

Minutes of the Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council ordinary meeting, held at Trinity Room, Leith Community Centre, Kirkgate on Wednesday 1 November 2014 at 7.45pm

Actions and decisions are ***RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS. NEM CON*** means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision.

1 Introductions

The meeting was chaired by Don Giles.

1.1 Attendance

Sandra Burns	LHNCC treasurer	Denise Jones	Resident
Yvonne Murray	LHNCC	Heather Milligan	Resident/Victoria Primary School
John Langton	LHNCC	George Rosie	Resident
Allan Mackie	LHNCC	Cllr Gordon Munro	Leith ward (Labour)
Robert Weir	LHNCC (Newhaven Church rep)	Cllr Chas Booth	Leith ward (Green)
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	Jim Scanlon	Leith Links CC
Robert Burns	Resident	PC Richard Hooper	Police Scotland
Don Giles	Resident/FOWLB		

2 Apologies for Absence

George Johnston	LHNCC	Cllr Adam McVey	Leith ward (SNP)
Heather Ford	LHNCC	Mark Lazarowicz MP	Edinburgh North & Leith (Labour)
Neil Wilson	LHNCC (FOWLB rep)	Malcolm Chisholm MSP	Edinburgh North & Leith (Labour)

3 Minutes of ordinary meeting held on Wed 1 October 2014

3.1 Approval

The minutes were approved *nem con* (proposed S Burns, seconded Y Murray)

3.2 Matters arising

See items 4, 6, 7.

4 Minutes of extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 16 October

4.1 Approval

Approved *nem con* subject to amendment that M MacGregor was Newhaven Church rep, not H Ford.

4.2 Matters arising/discussion

RW précised the meeting's purpose– to consider how carry on while lacking Chair and Secretary. The collective view was that LHNCC should continue, focussing on core, necessary activities¹. (Disbandment was seen as the worst possible option, while merger with a neighbouring CC would take time, would need that CCs' agreement and would not properly represent people living in the combined area.)

4.2.1 Secretary

The main problem remained lack of Secretary. It was felt that the volume of emails arriving at secretary@lhnc.co.uk put off potential candidates. A Mackie reported that when he had been both Chair and Secretary, he initially circulated all emails so that members could act as they saw fit, but later triaged emails. His tasks were considerably reduced when J Brown became Secretary early in 2014. He hence offered to become secretary again, so long as someone else became Chair.

Options around joint secretaries were also discussed. It was felt that this could lead to confusion (e.g. one joint Secretary not knowing what others have done) unless there was good communication and filing of emails

ACTION: B RYAN TO CHECK THAT EMAIL FOLDERS CREATED ON ONE SYSTEM ARE AVAILABLE ON OTHERS (E.G. APPLE MAIL ON MACOS ↔ OUTLOOK ON WINDOWS ↔ WEBMAIL) – they are

DECISION: A MACKIE TO BECOME SECRETARY (AGREED NEM CON)

ACTION: B RYAN TO ENABLE AM TO ACCESS secretary@lhnc.co.uk EMAIL ACCOUNT

¹ Water of Leith, planning, licensing and any matters of significance disseminated by Edinburgh Council

4.2.2 Chair

It was felt that LHNCC needs a named chair. R Weir offered to take on this role for 12 months, subject to LHNCC accepting that he may not be able to chair every meeting.

DECISION: R WEIR TO BECOME CHAIR (PROPOSED Y MURRAY, SECONDED A MACKIE, NEM CON)

4.2.3 Vice-chair

D Giles suggested leaving consideration of this position for the moment.

4.2.4 How do other CCs manage?

J Scanlon pointed out the example of Leith Central CC, which has functional committees to which its Secretary can delegate matters for action between meetings. Committees then feed back to the full CC at monthly meetings. That is, CCs can function even if they do not have full complements of members². B Ryan had circulated advice from a CC secretary who works full time. See Appendix 1: advice from a CC secretary who works full time below.

4.2.5 New member

Robert Burns was co-opted as a voting member of LHNCC.

5 **Police report**

PC Hooper apologised for lack of Police Scotland (PS) representation at previous meetings. He stated that the local police station should be contact about this via the an email address that he would supply to the new Secretary.

D Giles noted that LHNCC wants PS to know and act on its main concerns, namely antisocial behaviour in Kirkgate and parks etc, drug activity and abuse, (e.g. in croft at Leith Links, some stairs in North Junction St), legal highs.

PC Hooper reported ongoing work with the NHS about the latter, targeting shops selling them. Some users inject these substances, leading to 'bizarre, erratic effects'. Lack of suitable legislation (currently legislation only bans specific substances) means action cannot be as PS and LHNCC might wish. It was asked whether PS could target the (presumably few) manufacturers, and whether the Junction could help educate users. It was also asked whether electronic cigarettes were legal highs.

No bike thefts had been reported in the past week, although Edinburgh has a high rate of such thefts. Abandoned bikes should be notified to PS, who will pass them to <http://www.thebikestation.org.uk>, a relevant charity.

Concerning community policing, the meeting noted that police used to target a street a week. PC Hooper stated that this tactic had not necessarily been lost forever: policing would be driven by local concerns, e.g. repeat calls.

A Mackie has received communications about cars speeding and racing on Ocean Drive, and asked whether speed camera could be installed between Victoria Bridge and Ocean Terminal. PC Hooper replied that it takes time to install such cameras. However, he will ask for 'Unipart' hand-held camera operators to monitor the area.

Cllr Booth noted that there had been an arrest for drug dealing in Pirie St last week.

6 **New office-bearers**

See items 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 above.

7 **Flooding/silt on water of Leith**

There have been meetings between FOWLB, Scottish Environmental Protection agency (SEPA) and Edinburgh Council (CEC). (*ACTION: D GILES TO CIRCULATE MINUTES OF 1ST MEETING*). The second meeting concerned insurance companies using flood maps to load insurance premiums or exclude flood risk from properties 'at risk' according to these maps. FOWLB disagrees with Edinburgh Council over use of historical data, believing that it is less relevant due to climate change.

CEC has allocated £45k to rerun map model (approved by Transport and Environment Committee on 28 Oct - see report at http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3530/transport_and_environment_committee). Cllr Munro stated that this report should be quoted back to insurers. A Mackie asked who is responsible for telling owners and insurers about (absence of) flood risk. He noted that flood risks on SEPA's maps are not house-specific.

² LCCC has 10 elected/co-opted members and 3 local group representatives. It could have 16 and 8 respectively.

A resident reported that he had monitored Water of Leith for CEC. Due to new flood containment works, the mean extra fluid height has increase from 0.5 to 1.5 metres. There had been plans to reinforce to reinforce houses at Newhaven Bridge but this was predicted to cause added water volume, increasing potential flooding issues.

8 Custom House/Leith Museum

It was reported that there was much public anger about lack of news since the initial meeting in May 2014 – the only news was that CEC had started the due diligence process. Cllr Lewis has now set up a short-life working group (SLWG) to handle this matter: the museum has to be running and making money by 2015_04_01.

It was noted that local groups wish only a museum but that the operation has to be commercial, so it had been felt that a development organisation was the only viable way forward. However, some critical organisations (e.g. Scottish Historical Buildings Trust) have considered pulling out of the project.

A pre-meeting has been called by A Cubie (4pm, Monday 10 November at South Leith Parish Hall), prior to the SLWG meeting (6pm, Tuesday 11 November, Dean of Guild Court, CEC chambers [<http://bit.ly/1srtj9q>])

DECISION: G JOHNSON TO REPRESENT LHNCC BOTH MEETINGS IF POSSIBLE

9 Treasurer's report

Main account balance £1613.14, Special events account balance £34.97

Christmas-tree lighting will take place at 6:30 on 8 December at Victoria primary school. S Burns asked for donations of wine. (D Giles offered to donate some.)

10 AOCB

10.1 International Womens' Day

A resident reported that C Watson is planning an event to mark International Womens' Day in March 2015 – could CW address LHNCC's December meeting?

DECISION: AGREED NEM CON

10.2 Allotments price-rise

D Giles reported attending the last Leith Links CC meeting, and hearing about the price-rise issue. (More information at <http://www.fedaga.org.uk> and item 10.1 of <http://bit.ly/1GH0E95>.) It was noted that there are no allotments within LHNCC's area, and suggested that some waste ground could become allotments.

DECISION: E WATT TO BE INVITED TO ADDRESS LHNCC'S DECEMBER MEETING

10.3 Leith Decides

This annual participatory budget-making event will occur soon. The deadline for application has been extended to the end of November.

ACTION: ALL LHNCC MEMBERS TO PROMOTE THE EVENT

11 Dates of future meetings

03 December 2014

January 2015 – no meeting

04 February 2015, 04 March 2015, 01 April 2015, 06 May 2015, 03 June 2015

Appendix 1: advice from a CC secretary who works full time

The trick is that I use my work email account rather than a personal one (I can't access personal email accounts from my work device), and as I'm in an office based job that makes it easy to get the emails out to everyone. Obviously there can be a lot of reading and interpreting things, but I don't find it interferes too much. It did more so when I was on other Committees within the CC or the Neighbourhood Partnership, and the Safer Communities groups that mean more and more of your evenings were being taken up with meetings, which I found a bit of a bind after working all day to be honest. But I'm fine when it is just the CC in my opinion. I guess it depends on how much involvement the Secretary of that CC is expected to or wants to make – a bit their call to be fair.