

Minutes of Leith Central Community Council ordinary meeting, at Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library, on Monday 22nd April 2025 at 7:00pm

Actions and decisions are RED ITALIC UNDERLINED

Summary of actions and decisions

Item	Act or	Action	Agreed Timeline
2.4	SP, MH	<u>MH and SP will work together to make sure that, as a minimum, a PDF of the minutes is on the website after they are approved</u>	<u>By May 2025 meeting</u>
2.5	CE, MH	<u>It was agreed that this was desirable after CE and MH had done an initial sweep for accuracy / style notes etc. ???</u>	<u>By May 2025 meeting</u>
4b	HT	<u>HT hopes to meet the new local community policing representative in May</u>	<u>TBC</u>
4b	HT	<u>HT will raise poor police response experienced by JM at the Leith Police Station with the community policing representative when he meets with them next</u>	<u>TBC</u>
5.1b	AE	<u>AE will circulate the updated figures for PBSA as amended in V1.2 of the LCCC response to other Edinburgh CCs</u>	<u>By May 2025 meeting</u>
7.2	CE	<u>CE - the final assigning of these email addresses will be confirmed at the next meeting???</u>	<u>By May 2025 meeting</u>
7.2	Cllr JD	<u>Cllr JD will delete all personal emails from the individual forms for elected members.</u> <u>Cllr JD will confirm this with ECC and then confirm this in writing to all ordinary members that their emails are private</u>	<u>By May 2025 meeting</u>
7.3a		<u>Date of AGM - June 16th (Prop JW, Sec CE)</u>	
7.3b		<u>Simplified format of AGM agreed</u>	
11.1	SK	<u>SK will circulate TRO's regarding new yellow line accompanied by a map showing their location</u>	<u>By May 2025 meeting</u>
11.2	JM	<u>JM - will update us about his investigation into youth services at the next meeting</u>	<u>By May 2025 meeting</u>

CE - Charlotte Encombe (Chair)
 AE - Avril Ewing (Vice Chair)
 JW - John Wilkinson (Treasurer)
 SK - Sheila Kennedy (Secretary)
 SP - Simon Preston (Acting E&I Officer)
 HT - Harald Tobermann
 JM - Jed Milroy
 KK - Kara Killeen
 KB - Kutlu Balci
 LB - Lena Brandesova
 AK - Alex Kennedy
 Cllr JD - Ward Councillor James Dalglish
 Cllr JC - Ward Councillor Jack Caldwell

1. Welcome, introductions, attendance, apologies

a. *to note*: musical overture to today's meeting

JM and LH - thanks for an excellent rendition of "Lean on Me"

b. *to agree*: order of business below

Agreed

c. *to note*: declarations of interest in any items on the agenda

None

	Name	2024											2025			
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	(AG	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Voting member	Alan Dudley	P	P	P	P	P	A		A	P	P	A	P	P	A	P
	Avril Ewing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		P	X	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Charlotte Encombe	P	P	P	P	P	A		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Luci Holland	NA	NA	NA	NA	P	A		A	P	P	P	A	A	P	P
	Sheila Kennedy	P	P	P	P	P	A		P	A	P	P	P	A	P	P
	Jed Milroy	NA	NA	P	P	A	P		P	P	X	P	A	P	P	P
	Simon Preston	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
	Harald Tobermann	P	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	P
New member	Kara Kileen														A	P
	Kutlu Balci														P	A
	Lena Brandesova														P	A
	Alex Kennedy														A	P
Non	Matthew Halsall													P	P	P
	Clr. Jack Caldwell	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A
	Clr. James Dagleish	P	P	A	P	A	A		A	P	A	P	A	P	P	P
	Cllr Amy McNeese Mechan	P	A	A	P	P	A		A	A	A	A	P	A	A	A
	Clr. Susan Rae	A	P	P	A	P	A		A	A	P		A	A	X	X
	Ben MacphersonMSP	X	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	A
Others	Numbers attending	7	18	13	11	7	15		4	3	6	6	~4	6*	2	4

P = present A = apology X = neither present nor sent apology
 NA = not applicable 2 journalism students

2 Approval of Minutes of the Ordinary LCCC Meeting on 17 March 2025

1. HT - 5b - I realise I misspoke here, the document was actually a "Notice Of Intention Issued" regarding the PPA for Ashley Place, it might be clearer for anyone reading if this is amended to the correct title ????
 2. LH - 7ci - "LH comments that Places for People are doing this??? as well" - I don't think I specifically mentioned Places for People here, I think I might have said something like I'm aware of other organisations and individuals who are also moving their socials to Bluesky. This can be amended to "LH comments on other various organisations she is aware of who are doing this as well" ???
- HT proposed - JM seconded
3. Note - minutes on the website. MH and SP will work together to make sure that, as a minimum, a PDF of the minutes is on the website after they are approved. Bryan used to put this on as Wordpress text that was searchable which is a useful feature.
 4. SK would like the draft Minutes and Agenda circulated (and if possible on the website) at least 7 days before the meeting. It was agreed that this was desirable after CE and MH had approved the initial draft document.

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

1. *to agree:* the status and timelines of items as proposed in the following table
These items brought forward from last month and are on the agenda

Ref	Agreed	Act or	Action	Agreed Timeline	Status
A	5a (March)	CE & AE	Write an LCCC email response to the PBSA issue to submit	Draft by April 2025	item 5a below
B	5a (March)	CE & AE	Circulate final version of our PBSA document to other CCs for comment now it has been approved	by April 2025 meeting	item 5a below
C	5f (March)	AE	AE circulate a few draft points for discussion in response to Edinburgh Local Housing consultation (2025 to 2030)	by April 2025 meeting	item 5a below
D	7a i 2 ii (March)	CE, HT, SK, JW	4 office bearers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) will write a short "job description" and circulate in advance of the April meeting	by April 2025 meeting	item 6 above; item 7 below
E	7a, 6a (March)	Cllr JD	Investigate training for CC members and email new members	by April 2025 meeting	item 7 above

4. Policing Matters

1. **local ward Police Report April 2025**
2. **Recent staffing changes at Community Policing (E Division, Leith): Sgt Samantha Rose has moved on, replaced by Sgt Paul Gray.** HT - no police officer here at today's meeting despite HT asking for a representative to come and visit us. This is a resource issue. HT hopes to meet the new local rep in May
3. JD - was summoned to give evidence on a case so went to Leith Central Office but the opening times on the web do not match the hours that the office is staffed and the yellow "contact us" phone did not work at all. Not satisfied with the service. (Leith Central Office)

HT will raise this with the Community Police member when he meets them

5. Planning

1. Purpose-Built Student Accommodation

a. *to ratify:* LCCC response to CEC consultation "Student Accommodation Non-statutory Planning Guidance" submitted 17-04-25 (ends 23-05-25;)

Small changes have been made to some of the figures in V1.2. AE will circulate the updated figures to recipients

Comment from a member of the public - Is the consultation worthwhile after a decision having already been made?

Cllr JD - this is part of the City plan 2030 and all guidance underneath this plan has to be sent out to consultation *as the plan is being developed*. So yes, JD believes it to be worthwhile

2. *to note:* LCCC's draft response to Local Housing Strategy (ends 22-04-25)

AE - sent our response to the Strategy yesterday

HT - this Strategy will move to a final version that will go out to consultation again

3. *to note:* CEC's enforcement report on section of public realm (a wooden picket fence) located between student accommodation at 7 Shrub Place and residential block of flats to the south The fence has been removed

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

a. Comment from member of the public, DW - re telephone masts on Allender House Leith Walk. These will be 23m high and will be highly visible. They have been proposed under permitted development rights. David believes they should have been a full planning application as they are such a detriment to the local area.

b. DW asks that LCCC should make a fuss and should have written a letter of complaint.

CE - We can't respond to every planning application that is in our area as we have limited resources. We are glad to see that 160 odd objections have been submitted

SK - Is this in the LCCC area? (yes) and apologises for not seeing this on the weekly list of planning proposals

c. DW - The date for objections has passed but feels we should still write

AE - we need to look at all the documents associated with this application before we can make a decision. This can be on the agenda for our next meeting

Cllr JC - there are differing planning regulations around communication masts compared to regular planning so this may not be a straightforward application

d. DW - a similar case was the Manson Street hotel - has now been rejected but did the LCCC object?

HT - did raise this and has written to Planning to object on behalf of LCCC

HT - proposes that DW puts a submission in writing to LCCC if he feels the process is deficient with regard to planning objections

6. Transport & Clean Streets

1. *to note:* Notes of Trams to Newhaven (TTN) Team/Community Councils Together for Trams (CCTT) Meeting 25 March 2025 (No 1 - 2025 series)

CCTT will continue to meet monthly and publish their minutes.

HT - The main point has been the commission of a "Master List" of snagging problems along the tram route. There will be close to 1000 items on this list (the majority in our area) and they will be ordered in terms of priority. There will be an online dashboard to show progress. There's a proposal to finish all the items on this list by the end of the financial year end of March 2026 - hopefully most of these will be paid for by residual tram money.

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

a. LH - Ornamental planters on Leith Walk. People are being asked to adopt them and help maintain them

DW - 6 have been taken over by local businesses at the bottom of Leith Walk

CE - LCCC view is that the Council should maintain them with Council money rather than leave it to

to local businesses with no accountability.

b. ECC is looking for comments on the No 13 bus route. This is a publicly funded route as it not financially self-sustaining HT - has details which he can pass on if desired.

7. **LCCC Governance**

1. **LCCC committees and subject areas**

a. to agree: LCCC's ambition to cover all/some subject areas and matching input by members

b. and to agree membership, convenors of LCCC committees and/or subject spokespersons

CE - we could have "working groups" on these matters that could consolidate the information in each area and focus our resources

Planning (statutory CC role) - previously a committee & convenor

AE will convene this, CE will continue to work on this and AK will join the planning group

HT will provide technical assistance if desired

Transport and clean streets - previously a committee & convenor

HT - will convene this committee, KK will join, JW too

Parks and green spaces - previously largely delegated to Friends groups

JW from Friends of Pilrig Park and SP from Friends of Montgomery ST Park

Licensing - previously a spokesperson

SK will continue

Policing matters - previously a spokesperson

HT - will continue to do this

2. **Assignment of LCCC email inboxes for newly appointed office bearers and committee convenors/subject spokespersons**

We can have up to 10 email addresses, currently: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer,

Planning, Minutes Secretary, Engagement

Add - Transport? Or any special projects?

CE - the final assigning of these email addresses will be confirmed at the next meeting

HT - asserts that the process is unclear. Community Councils should be better resourced - ideally centrally so IT issues / email etc could be done with support

For example - HT wants to clarify if all members may have their private email addresses published?

As the application form seems to imply this?

As a security *Cllr JD will delete all these from the individual forms for elected members.*

Cllr JD will confirm this with ECC and then confirm this in writing to all ordinary members

3. **Date and format of AGM**

a. **Agreed – The AGM will take place on Monday 16 June**

b. **to agree: format**

"Simplified" (just annual report and independently reviewed accounts)

or also with speaker and OB elections?

JM - no speaker - just extra music, no OB elections

HT - a short report from the chair of the last year and a financial report.

Simple format agreed – nem con

4. **Update on LCCC social media activities and engagement**

SP - Facebook - increase in follows 5 to 16,222???

SP - please forward any items to go on the page and include images as these get more traction

Twitter - announced on LCCC profile that we're longer posting here

5. **any other LCCC governance issues**

none

8. **Parks & Green Spaces**

1. **Update from Friends of Pilrig Park**

Daffodils are now over, Cherry blossoms are out, pathways near the steps are not open yet but new trees seem to be doing well. There will be new lighting installed in the park - but this may require new poles and rewiring. Timetable not clear for this

CE - a large hole has been filled in but now is just brown soil. When will this be green? The greening will hopefully happen after it has settled. This is where the football pitch was and alternative provisions have been made in the meantime. Parks contact Scott is retiring

2. Update from Friends of Montgomery Street Park FMSP

Consultation about rules finished and should look at the consultation on May16th SP: The consultation was flawed as there was no comparison between the old and new rules. The new rules continue to include a "dog free" park, but SP foresees problems if CEC won't enforce the dog-free rule.

Cllr JC - It's been a difficult and emotive issue and we tried to bring differing voices together but the result is that we are no closer to a resolution.

We (Cllrs) will try to support the Friends group through this and reinforce that the dog-free rule is the vision of CEC and not the FMSP

SP - important to remember that the designation of the park as dog free is not to do with the general park rules but an historic separate council designation

Cllr JC - a more focused consultation about dogs was considered but the council thought it better not to single out dog owners and opponents. SK - LCCC supports the hard work done by FMSP

3. Any other Parks & Green Spaces matters relevant to LCCC area

None

9. Licensing

1. *to note:* any Licensing matters relevant to LCCC area

none

10. Open Forum (local residents and businesses)¹

none

11. AOCB (LCCC members)²

New TRO's have been issued about moving yellow lines to accommodate the bin hubs

SK will circulate these with a map showing their location

JM - will update the CC about his investigation into youth services at the next meeting

12. Future Meetings and planned meeting topics/presentations

Monday 19 May confirmed

Monday 16 June confirmed