

# Minutes of the annual general meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in Leith Community Centre on Monday 21 September 2015 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 Introduction, attendance and apologies

### 1.1 Attendance

Anne Finlay	LCCC treasurer	Susan Nickalls	Resident
Adrian Graham	LCCC	Alex Renton	Resident
John Hein	LCCC chair	David Shaw	Resident
Ross McEwan	LCCC	Cllr Angela Blacklock	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Julian Siann	LCCC	Cllr Marion Donaldson	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Harald Tobermann	LCCC vice-chair	Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	Cllr Lewis Ritchie	Leith Walk ward (SNP)
John Appleton	Resident	Malcolm Chisholm MSP	Edinburgh Northern & Leith (Labour)
Liz Ballantyne	Resident	Ella Taylor Smith	<i>Broughton Spurtle</i>
Andrew Bell	Resident		

### 1.2 Apologies

Irene Sweeney LCCC

## 2 Minutes of the meeting of 17 August 2015

### 2.1 Approval

The draft minutes were approved (proposed A Graham, seconded J Siann, *nem con*)

### 2.2 Matters Arising

#### 2.2.1 Advertising LCCC in *The Leither* (item 2.2.1 in August minutes)

Cllr Donaldson reported that *The Leither* will not invoice 'inappropriately'.

#### 2.2.2 Leith Walk repairs & improvements – crowdsourcing requirements (item 2.2.2 in June minutes)

Cllr Donaldson has crowd-sourced via Twitter comments on the latest plans for repairing the stretch from Pilrig St southwards. Most respondents say there are enough crossings but more are needed in the currently unrefurbished stretches. However a few say there are too many. Respondents also requested more cycle racks.

#### 2.2.3 Leith Walk repairs & improvements – submission of LCCC comments (item 2.2.3 in August minutes)

See planning subcommittee report ([item 5](#)) below

#### 2.2.4 Planning subcommittee – Shrub Hill student accommodation (item 2.2.4 in August minutes)

R McEwan has not been able to follow this up fully yet but reported that it will now be easier to do so now scaffolding has been removed. His initial reaction is that the building is 1 storey too high at the 'hoarding' end. He stated that scanned drawings on the planning portal are unhelpful so he will need to check the originals.

#### 2.2.5 Open forum – advertising banners (item 2.2.5 in June minutes)

A Graham is still waiting for suitable images. **ACTION: CARRY FORWARD TO OCTOBER MEETING**

#### 2.2.6 Police report – lack of reports on local crime statistics (item 4 in August minutes)

Cllr Gardner has contacted Edinburgh Council's head of community safety (Cammy Day). Hence Kirsty Morrison (strategic manager for community safety) will speak to Police about this matter. Cllr Gardner will report back asap. M Chisholm has also contacted Chief Superintendent Mark Williams – no substantive reply so far.

## 3 Community Police Officer's Report

No Police Scotland representative present, hence no actual report.

H Tobermann reported that the new Inspector at Leith police station wishes to meet LCCC's chair to discuss priorities/'wishlist'. HT suggested consistent, regular, written reports (possibly in advance), including numbers of burglaries etc, as were provided before the formation of Police Scotland, and numbers of solved crimes.

**ACTION: J HEIN TO TAKE THIS FORWARD.**

HT also questioned why the Community Police Officer who had promised regular attendance at the last meeting was absent without sending an apology.

## 4 LCCC Office Bearers' Reports

### 4.1 Vice-chair

H Tobermann is currently covering for the Secretary, who is absent for personal reasons. He reported that LCCC has been asked to provide a representative on the Leith Decides board. **DECISION: A GRAHAM TO BE THIS REP.**

HT also suggested that in the light of M Donaldson becoming a CEC councillor, her comms activities could be passed on to an elected/nominated LCCC member. DECISION – TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL IN OCTOBER

#### 4.2 Treasurer

No change since August meeting: current balance is £2369.90. See appendix 1 for details

### 5 Transport: Leith Walk Repairs and Improvements

#### 5.1 TRO/15/29 Leith Walk: Brunswick St to Dalmeny St

H Tobermann reported that this TRO has been advertised. Due to a mistake in publishing it, LCCC has up to 1<sup>st</sup> October to comment on it. He suggested not objecting to it, because this would lead to several months' more delay in implementation of repairs, but submitting comment. Other statements made in this discussion were

- Cycle-lanes should not be on (mixed-use) pavements. In the Netherlands and Germany, pedestrians and cyclists have clearly-marked, separate lanes on pavements, so that they mostly do not affect each other, and both are well away from motorised vehicles. Traffic lights enable both to safely cross side-roads.
- The apparent point of mixed-use lanes is to enable nervous cyclists to cycle away from traffic but current plans will not achieve this. Also, bus-stop users will need to cross cycle-lanes, which may be dangerous.
- Some stretches of pavement have no room for cycle-lanes.
- Individuals may make their own comments or objections.
- The repairs should be done now because Leith Walk has been in disrepair for 8 years already. Also, the sooner repairs are started, the less chance there is of CEC cancelling them due to budget deficit. Deficiencies in implemented plans can be improved upon later.
- It should be ascertained why cycle lanes are planned in some stretches but not in others. (Cllr Gardner responded that access for shopkeepers may be a factor here.)

DECISION – NO OBJECTION

#### 5.2 Leith Walk repairs stakeholder meeting 17 Sep 2015

This was cancelled at short notice, with no reason being given. This is the second time this meeting has been cancelled. The first cancellation was apparently to wait upon detail of potential impact of the St James Centre designs. It was suggested that CEC is using StJC planning to delay Leith Walk repair. The point of this meeting was to advise on timescales. Hence LCCC is uninformed until this meeting happens 'in a few weeks' time'.

H Tobermann noted that all Leith Walk ward councillors were at this LCCC meeting, and urged them to push for reinstatement of Leith Walk at all opportunities – residents are fed up with the current state of this street.

HT also noted that outline plans for phase 5 (McDonald Rd to Annandale St) should have been displayed at the postponed meeting. He has seen a PDF of the outline plans. They appear to be simple, potentially leading to lower cost and less time to implement, and the result being easier for road users to understand. LCCC has been offered a briefing (date, time, venue TBC) on the plans. DECISION: J SIANN, A GRAHAM, R McEWAN, J HEIN TO ATTEND

#### 5.3 Stopping up order of Shrub Place Lane (street leading from Leith Walk to Masonic club)

HT reported that under this order, People for Places (the owners of the Shrub Place site) would have the legal right to close it. This is presumably in preparation for an actual development on this site. J Hein stated that this lane is a legal right of way. HT suggested that such a development might include ramps to a cycle-path which might be built along the nearby former rail line.

### 6 Planning sub-committee Report

#### 6.1 Shrubhill (13/00241/FUL) approved drawings vs. as built

See item 2.2.4 above

#### 6.2 to note: proposed replacement mobile phone mast at Leith St Andrew's (previously at Capital Bingo, Manderston St)

The mast will be sited within the building – hence LCCC has no current concerns.

#### 6.3 to note: Edinburgh Planning Concordat [consultation](#) to 11 Oct 2015

HT reported that this concordat enables CEC and CCs to deal with planning applications in a consistent way. (See <http://bit.ly/1izaCTN> for details). It provides for, inter alia, funds for consulting communities if certain conditions are met. HT suggested that the concordat could be improved, for example, increasing timescales to enable meaningful consultation

### 7 Friends of Parks Report

Friends of Pilrig Park AGM will be on 12 October at 6:30pm

### 8 Councillors' reports, MSPs' reports, MP's report

#### 8.1 Cllr Gardner

He is awaiting a reply from Inspector Carson about 2 pedestrians being knocked down.

**8.2 Cllr Donaldson**

She reported that she has not yet been assigned to any Edinburgh Council committees.

She asked Pilrig Street residents present for comments on traffic congestion in that street. It was suggested that heavier vehicles, such as articulated trucks, should be restricted, and that lack of driving skills may be an issue here. It was also suggested that if parking was restricted to only one side of Pilrig St, traffic would go faster. Cllr Donaldson responded that Pilrig St will be in the 20mph zone but there was disbelief that this would be enforced. An LCCC resident suggested that there should be more pedestrian crossings.

It was suggested that parking control should be Edinburgh-wide but that this is unlikely due to the cost of such a scheme, while residents' parking permits are likely to be expensive, and HMO-residents are unlikely to be able to obtain them. A resident noted that uncontrolled parking leads to parking spaces being mostly taken up by commuters, thus preventing residents from parking in their own streets.

Another resident asked (during AOCB) for LCCC's opinion on controlled parking. He reported that Annandale St is very heavily used by non-residents.

**8.3 Cllr Richie**

Having just been elected, he is setting up regular surgeries. He already has a significant amount of casework. He will be on the communities and neighbourhood, education and planning committees. His first meeting will be the communities committee, discussing *inter alia* Edinburgh's response to the refugee crisis.

He reiterated police appeals for witnesses to a recent rape in this area.

**8.4 Cllr Blacklock**

She reported that the budget will be earlier than normal, hence consultation will also be. CEC is considering localities, to be headquartered at Waverley Court, and to work with Neighbourhood Teams and Partnerships.

**8.5 M Chisholm MSP**

He has met with NHS Lothian about health and social care funding and bed-blocking. There is a bill concerning rented housing and evictions. He is also concerned about lack of GP recruitment in Edinburgh. He requested comments on the potential demolition of the grain silo in Leith docks. He has also received concerns about a 'rat-run' onto Easter Road – there are demands for traffic calming. He also hears a lot of complaints about burglaries and antisocial behaviour – matters are generally improving but apparently not in this area, so he is chasing up this issue with Police Scotland.

He commended no-parking zones MC at entrances to schools. He also reported that a wall at Blandfield is likely to collapse – this may affect future plans for cycle-lanes.

**9 Open Forum****9.1 Arsons in Newhaven Road area**

Residents reported that there have been several arsons, mostly on cars, in this area. There is now a group of about 25 residents trying to take appropriate action on this and other prevalent antisocial behaviour (e.g. car-scratching, theft of cars and bikes [some of which have been taken along the cycle-path to Leith] and break-ins). The arsons started in 2014 and the most recent one was in August 2015. There is no obvious time-pattern.

The residents stated that some of the arsons have not been properly investigated – car-arsons have been logged as due to electrical problems even though three happened on the same night. The residents have spoken with the local community Police sergeant but report that Police Scotland (PS) is over-pressured. The local Neighbourhood Watch (NW) is dormant. Since coming together, the residents have found that the PS are taking these crimes more seriously – there are more patrols.

They asked LCCC whether they should try to revive the NW if it is worthwhile, and how they might push for CCTV coverage, and how the former Lothian and Borders Police youth units' functions might be reinstated.

Suggestions included

- Crime should be followed up and recorded properly – one reason for reporting crime statistics to CCs.
- A NW would formalise and publicise the actions the residents are currently taken.
- Funds for stickers and high-visibility jackets may be available from the community safety partnership.
- Dog-walkers could be asked to keep watch while they are working.
- CEC holds the budget for CCTV. There is much pressure on this service so it is hard to obtain permanent CCTV installation. It would be worth contacting Simon Porteous, (community safety manager).
- The group of residents will add the CEC councillors, LCCC and the MSP to their mailing list.
- Also some people have their own CCTV – the residents' group might try to tap into this.

H Tobermann noted that he had solved the burglary he recently suffered, partly by talking with people. He advised the residents to try similar tactics.

**9.2 Potential demolition of grain silo in Leith Docks**

CEC has received 9 comments on this matter, so it will go to committee. ACTIONS: **R McEWAN** TO SUPPLY DETAILED INFORMATION TO **H TOBERMANN**, TO ENABLE HIM TO SUBMIT OBJECTION ON BEHALF OF LCCC; **M CHISHOLM MSP** TO WRITE TO HISTORIC SCOTLAND WITH LCCC'S SUPPORT

**10 AOCB**

A Graham noted that there will be an environmental protest at the Scottish Parliament on 26 September at 1pm.

B Ryan had attended the Fairer Scotland event for CCs. His report is at <http://bruceryan.info/2015/09/20/fssc0>

B Ryan has also checked the LCCC website against criteria produced by [CPALC](#) and found there is room for improvement. He requested LCCC's help with producing relevant content.

**11 Dates of Future Meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month):**

2015: 19 October, 16 November, 21 December

2016: 18 January, 15 February, 21 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June (AGM)

**12 Appendix 1: Income & Expenditure**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	Cheque No	Credit	Debit	Balance	Bank Balance
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Balance b/f from 2014-15</b>					£1,655.44
25.3.15	Minutes(Feb 2015) B Ryan	439		£50.00		1,605.44
1.5.15	Minutes(Mar 2015) B Ryan	440		£50.00		£1,555.44
22.6.15	C Encombe (gift+wreath)	442		£74.60		£1,480.84
22.6.15	Mins AGM (May 2015)	441		£50.00		£1,430.84
9.7.15	Minutes(Apr 2015) B Ryan	443		£50.00		£1,380.84
3.8.15	CEC grant - bank transfer		£989.06			£2,369.90
TOTALS			£989.06	£274.60		
	Balance b/f	£1,655.44				
	Income	£989.06				
	Total Income	£1,644.50				
	less expenditure	£274.60				
	BALANCE	£2,369.90				