

## Minutes of Leith Central Community Council ordinary meeting, at Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library, on Monday 20 January at 7:00pm

Actions and decisions are RED ITALIC UNDERLINED. SMALLCAPS. *nem con* means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision. **Summary of actions and decisions**

Item	Actor	Action
3 row 1	A Dudley	Attend meeting of accessible streets commission on 26 November
3 row 3	Cllr Dalglish	Obtain contact details for students who can comment on PBSA
3 row 7	H Tobermann	Submit a formal complaint to OSCR concerning the universities' use of charitable resources for PBSA projects in Leith.
3 row 9	H Tobermann	Pursue issues about parking enforcement
3 row 10	H Tobermann	Pursue better reporting IT for CEC waste operatives
4.b	LCCC	Revisit youth crime and antisocial behaviour, and resourcing issues, at its next meeting
5.b.ii	C Encombe	Advise CEC of her address so she will receive election advertising materials.
5.b.ii	C Encombe, B Ryan	Advertise elections on LCCC's social media
5.b.ii	S Preston	Take over management of LCCC's social media
5.b.ii	LCCC members	LCCollect leaflets from C Encombe, then distribute them in their streets. (C Encombe to keep a register of this.)
5.b.ii	LCCC	Produce 100-word article for <i>the Spurtle</i>
5.b.ii	H Tobermann	Advertise elections via LCCC's mailing lists
5.b.ii	Local cllrs	Monitor numbers of candidates, then LCCC to step up advertising as appropriate
5.b.ii	LCCC	Step up advertising of elections//need for candidates as appropriate
5.b.iii	H Tobermann	Draft February and March agendas
5.c	C Encombe	Submit consultation response noting LCCC needs the library until 9pm on its meeting dates
5.c	LCCC members	Submit their own responses to the consultation
5.d	H Tobermann S Kennedy	Give S Kennedy access to LCCC's planning spreadsheet Take over maintenance of the spreadsheet
5.f	S Kennedy	Ensure LCCC is represented at the civic reception for CCs
6.a	<i>The Spurtle</i>	When LCCC's PBSA paper is finished, publish an article reporting on the issues etc.
6.c	A Ewing H Tobermann	Review 2016 guidance on PBSA Begin to draft a response to the consultation
6.d	Cllr Caldwell	Check whether planning permission was obtained for the PBSA extension near Sainsbury's
7.b	Cllr Caldwell	Share with LCCC relevant conversations with police on e-bike issues
8.a	J Milroy	Consider whether the arrangements about used syringes detailed by the NHS are sufficient
8.c	Cllr Caldwell	Ascertain when a consultation over Montgomery St park management rules should start
10	Shrubhill Walk residents	Draft a letter to gas suppliers' board members for C Encombe to sign

# 1 Welcome, introductions, attendance, apologies

## 1.a Present, apologies

	Name	2024											2025
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May (AGM)	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan
Voting members <sup>s</sup>	Alan Dudley	P	P	P	P	P	A	Not meeting	A	P	P	A	P
	Avril Ewing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		P	X	P	P	P
	Charlotte Encombe	P	P	P	P	P	A		P	P	P	P	P
	Pierre Forissier	P	P	P	P	P	A		A	P	A	P	NA
	Luci Holland	NA	NA	NA	NA	P	A		A	P	P	P	A
	Sheila Kennedy	P	P	P	P	P	A		P	A	P	P	P
	Jed Milroy	NA	NA	P	P	A	P		P	P	X	P	A
	Simon Preston	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		P	P	P	A	P
	Harald Tobermann	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P
	John Wilkinson	P	P	A	A	P	A		A	P	P	P	P
Non-voting members <sup>s</sup>	Bruce Ryan	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	A
	Cllr Jack Caldwell	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	A	P
	Cllr James Dalglish	P	P	A	P	A	A		A	P	A	P	A
	Cllr Amy McNeese Mehan	P	A	A	P	P	A		A	A	A	A	P
	Cllr Susan Rae	A	P	P	A	P	A		A	A	P		A
	Ben Macpherson MSP	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
	Tracey Gilbert MP*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		X	X	X	A	
Others	Numbers attending	7	18	13	11	7	15		4	3	6	6	~4

P = present, A = apology, X = neither present nor sent apology, NA = not applicable  
 LCCC minutes 2025\_01\_20 **DRAFT** Page 2 of 4

### 1.b to note: declarations of interest in any items on the agenda

- none

### 1.c to agree: order of business below

- agreed.

### 1.d to note: musical overture to today's meeting

- Postponed due to performer's illnesses

**2 Approval of minutes of the ordinary LCCC meeting on 18 November 2024** • It was noted that the LeithChooses in-person voting event was on 18 January, and that online voting is now open. • Adopted as-is (proposed A Ewing, seconded H Tobermann, *nem con*)

### 3 Matters arising from previous minutes (and not included on agenda below)

Item	Actor	Action	Progress
3 row 5	A Dudley	Attend meeting of accessible streets commission on 26 November	Item 7.b
3 row 8	H Tobermann	Report on any response to his letter about needles in Pilrig Park to LCCC's MP.	Item 9
5.a	Cllr Dalgleish	Obtain contact details for students who can comment on PBSA	pending
5.a.i	A Ewing	Organise a coordinated stakeholder meeting about PBSA	Item 6
5.a.i	LCCC	develop a strategy on PBSA before reaching out to CEC and housing authorities	Item 6
5.a.i	Cllr Dalgleish	Obtain contact details for the relevant CEC and stakeholders group, and seek engagement with CCs	Item 6
5.a.i	H Tobermann	Submit a formal complaint to OSCR concerning the universities' use of charitable resources for PBSA projects in Leith.	pending
5.a.i	A Ewing, C Encombe	Develop LCCC's position statement on PBSA	Item 6
7.a	H Tobermann	Pursue issues about parking enforcement	pending
7.b	H Toberman	Pursue better reporting IT for CEC waste operatives	pending
10.a	B Ryan	Redirect the planning email address to the chair email address on 1 Dec	complete
10.a	LCCC	Appoint someone to manage LCCC's planning spreadsheet in January 2025	Item 5
10.d	H Tobermann	Ascertain the exact date that CCs will be dissolved prior to the election	Item 5
10.f	J Wilkinson	Ensure payment of minuting, email etc expenses	Item 5.a.iv
12	LCCC's musician members	provide music at LCCC's January 2025 meeting	Item 1.d
12	J Wilkinson	Pay amounts owed to the <i>Spartle</i>	complete

### 4 Policing matters

#### 4.a **to note:** local (ward) Police Report [January 2025](#)

- noted. The question of trends in crime numbers was raised. LCCC has asked for such analyses several times, to no avail.

#### 4.b **to note:** [topical question by Ben Macpherson MSP](#) on increases in instances of youth crime and antisocial behaviour •

noted: there was an attack in Leith (outwith LCCC's area) before Christmas by a group of youths on two females; police were called but did not attend, so H Tobermann contacted the MSP. Hence the MSP's question about government responses [and resources/abstraction of police to other areas].

- **ACTION: LCCC TO REVISIT THIS AT ITS NEXT MEETING.**

### 5 LCCC governance

#### 5.a Bruce Ryan's retirement

##### 5.a.i **to note:** the retirement of our minutes secretary

- noted

5.a.ii **to agree:** to thank Bruce for many years of producing high quality minutes for LCCC (and subsequently neighbouring CCs) and for his impartial advice on CC governance matters, as well as setting up and maintaining our website • agreed

##### 5.a.iii **to note:** the need to find a new minutes secretary for asap

• noted. Bruce later offered (via email to LCCC office-bearers) a limited amount of training for any successor(s). ○ it was suggested that LCCC advertises for this and other digital roles (and members) in student milieus. 5.a.iv **to note:** the need to appoint a main administrator for LCCC's (currently Wordpress-based) website, as well as section editors • noted: to date, LCCC has

paid Bruce £60 per month for website admin and minutes, so this money would be available ○ *pro tempore*, Bruce has given LCCC's chair and secretary identities website admin rights. He is working with LCCC's treasurer so that LCCC's digital estate bills are paid by LCCC, rather than him paying then seeking reimbursement. **5.b Community Council (CC) election**

5.b.i to note: upcoming CC election and Briefing Note on Forthcoming Community Council Election with key dates and guidance • noted: LCCC may have 16 elected members but currently has 9. If there are fewer than 16 candidates, there will be no vote. Up to 8 local interest groups representatives can also be LCCC voting members, if they follow the relevant process. ○ It is not clear whether electronic submission of candidacy forms is possible. Ordinary members would ideally contribute to LCCC's work, e.g. join its committees. LCCC and CEC would both offer training for new members.

LCCC minutes 2025\_01\_20 **DRAFT** Page 3 of 4

○ A local CEC councillors will be LCCC's returning officer, and oversee LCCC's office-bearer elections in the first meeting after members are elected. These office-bearers would not need to be re-elected until the 2026 AGM. 5.b.ii to agree: LCCC activities to promote CC elections in our area to maximise the number of members post-election • CEC will send leaflets and posters to active CCs. (C ENCOMBE TO ADVISE CEC OF HER ADDRESS FOR THIS.)

○ LCCC's posters will go first to Pilrig and Montgomery St parks.

○ ACTION: B RYAN/C ENCOMBE TO ADVERTISE THE ELECTIONS ON LCCC'S SOCIAL MEDIA.

○ ACTION: S PRESTON TO TAKE OVER MANAGEMENT OF LCCC'S SOCIAL MEDIA.

○ Distribution of leaflets to the cafes and supermarket in LCCC's area was suggested.

○ ACTION: LCCC MEMBERS TO COLLECT LEAFLETS FROM C ENCOMBE, THEN DISTRIBUTE THEM IN THEIR STREETS. (C ENCOMBE TO KEEP A REGISTER OF THIS.)

○ ACTION: LCCC TO PRODUCE 100-WORD ARTICLE FOR THE SPURTL.

○ ACTION: H TOBERMANN TO ADVERTISE ELECTIONS VIA LCCC'S MAILING LISTS.

- **ACTION: LOCAL COUNCILLORS TO MONITOR NUMBERS OF CANDIDATES, THEN LCCC TO STEP UP ADVERTISING AS APPROPRIATE.**

**5.b.iii to agree: format and dates of LCCC meetings in February and March 2025**

- It was noted that LCCC (including current members) will meet as normal in February, and that the March meeting (if there is no vote for members) would be the first meeting of the new membership, including election of office-bearers from the new membership. (If there is a vote for membership, then the current membership would be at the March meeting, and office-bearers would be elected from the new membership in April.)
- **ACTION: H TOBERMANN TO DRAFT FEBRUARY AND MARCH AGENDAS.**

**5.c to note: Edinburgh Future Libraries - Options for Change and MacDonald Road Library status as a 'Full-time Library' under all four options, albeit with potential changes to opening times (44 - 48 hours/week)**

- **ACTION: C ENCOMBE TO SUBMIT RESPONSE NOTING LCCC NEEDS THE LIBRARY UNTIL 9PM ON ITS MEETING DATES.**
- **ACTION: LCCC MEMBERS TO SUBMIT THEIR OWN RESPONSES.**

**5.d to note: need to maintain a live LCCC planning function (and continue to update our record of the 'status of current planning applications in LCCC area' (initial support available)**

- Noted. *Pro tempore*, C Encombe receives and triages planning emails, while H Tobermann is only able to respond to the most important items.
- **ACTIONS: S KENNEDY TO TAKE OVER MAINTENANCE OF PLANNING SPREADSHEET; H TOBERMANN TO GIVE HER ACCESS TO IT.**

**5.e to note: need for agenda preparations post-CC election (initial support available)**

- noted

**5.f to note: Lord Provost's [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1icdpTqa-60dRijy9Kqb6q8dPkaREDZmj/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1icdpTqa-60dRijy9Kqb6q8dPkaREDZmj/view?usp=drive_link) invitation to a Civic Reception marking 50th anniversary of CCs**

- **ACTION: S KENNEDY TO ENSURE LCCC IS REPRESENTED.**

**5.g to note: any other LCCC governance issues**

- no issues raised

## 6 Planning

**6.a to note: update on Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) Developments in Leith and nascent proposals for a 'student levy'**

- noted, along with various issues mentioned in the draft LCCC paper, and the need for legislation in view of permitted plans for social housing being replaced with PBSA.
  - Lack of response from CEC was noted. A Leith Walk resident noted how long she already has to wait to see her GP. ○ Bangor Rd (LHNCC area) residents, who are facing such a development, were present to learn what they can do. ○ Objections to abnormal building heights and other material concerns were suggested, along with the need for at least 20 individual objections (so that applications are decided by CEC committees rather than planning officers). ○ It was suggested that final decisions (and decision-makers, e.g. SG reporter) were added to the draft paper, along with potentially raising concern about the prices students are charged.
  - **ACTION: WHEN THE PAPER IS FINISHED, THE SPURTL TO PUBLISH AN ARTICLE REPORTING ON THE ISSUES ETC.**

**6.b to note: Visitor Levy for Edinburgh - Briefing for Civic Forum (Dec 24)**

- noted. The levy would mostly support infrastructure and public housing, to improve matters for both residents and tourists. There is a danger that hoteliers etc might take legal action to prevent the levy.

**6.c to note: consultation on draft guidance for new developments, householders and listed buildings (ends 3 April 2025) •**

- noted. This guidance would complete the recently adopted local development plan, including potentially requiring new PBSA to be convertible to normal housing.
- **ACTIONS: A EWING TO REVIEW 2016 GUIDANCE ON PBSA, H TOBERMANN TO BEGIN TO DRAFT A RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION.**

**6.d to note: any other Planning matters relevant to LCCC area**

- 11 Pilrig St is waiting on a decision by the courts. Pending this, the HMO is allowed to operate.
- A developer wishes to extend PBSA near the local Sainsbury's. Fencing has been installed, presumably in anticipation of planning permission (which may have already been agreed – **CLLR CALDWELL TO CHECK THIS.**

## 7 Transport and clean streets

**7.a to note: update on Trams to Newhaven – the unfinished project**

LCCC minutes 2025\_01\_20 **DRAFT** Page 4 of 4

- noted. A CEC official has admitted the project is not finished. H Tobermann and a member of NTBCC have met with CDC's acting Head of Place (Gareth Barwell): one outcome is that CEC will compile a master-list of all issues raised. List items will then be classified and prioritised. Most items should be closed out within 2025. CCTT will pressure CEC to hold to this. ○ A resident noted broken paving stones on Leith Walk. LCCC noted this should be on the forthcoming master-list.
- Concerning planters: of the 38 that were installed, one is being maintained by a Balfour St business, two by Brunswick St residents, and Leith Community Growers is negotiating

- to maintain 13 others, with the rest having been moved to non public spaces (or outwith LCCC's area)
- o There was concern that these relatively private individuals/organisations may in future fail to maintain them: how would such issues be resolved?

**7.b to note: [Trams to Newhaven Project Lessons Learnt](#) – presentation to Accessibility Commission in November 2024** • noted.

This commission comprises ~40 organisations. A major concern is tactile and continuous paving, whereby kerbs do not exist. Hence visually impaired people may well step into oncoming traffic. In the session attended by LCCC member A Dudley, CEC only reiterated the reasons for its decisions, without reference to supporting material. AD has since expressed his concerns over tactile and continuous paving to the Leith Walk team, noting that these issues also occur elsewhere in Edinburgh, but has received no reply. Overall, this lack of reply and the meeting disappointed AD. o AD also reiterated concerns about floating bus stops: people have to cross cycle-paths to access and egress buses. o A resident noted that continuous paving can cause problems for others, in part due to lack of signage. o A resident raised concerns over poor (e-)cyclists' behaviour. A resident noted that police have said there is no relevant legislation. Hacked e-bikes can be seized, but it is not always easy to spot hacks.

- o Cllr Caldwell: Montgomery St\* does not have a continuous pavement, but there are signage issue here too. I concur that the meeting was disappointing. CEC is reconsidering whether Dalmeny St\* should have continuous paving, due to higher traffic levels. More broken paving stones have been reported recently. In 2024, there were two police operations about e-bikes, leading to a number of charges, so LCCC should continue to raise this issue. There is legislation about e-bikes that are speeding.

▪ **ACTION: Cllr Caldwell to share relevant conversations with police on e-bike issues.**

\* at these roads' junctions with Leith Walk.

**7.c to note: any other Transport and clean streets matters relevant to LCCC area**

- no items raised

## 8 Parks and green spaces

**8.a to note: [letter from NHS Lothian to Tracy Gilbert MP](#) regarding disposal of syringes**

- noted. Action: J Milroy (when he is well) to consider whether the arrangements NHS detail are sufficient.

**8.b to note: January 2025 update from Friends of Pilrig Park**

- noted. FoPP has finished undergrowth clearance and installing rubber matting in the play-park. Lighting is due to be installed on some paths.

**8.c to note: update from Friends of Montgomery Street Park**

- FoMSP has now published the first issue of its new magazine. This has led to very positive results. FoMSP is starting a new volunteers group to engage with other areas.
- o Action: Cllr Caldwell to ascertain when a consultation over park management rules should

**start. 8.d to note: any other Parks and green spaces matters relevant to LCCC area**

- A resident is disappointed by loss of a tree on Windsor St.
- o Cllr Caldwell: the tree may have been removed due to its roots causing basements to flood.

## 9 Licensing

**9.a to note: any Licensing matters relevant to LCCC area**

- Vinyl Villains has applied to renew its license.

## 10 Open Forum (local residents and businesses)

- A Shrubhill Walk resident noted that the district heating system is not subject to the Ofgem price-cap, and residents here are being charged more than other people. Quotes from other gas suppliers have been obtained but the building factors have not responded positively, leaving residents 'trapped'. Legislation that may help is not due for some time. It may not be possible to replace the current factors.
- o Cllr Caldwell noted that local authorities have no powers to take action in such cases.
- o It was suggested that the price-cap is contrary to net-zero action.
- o It was suggested that the SW residents engage with Living Rent.
- o Action: this resident and peers to draft a letter to suppliers' board members for C Encombe to sign.

## 11 AOCB (LCCC members)

- J Wilkinson will stand in the forthcoming elections: if elected, he will stand to be treasurer again. •
- H Tobermann noted the funeral of John Dickie, founder of the *Spurtle* and community activist.

## 12 Future meetings and planned meeting topics/presentations

- Pre-election: 17 February
- Post-election TBC: 17 March, 21 April, 19 May (AGM), 16 June