

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in the McDonald Road Library on Monday 16 May 2016 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			
John Hein	Chair	Stan Eadie	LCCC
Adrian Graham	LLCCC	Elly Taylor-Smith	Broughton Spurtle
Michael Trail	Leith Links CC	Ben Macpherson	MSP
Harald Tobermann	LCCC vice-chair LCCC	Cllr Lewis Ritchie	Leith Walk ward (NSP)
Mark Rowlinson	Police Scotland	Julian Sian	LCCC
Niall Corrigan	Police Scotland	Jack Caldwell	resident
Lorraine Moore	LCCC	Jeremy Darot	LCCC
Cllr Marion Donaldson	Leith Walk ward (Labour)	Katherine Chisholm	resident
Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)		
1.2 Apologies			
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	Charlotte Encombe	LCCC Secretary
Deirdre Brock	MP	Ben McPhearson	resident
Miles Briggs	MSP	Angela Blacklock	Leith Walk ward (Labour)

2 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting

a. LCCC Meeting of 18 April 2016

A number of amendments were requested concerning typos in names.

There's a police number starting 311 that's no longer in use; no 311 numbers are in use now.

Cllr Marion Donaldson suggested that the description of the discussion about 15/05310/FUL was not accurate (6.4.2).

Open Forum (10): it is the old janitor's house that is covered in an advertising hording, rather than Leith Walk Primary School itself.

Cllr Lewis Ritchie proposed to accept the minutes except section 6.4.2. Cllrs Marion Donaldson and Lewis Ritchie will suggest revisions to this this section, ideally with access to Charlotte Encombe's recording of the meeting.

The minutes were approved, with the exception of paragraph 6.4.2.

Actions: Charlotte Encombe (provide recording), Cllrs Marion Donaldson and Lewis Ritchie (suggest amendments in writing), Harald Tobermannn (amend minutes before publication), Leith Central Community Council (review paragraph 6.4.2 at next meeting).

3 Matters arising

3.1 Planning

Harald Tobermannn has submitted an objection to 16/00191/FUL; submitted this council's comments to Leith Walk Town Centre consultation; and submitted this council's comments to 16/00427/FUL (see items 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 from the February Minutes).

3.2 Jointly owned back-green for sale 105-113 Pitt St

Cllr Nick Gardner- CEC lawyers have been looking into it and found many documents, but have not managed to find a document that guarantees the stair owners' access to this specific piece of land. The lawyers are trying to find the original plans. It has been put up for sale twice now. This time for £6000, though it doesn't offer much potential for development. The owners/sellers seem to have a valid land certificate for the green.

3.3 Advertisement on scaffolding by Leith Walk Primary School

Cllr Nick Gardner hasn't been able to find out who owns the advertisement on the janitor's house by Leith Walk Primary. Lorraine Moore has asked the head teacher about it and the head teacher is also trying to find out who owns it.

3.4 Bothwell Street

Re paragraph 10 (Open Forum) bin lorries being obstructed by parked cars in Bothwell St: the Community Police officers stated that their powers were rather limited in these circumstances and that it would be better if the parking attendants dealt with it (noting that Leith has more parking attendants on duty than previously). Cllr Marion Donaldson noted that there's currently a relevant TRO in that area.

4 Community Police Officers' Report

The officers provided an overview of statistics from March 2016. Overall they are down 8% on the 5 yearly average. Violent crime down 6% (11 common assaults, 3 more serious assaults). Drug dealing: drug offenses (recorded offenses of supply and possession) down by 67%. Housebreaking figures significantly down: 6 domestic house breakings in the last month. One of those solved already. Four business break ins. None of those solved. One break in to non-dwelling. The officers could not say if the figures reflected an actual drop in crime or a drop in recorded crime.

Community Team (1 to 2 officers) have been focusing on house break-ins, retrieving stolen goods and working with young people involved in house break-ins. Community officers put in 89 man hours in that month. They are also involved in partnership work with Bethany Christian Trust to prevent vulnerable people becoming victims of crime. Patrols are targeting Hopetoun Crescent and McDonald Road, where anti-social behaviour has been recently.

Anne Finlay brought up the issue of groups of youths fire raising in Dalmeny Park (on at least 3 occasions, early evening), e.g. burning a tyre. The Fire Brigade came. Cllr Nick Gardner: wheelie bins set of fire in area of Montgomery St, noting that they have become increasingly successful in setting the bins on fire. This has started/increased over the last couple of months. Jeremy Darot mentioned various anti-social behaviour from young people (12-14) in the area and suggested there could be a police presence early in the evening. There is no CCTV in Montgomery St/ Dalmeny. Cllr Nick Gardner suggested using the roving CCTV there.

The Police Officers are going to chat to the schools and the fire service. They asked the councillors to phone the police as well as fire brigade if they thought a fire was started deliberately and to phone with other information.

Cllr Marion Donaldson: At Newtown and Broughton Community Council the police had noted a significant increase in rough sleeping in the central area. The community police officers noted that the winter services had recently closed, but had not noticed an increase in the Leith area. They noted that they receive calls about rough sleepers every morning and try to resolve them quickly but sensitively.

5 LCCC Office Bearers' Reports**5.1 Treasurer**

The accounts have been signed off by Chair John Hein and will go to the external auditor before being sent to City of Edinburgh Council (CEC). Action: Anne Finlay sending accounts to auditor.

Accounts for Financial Year 2015 - 2016

Income	£ 989.06
Expenditure	£ 610.58
Cash in bank	£ 1655.44
Cash surplus.	£ 378.48
Net current assets	£ 2033.92

5.2 Secretary

Harald Tobermann (LCCC Vice chair) stood in for Charlotte Encombe: Some preparation will be needed for the AGM (20th June). Action: Harald Tobermann to organise actions for the AGM.

Harald Tobermann has contacted all the current MSPs (List and constituency) inviting them to LCCC meetings. He is keen that list MSPs become involved, rather than leaving the constituency MSP to attend. Cllr Nick Gardner suggested the council think of list MSPs in terms of when their particular expertise is relevant.

Harald Tobermann: **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act Part 3**- worth keeping an eye on. Jeremy Darot: this is a primary act and more legislation is needed about how it will work in practice. Ben Macpherson MSP: a new organisation has been set up to help people get involved via community empowerment. See <http://www.scdc.org.uk/who/> and <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage>

6 Planning

- a. Noted: **Application Refused 16/01420/FUL** | New house extension 1 to garden with external steps and boundary wall/fence. | 18 Cambridge Avenue EH6 5A
- b. Noted: the **Local Development Plan (LDP)** is still in limbo until "late June". Harald Tobermann suggested that this was not acceptable. Cllr Lewis Ritchie noted that this was making it difficult for CEC's Planning Committee to make informed decisions. The Planning Committee have written to the Government. Late June describes when they can expect to hear a response to this. Harald Tobermann suggested that Ben Macpherson MSP intervene.
 Responding to: **16/02242/FUL** | Amendment to approved application 15/00643/FUL Amend Block A, ground floor retail units and 4 first floor flats fronting Leith Walk into a 24 hr gym. | Site 69 Metres West Of 7 Shrub Place (applicant: Places For People (Shrubhill) Limited). Harald Tobermann: There will be some loss of housing and loss of shop fronts. Harald Tobermann recommends that LCCC object. John Hein noted that it will be a 24 hour gym, which may change the character of the area; it is not clear what the parking arrangements are; this is a variation from the original plan, especially as it runs across two floors. Julian Sian worried that the development of the site was slow and minimal; that the tram-sheds are becoming increasingly dilapidated. Jack Caldwell said young people had thrown glass at him from the tram-sheds on the way here. LCCC agreed to object to this amendment. *Action: Harald Tobermann organise submission of objection.*

7 Transport

- a. noted **timeline for "Leith Programme" Phase 4 (Pilrig Street to McDonald Road)** tender and construction.
- b. noted: **update from Lesley Hinds** regarding decisions (and budgets) to patch repair the seriously potholed downhill stretch between Picardy and Pilrig prior to Leith Programme. Lesley Hinds has emailed Harald Tobermann about that the stretch between McDonald Road and London Rd: there will be some gas pipeline works taking place; once that's completed, a resurfacing programme will take place. It's not clear whether this is additional to the current programme. Harald Tobermann asked the councillors to report potholes. Cllr Lewis Ritchie volunteered to receive your complaints about potholes. John Hein suggested using Fix My Street.
- c. Re Planning Performance Annual Report 2014/2015. *This item to be reviewed.*
- d. Noted: Tram Inquiry have invited Harald Tobermann to submit evidence. *Action: Please send your evidence to Harald Tobermann.*

8 Environment

8.1 Friends of Parks Reports

No Friends present. Cllr Nick Gardner: Well-attended Pilrig Park Clean-up

8.2 Stair Lighting Repair and Maintenance programme.

Responsibility is transferring from Council to stair owners. One problem is accessing the bulb casings: a couhtrie is needed and there is currently a local shortage. The discussion centred on places to try buying these keys, asking local businesses to stock them, and stocking them in the Edinburgh Tool Library.

9 Councillors' reports, MSPs' reports, MPs' reports

9.1 Cllr Lewis Ritchie

- Met the director of the Cyrenians, who talked about a new project to provide food and a place for people to eat together. Cllr Lewis Ritchie is now convener of the city's food bank's initiative. They are looking for ways to find help people who attend food banks with related issues. He is meeting the new chief executive of Edinburgh Citizens' Advice on Tuesday 17th May.
- The Lothian Buses' tickets petition (see April 2016's minutes, 9.1). The Chief of Lothian Buses came in front of the committee dealing with this petition and could not provide any figures to back up Lothian Buses' decision to remove city singles, although the move had previously been justified as a financial one, due to people using fake tickets.
- Cllr Ritchie described how a planning application(Abbeyhill) was passed with only 65% of the recommended parking spaces, though parking is already a problem in Abbeyhill .

- Cllr Ritchie re-stated his objections to the Bonnington Road development due to lack of open space. To partially ameliorate this, the developers have agreed to donate £1500 to Pilrig Park.

9.2 Cllr Nick Gardner

Leith Gala is on June 11th. Leith Links. This year the sound stage is back.

9.3 Cllr Marion Donaldson

- Noted CEC's report on refugee re-settlement in the city.
- East Claremont street is open to traffic again.
- Cllr Donaldson is getting emails about (lack of) cleanliness in Montgomery Street.

9.4 Ben Macpherson MSP

Currently trialling when to have surgeries and looking for an accessible constituency office. He invited people to get in touch.

10 Open Forum/AOCB

10.1 Lidl

Jeremy Darot asked about progress with Lidl in Easter Road. Cllr Lewis Ritchie has been in contact with Lidl: they are trying to resolve some planning issues around their proposed increase in size, but think they will open soon. The latest application has been approved *in principal*.

10.2 Minutes secretary

This position has not been filled, though Charlotte Encombe *may* be able to cover it till Bruce's return. Ella Taylor-Smith (filling in on this occasion) suggested LCCC renew efforts to find a new (if temporary) minutes secretary.

11 AOCB

It has been suggested that the three Leith community councils meet to look at infrastructure and facility issues in planning. Jeremy Darot kindly volunteered to represent Leith Central at that meeting. Michael Traill, from Leith Links CC, will nudge the councils to set a date for a joint meeting.

Stan Eadie asked about an art organisation taking over a listed-building shed in Forth Ports. Cllr Lewis Ritchie said that he would look into it, as change of use processes need to be followed.

12 Dates of Future Meetings (3rd Monday of the month):

The next meeting is Monday 20th June (AGM)

The following proposed dates were agreed for 2016: 15 August, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November, 19 December, 16 January 2017, 20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 22 May, 19 June AGM.

LCCC briefly noted these future presentations/discussions:

- I. 20 June: Martin Perry, Director of Development for TH Real Estate on Impacts of the St James Quarter (enabling, demolition, construction) project and mitigating measures, followed by Q&A
- II. 19 September: Paul Lawrence, new Executive Director "Place".