

Minutes of Leith Central Community Council ordinary meeting, at Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library, on Monday 17th March 2025 at 7:00pm

Actions and decisions are RED ITALIC UNDERLINED

Summary of actions and decisions with agreed timeline

Item	Actor	Action	Agreed Timeline
5 a	CE & AE	<u>Write an LCCC email response to the PBSA issue to submit</u>	<u>Draft by April 2025</u>
5 a	CE & AE	<u>Circulate final version of our PBSA document to other CCs for comment now it has been approved</u>	<u>by April 2025 meeting</u>
5 f	AE	<u>AE circulate a few draft points for discussion in response to Edinburgh Local Housing consultation (2025 to 2030)</u>	<u>by April 2025 meeting</u>
7 a i 2 ii	CE, HT, SK, JW	<u>4 office bearers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) will write a short "job description" and circulate in advance of the April meeting</u>	<u>by April 2025 meeting</u>
7 a 6 a	Cllr JD	<u>Investigate training for CC members and email new members</u>	<u>by April 2025 meeting</u>
7 b	CE & JW	<u>CE to confirm with JW that a missed payment could disrupt the resilience of the LCCC communication systems</u>	<u>by April 2025 meeting</u>
7 c i	SP	<u>SP to set up Bluesky account and run alongside X (prev Twitter)</u>	<u>by April 2025 meeting</u>
8 a	All	<u>Please complete response to consultation on Management Rules for Parks, Beaches, and Greenspace (ends 11-04-25) individually as LCCC will not respond as a CC</u>	<u>by April 2025 meeting</u>
Nov 24 minutes	HT	<u>Pursue issues about parking enforcement</u>	pending
Nov 24 minutes	LCCC	<u>Revisit youth crime and antisocial behaviour, and resourcing issues, at its next meeting</u>	pending
Jan 25 minutes	HT & SK	<u>Give S Kennedy access to LCCC's planning spreadsheet</u> <u>Take over maintenance of the spreadsheet</u>	pending
Jan 25 minutes	Cllr JD	<u>Cllr Dalglish, which is to find a student representative to talk to for our PBSA document</u>	pending
Mar 25 minutes	JM	<u>To investigate youth service provision in LCCC area and discrepancy between NHS/MP statement about used syringes and actuality on the ground and report back</u>	<u>for APR25 meeting</u>

Cllr JD - Ward Councillor James Dalglish

AE - Avril Ewing

CE - Charlotte Encombe (chair)

HT - Harald Tobermann (acting vice chair)

Cllr JC - Ward Councillor Jack Caldwell

JM - Jed Milroy

JW - John Wilkinson (treasurer)

SK - Sheila Kennedy (secretary)

SP - Simon Preston

1 Welcome, introductions, attendance, apologies

	Name	2024											2025		
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May (AGM)	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar
Voting member	Alan Dudley	P	P	P	P	P	A		A	P	P	A	P	P	A
	Avril Ewing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		P	X	P	P	P	P	P
	Charlotte Encombe	P	P	P	P	P	A		P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Luci Holland	NA	NA	NA	NA	P	A		A	P	P	P	A	A	P
	Sheila Kennedy	P	P	P	P	P	A		P	A	P	P	P	A	P
	Jed Milroy	NA	NA	P	P	A	P		P	P	X	P	A	P	P
	Simon Preston	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		P	P	P	A	P	P	P
	Harald Tobermann	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	John Wilkinson	P	P	A	A	P	A		A	P	P	P	P	P	A
New member	Kara Kileen														
	Kutlu Balci														P
	Lena Brandesova														P
	Alex Kennedy														A
Non voting member	Matthew Halsall													P	P
	Clr. Jack Caldwell	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	A	P	P	
	Clr. James Dalglish	P	P	A	P	A	A		A	P	A	P	A	P	P
	Cllr Amy McNeese Mechan	P	A	A	P	P	A		A	A	A	A	P	A	A
	Clr. Susan Rae	A	P	P	A	P	A		A	A	P		A	A	X
	Ben Macpherson MSP	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
	Tracey Gilbert MP*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		X	X	X	A		X	A
Others	Numbers attending	7	18	13	11	7	15		4	3	6	6	~4	6*	23

P = present,
 A = apology,
 X = neither present nor sent apology,
 NA = not applicable

1.a Present, apologies

- a. thanks fo Jed Milroy for a musical introduction
- b. Welcome to new members:
 - i. Kara Killeen, Kutlu Balci, Lena Brandesova, Alexandra Kennedy
- c. Apologies
 - i. AD, Cllr AM-M, Cllr JC, JW, AK
 - ii. Cllr. James Dagleish - will be late as at another meeting
 - iii. Jed Milroy will have to leave after the music for childcare duties

1.b declarations of interest in any items on the agenda

- none

1.c to agree order of business below

- agreed.

2 Approval of minutes of the ordinary LCCC meeting on 17th February 2025

- Updates as agreed to be actioned my M Halsall - Proposed S Preston, Seconded A Ewing

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

Item	Actor	Action	Progress

4. Policing matters

4.a local (ward) Police Report **March 2025**

Received no comment

4.b Concern about youth crime and antisocial behaviour and related (youth and mental health) service resourcing issues

J Milroy has met with Pilmeny Resource Centre and they are concerned about a general increase in on-street anti-social behaviour. They comment that there are no activities for young people in the evening - especial Saturday. argue They believe there in an increase in knife carrying- through not knife crime.

Pilmeny Centre is very stretched for funding and may be forced to close - CE will circulate an email about fundraising.

5. Planning

a to agree: LCCC position on Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (Appendix B)

Approved - no objections. Now we can refer to this as our position on the matter

i. to note: consultation on Student Accommodation Non-Statutory Planning Guidance (ends 23-05-25; context)

Please do this in a personal capacity

HT - Do we do a LCCC response to the consultation? We will write a separate email that sets our own agenda - we will wait until the new members are official and have until May 2025 meeting to submit a response CE & AE (April 2025)

Should we approach other CCs? HT - now we have approved our position paper we can circulate it for comment

b to note: status of current planning applications (March 2025)

SK - 5 are current - link here

Note Shrub hill place has been refused

Note - new "notice of intention to appeal" at Ashley Place LH

c. to note: CEC response to LCCC's profound frustration regarding application for Shrub Place/Middlefield

This is a clear response to our points and explains the law and guidance well

HT - It was worth making these points - and the detail of the response is an indication that they were taken seriously

d. to note: CEC response to LCCC's enforcement request ("train crash" at Shrub Place)

HT - Again this is a point worth making. Note that 6 months is regarded as temporary, so it may be that there will be some enforcement after this time

e. to note: verbal update on consultations on Edinburgh Design Guidance (design and placemaking in new developments).

The sections that are of particular interest are

Guidance for individual householder developments

Guidance for Listed Buildings

Conservation Areas buildings

This ends on 03-04-25 - please consider making a personal response

f. to note: any other Planning matters relevant to LCCC area

AE - Edinburgh Local Housing consultation (2025 to 2030) (closes 22.04.25)

AE circulate a few draft points for discussion before next meeting

Key areas of interest are - Empty Houses, Houses for Students, Affordable Housing (below market rent/cost)

Cllr J D talks us through the degrees of "affordable housing" (mid, social, golden share) - legally this sits with local councils as they agree to both the total percentage of a development and the type(s) of housing provided

6. Transport & Clean Streets

a. to note: verbal update on "Trams to Newhaven project is not complete"

HT - recap of our current position (see min 17.02.25 6a)

The list is at least 760 items long and the CCs will add more (ongoing)

The list will allow LCCC to put pressure on CEC over items in our area

It will be presented to Transport & Environment committee - then presumably made public on a dashboard

AD - note to please add to list about tactile paving - very confusing

Clr. JD - CEC says tactile paving guidance might be changing

SP - raises issues of humps (Dalmeny street) new concept in this country - badly understood and potentially dangerous

b. to note: any other Transport & Clean Streets matters relevant to LCCC area

None

7. LCCC Governance

a. to note: outcome of Community Council (CC) Election

to note: arrangements for inaugural meeting of new LCCC in April, immediately followed by an ordinary LCCC meeting:

1. declarations by new LCCC members,

As above (Alex sent apologies)

HT - noted that his name is misspelled Clr. JD to follow up

Clr JD will chair the first part of the meeting, then we will move on to a (short) regular meeting

2. appointment of Office Bearers

These need to be proposed by two people

Please contact CE if you are interested beforehand

SK - could the current office bearers write a short description of their role. 4 office bearers will write this and circulate well in advance of the April meeting (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary)

3. agendas for both meetings

HT will do April meetings (and help future members)

4. (re-)assignment of LCCC email inboxes

Agree in first part of the meeting

5. appointment of membership of LCCC committees

4 differing areas - planning, transport, parks,

6. training opportunities for new LCCC members

KB & LB - did not receive any offer of training from CEC

Cllr JD will follow up and email new members

b. to note: update on “post-Bruce” payment arrangements (incl upcoming ICO fee, email provider, domain and other web costs) for handover to new LCCC

MH - can confirm payment has been processed.

HT - concerned that failure of any failure of above payments might mean discontinuity and disruption of service. **CE to confirm with JW**

Can we ask the Council to take care of this for all Edinburgh CCs?

c. to note: update on LCCC social media activities and engagement (trends)

SP - brief verbal report

Facebook posted 12 times in the last month

Some followers left, some joined

Just over 4000 views to the posts (73 liked or shared)

Best post was about “ShrubHill refused” with comments, 2nd best post about water of Leith

8 posts about CC elections

Twitter - 12 posts and not a lot of engagements

CE - thanks for SP work

i. to note: proposal to open Bluesky social media account

Proposal to adopt? **SP to set up and run both**

Advice from the Spurtle - run both but trying to run down Twitter and move to Bluesky

LH comments that Places for People are doing this as well

ii. Other media**LCCC noticeboard outside Macdonald road library**

This needs refurbishment with a new perspex sheet and cleaned of graffiti

Should be used to its fullest extent - someone to take on the notice board and maintain the website by Apr 2025

Website

SP has put documents on the website

d. to note: any other LCCC governance issues

AE asks if there has been any feedback from the last meeting of EACC re planning and elections.

8. Parks & Green Spaces**a. to note: consultation on Management Rules for Parks, Beaches, and Greenspace (ends 11-04-25) Please complete individually as LCCC will not respond as a CC**

SP - seems to focus on busking and dogs - and the draft rules in general

SK - circulated a letter from a resident unhappy with the Montgomery Street Park designation (of it being a child's play park and therefore dog free) that seems to remain in the draft on the consultation

SK has replied and CE praised the reply for its evenhandedness

SP - in relation to the email complaint - can the October minutes be amended to rewrite the section from FMSP to make clear that what SP said was not his personal opinion but that Friends of MSP?

HT - amending past minutes is not practical after new elections

CE - This reinforces the need for the LCCC and its minutes to take a clear position of neutrality - if there are controversies and strong disagreements it is not role of a CC to “take sides”

b. to note: update from Friends of Pilrig Park

None

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

SP - nothing to declare

SK - comments how much work the Friends have done in increasing engagement and raising the quality of the play park and its amenities

d. to note: any other Parks & Green Spaces matters relevant to LCCC area

None

9. Licensing

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

NONE

10. Open Forum (local residents and businesses)¹

Places for People gas supply - nothing positive to report but it has become clear how inefficient the “central” central heating is. (60% of heat is lost from boilers to individual units)

Factors of P4P have organised a “drop-in” to meet individual tenants

11. AOCB (LCCC members)²

None

12. Future Meetings and planned meeting topics/presentations

a. Post-election - Tuesday 22nd April, 19 May, 16 June

to note: two meeting on the 22nd as described above in 7a

¹ this agenda point allows members of the public to raise new issues of public interest and relevant to LCCC area; if possible, please indicate your intention to do so to the Chair in advance or under item 1b

² this agenda point allows LCCC members to raise issues not covered by the agenda