

Minutes of Leith Central Community Council Ordinary Meeting

Draft prepared by: Jed Milroy, 15th September 2025 (generated by Otter and Chat GPT software from and audio recording)

Draft reviewed by: JM, SP, HT (20/9/25)

Venue: Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library

Date & Time: Monday 15th September 2025 at 7:00pm

Chair: Jed Milroy (Acting Chair in absence of Charlotte Encombe)

Summary of Actions and Decisions from this meeting

Item	Actor	Action	Timeline
2	CE	Amend August minutes	Immediate
4	CE/ HT	Link Police Report into Sept minutes	Immediate
4	CE	Continue to ask for volunteer to collate Police report statistics.	Ongoing
5	Cllr Caldwell	Circulate T&E Committee paper	By next meeting
6a		File STL Policy & add review to future agenda	By next meeting
6b	Cllr Caldwell	Ask Full Council re Place Briefs updating	Sept–Oct
6c	CE	Update with any response from Adam Thomson regarding Hillcrest development behind Red Sandstone	By next meeting
6c	JW	Write to Adam Thomson to suggest meanwhile use of Hillcrest site behind Red Sandstone	By next meeting
6d	Planning Cttee	Consider writing to Cllr Ashton with PBSA figures	By next meeting
6d	SK	Share webcast link	By next meeting
6e	All	Write to MSP Ben Macpherson re PBSA reform	Ongoing
8a	JM	Continue AI trial & process document	Ongoing
8a	SP	Recruit human minute taker	Ongoing
8b	JM	Resume attendance appendix	Next minutes
8c	HT	Explore managed email / gov.uk domain	By Oct meeting
8d	All	Share stories/photos with SP for social media	Ongoing
8d	SP	Ask library about using window for notices	Before next meeting
8e	SP	Add agendas to website	By next meeting
9a	JW & SP	Share Pilrig Park annual report	Before next meeting

Item	Actor	Action	Timeline
9b	Cllr C	Clarify park event approval & communication	Before next meeting
10a	SK	Object to New Civic Notice – 560227	23 Sept
11	Cllr C	Follow up about Elm Row cycle markings and London Road planting.	Before next meeting

Attendance

Name	2025						2026						
	J u n	Ju ly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Kutlu Balci	*	N o m e e t i n g	*	*			N o m e e t i n g						
Lena Brandesova	A		*	*									
Alan Dudley	P		*	P									
Charlotte Encombe	P		P	A									
Avril Ewing	P		P	A									
Luci Holland	P		P	P									
Alex Kennedy	*		P	*									
Sheila Kennedy	P		P	P									
Kara Killeen	*		*	A									
Jed Milroy	P		P	P									
Simon Preston	P		P	P									
Harald Tobermann	A		P	P									
John Wilkinson			P	P									
Friends of Pilrig Park	P		P	*									
Cllr Jack Caldwell	P		P	P									
Cllr James Dalgleish			?	A									
Cllr Amy McNeece-Mechan			A	A									
Cllr Susan Rae			P	*									
Ben Macpherson MSP													
Tracy Gilbert MP													

P= present; y = sent representative, A = not present, sent apology; * = not present, did not send apology
Declarations of interest: None

Residents / Members of the Public

- Paul Fisher Cockburn
- Alasdair Scott
- Alan McIntosh – Broughton Spurtle

1. Welcome, Introductions, Attendance, Apologies

- Musical Overture: *Stand By Me*
 - JM opened the meeting, chairing in Charlotte's absence.
 - Declarations of interest: None.
 - Order of business agreed without amendment.
 - Introductions made around the table for clarity and transcription accuracy.
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2. Approval of Minutes (18 August 2025)

Corrections Raised:

- One attendee wrongly listed as a member.
- Cllr Jack Caldwell should be identified as a Councillor.
- Correct reference to Councillor "Smart".
- Cancelled picnic was at Pilrig Park, not Montgomery Street Park.
- Minute-taking requires improvement.

Decision:

- Proposed: SK
 - Seconded: HT
 - Approved
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3. Matters Arising

Item	Actor	Action	Time
4	All members	Raise awareness in gap in Saturday youth work provision in other forums.	Complete ¹
5 (b/c)	CE/AE/AK	Draft register of STL objection grounds; circulate for approval.	On Agenda
5 (f)	CE & Cllrs	Prepare deputation for Club 3000 / former cinema hearing at City Chambers.	On agenda
6 (a)	Harald Tobermann	Monitor tram legacy issues and report on red/amber progress.	On agenda
6 (b)	LCCC (via Cllrs Rae and Caldwell)	Request installation of real-time tracker at first London Road bus stop.	On Agenda

¹ Police report shows that police and local youth work organisations have developed some work on this.

7 (a)	Jed Milroy / Sheila Kennedy	Trial transcription software for minutes.	Ongoing
7 (a)	CE	Move Residents' Forum after Police; time-limit to 15 mins.	Complete
7 (b)	All Members	Respond to CEC survey on CC elections.	Complete
7 (f)	Charlotte Encombe	Begin succession planning; prepare outline of officer roles.	Ongoing
10 (a)	Cllrs Rae & Caldwell	Clarify affordable housing status at Leith Walk Red Sandstone site; report back.	On Agenda

4. Policing Matters

A – Police Report (September 2025) no police officer in attendance:

- Positives: Police working with youth workers on antisocial behaviour.
- Enforcement actions: drink driving, uninsured vehicles, zig-zag parking, seatbelt offences.
- Patrols: plain-clothes, on-foot on buses and trams.
- Illegal e-scooter use actively targeted.

Discussion:

- HT: Figures “indicative only”; comparative data missing.
- JM: Volunteers sought to compile stats – none came forward.
- LH: Noted recent increased police presence on Leith Walk.

Actions:

- CE/ HT - Link police report into minutes.
- CE – continue to seek volunteer to compile police statistics.

B – Future Attendance:

- PC Campbell Blackmore – 18 Nov 2025
 - PC Callum Clark – 16 Feb 2026
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5. Open Forum (Residents & Businesses)

Powderhall Cycle Path:

- Raised by Alasdair Scott; poor cycle provision across Easter Road.
- Cllr Caldwell: Negotiations ongoing; Active Travel Fund application; slow progress noted.
- HT: LCCC campaigning since 2015; noted that CEC could negotiate more robustly.

Action:

- Cllr Caldwell to circulate T&E Committee paper to LCCC.
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6. Planning

a. STL Policy

- Criteria: Objections for shared stair, contrary to NPF Policy 30E or City Plan 2030, non-consented operations.
- **Decision:** Adopted
- Proposed: AD
- Seconded: LH

b. LCCC Deputation to CEC Development Planning Sub-Committee re Club 3000 / Mecca Bingo Hall – 26 Manderston Street

- Charlotte Encombe, Cllr Caldwell, Cllr Dalgleish presented.
- Committee voted 6–5 in favour of 200 student beds.
- Action: Cllr Caldwell to keep LCCC updated.

c. Sandstone Building, Leith Walk

- CE/ HT emailed Adam Thomson regarding affordable housing obligations; reply awaited by next meeting
- JW suggested temporary football pitch use.
- **Action:** JW to write to Adam Thomson suggesting temporary community use.

d. CEC Planning Committee Papers (10 Sept)

- City Plan 2040: Key influence opportunity before adoption.
- Developer Contributions: Often missed; reference in objections.
- PBSA Guidance: Partial success; insufficient to block developments.
- Moratorium on PBSA: Motion not carried.
- Design Guidance: Adopted; non-statutory rules for listed buildings.

Actions:

- ACTION - Planning Committee: Consider writing to Cllr Ashton with PBSA figures.
- ACTION - SK: Circulate webcast link.

e. Cllr Caldwell Question on PBSA Appeals

- 9 refusals overturned in 5 years; 10th pending.
 - Legal challenges discussed; members encouraged to write to MSP Ben Macpherson.
 - Residents concerned about PBSA boom; risk of empty buildings.
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7. Transport & Clean Streets

- HT shared this paper – [Transport And Clean Streets Update](#).
 - **Parking:** CEC running a Phase 1 survey on Controlled Parking Zones (Abbeyhill, Leith Walk/Pilrig, Leith/North Leith) open until 7 Sept. LCCC not submitting a formal response but keen to hear local cases of impact. Views can be submitted via [this portal](#) until 7 September
 - **Service 13 Bus:** LCCC survey shows mixed views – valued by elderly residents and commuters for access to Craighleith, city centre, and cultural sites, but criticised for poor frequency, low uptake, and reliability issues.
 - **Trams:** Community Councils Together on Trams continuing to monitor resolution of outstanding works, with major issues due by Mar 2026 and integration of Edinburgh Trams into Lothian Buses planned to support unified ticketing.
 - **TEC:** Committee meetings now every 8 weeks (previously 4) – broadly welcomed.
 - **Cycle Hire Pilot:** Two-year city centre scheme launched in August, with retrieval of abandoned bikes charged to the operator.
 - Real-time bus tracker: London Road stop resolved; 10 missing on Leith Walk; Cllr Caldwell following up.
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8. Governance

A – Minutes: AI transcription useful; requires correction. Trial continues; process document to be developed. **ACTION** – JM to develop process document.

B – Attendance Records: Agreed to reinstate appendix reporting cumulative attendance. **ACTION** – SL to update previous minutes with board attendance appendix

C – Email System and other IT issues for LCCC: raised in paper and noted. **ACTION:** HT to explore managed gov.uk domain.

D – Engagement: SP reported library noticeboard issues; social media interaction positive; requested member contributions. **ACTION** – SP to ask library about displaying LCCC notices in their window instead of notice board.

9. Parks & Green Spaces

a. Friends of Pilrig Park:

- AGM held; projects include litter picks, bulb planting.
- Funds for new mural/woodland paths;
ACTION: JW to share report with Simon for social media.

b. Montgomery Street Park:

- Volunteer day with 10 volunteers from Systra.
- Replacement equipment chosen by residents.
- Artwork from old helter skelter to be installed.
- Maintenance Manager supportive of wildflower areas; fence removal planned.
- **ACTION** - SP to circulate new *Park Life* magazine.

c. Dalmeny Street Park:

- Harald raised concern over poor event notice;
ACTION: Cllr Caldwell to follow up.
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10. Licensing

- Application 560227 (38–39 Elm Row) discussed; LCCC to object.
 - **ACTION:** SK to submit objection.
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11. Any Other Community Business

- Proposed LCCC Support for Victoria Primary School Astro turf access. **AGREED**
- Recognition of Gaelic School pupils' *Maes Mór* music video.
- SP asked about Elm Row cycle path markings and London Road planting;
ACTION: Cllr Caldwell to follow up.
- JW: Noted the success of Stead's Place Street Party.

13. Future Meetings

- Third Monday each month, 7pm, Nelson Hall

- Dates: 20 Oct, 17 Nov 2025; 19 Jan, 16 Feb, 16 Mar, 20 Apr, 18 May (AGM), 15 Jun 2026
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