7pm at the City Chambers.

AOB

Director of Pilmeny Development Project (PDP) Ann Munro notes that since the budget has been set there has been no clarity given to PDP about the future of the allocated part-time and sessional hours. PDP requests support from the CC on this issue as this is no way to run a service. The clubs cannot be run entirely by volunteers. It would be helpful to ask the Children and Families Department if there will be a consultation, with a copy of this enquiry going to all councillors. The secretary noted that year on year this uncertainty occurs. It would be helpful to have some clarity on this matter. The chairman noted that it would be disastrous if the clubs were to disappear.

The next meeting of the LCCC will be held on Monday 22nd June Lorne Social Centre, Buchanan Street at 7.30pm.