

# Minutes of the Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council annual general meeting, held at Holiday Inn Express, Ocean Drive on Wednesday 4 June 2014 at 7.30pm

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

## 1 Introductions

### 1.1 Attendance

Janis Brown	LHNCC secretary	Robert Weir	LHNCC
Sandra Burns	LHNCC treasurer	Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary
Heather Ford	LHNCC	Don Giles	FOWL B
George Johnston	LHNCC	Jim Scanlon	Leith Links CC
Denise Jones	LHNCC	Cllr Adam McVey	Leith ward (SNP)
Maureen Macgregor	LHNCC	Malcolm Chisholm MSP	Edinburgh North & Leith (Labour)
Allan Mackie	LHNCC chair		

## 2 Apologies for Absence

Yvonne Murray	LHNCC	Cllr Chas Booth	Leith ward (Green)
Neil Wilson	LHNCC (FOWL B nominated representative)	Cllr Gordon Munro	Leith ward (Labour)

## 3 Minutes of AGM held on Wed 06 November 2013

The chair noted that a general meeting in June 2013 had not been minuted but the AGM after the elections in September 2013 had been. This set of minutes was circulated for adoption, and adopted *nem con*.

## 4 Minutes of ordinary meeting held on Wed 7 May 2014

These were considered now, rather than at the next ordinary meeting (September) to enable timely publication. They were adopted *nem con*.

## 5 Chair's report

The chair thanked members elected in 2013 (Janis, Heather, Robert, Evie) for complementing existing members. He thanked all members for their work on behalf of LHNCC's area. He noted that the CC's discussions had been stimulating, covering many interesting topics. He thanked the office-bearers for their support, and commended the work on the new website (Janis and Bruce), the gala and the Christmas tree lighting. He also thanked the Edinburgh City Councillors especially for their work on Old Port Road. He noted that LHNCC had been happy to support the parents at Victoria Primary in their efforts to achieve the best option for additional classrooms at the school.

## 6 Secretary's report

This is appendix 1. ***ACTION: ALL MEMBERS TO READ AND SUBMIT NECESSARY FEEDBACK BY 11 JUNE***

## 7 Treasurer's report

LHNCC account	£927-50	Special Events	£34-97
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See also 2013-2014 accounts in appendix 2.

## 8 Confirmation of membership and office-bearers

### 8.1 Chair

A Mackie permanently resigned this post due to other personal commitments. He stated that this position's main duty is chairing CC meetings and noted that while CCs chair can attend other meetings on behalf of their CCs, often other LHNCC members undertake such duties. There were no candidates for this position but A Mackie and R Weir offered to chair individual meetings as needed *pro tempore*.

### 8.2 Secretary

The only candidate was J Brown – elected *nem con*

### 8.3 Treasurer

S Burns permanently resigned this post for personal reasons. She asked for volunteers to undertake her other CC duties. The only candidate was H Ford – elected *nem con*

### 8.4 Recruitment and capacity-building

Because of the lack of an elected chair and other vacancies (LHNCC can have up to 12 elected/co-opted members and 6 members nominated by local-interest groups), A Mackie asked all members to attempt to recruit ‘new blood’ over the summer break.

### 8.5 Confirmation of membership

While R Weir is noted as an elected member of LHNCC in records supplied by Edinburgh Council, he stated that he lives just outside LHNCC area but is a nominated representative of Newhaven Parish Church.

## 9 AOCB

### 9.1 Police Box, Shore, Edinburgh 14/01990/FUL (Change the use of a PCB to a coffee and food sale point)

It was noted that the owner has already started repainting this box. While the ‘final’ colour planned by the owner is currently unknown to LHNCC, it is possible that changing the colour breaks listing regulations. DECISION: WAIT UNTIL THE ‘FINAL’ COLOUR IS KNOWN, THEN ACT IF IT BREAKS REGULATIONS (J BROWN TO CHECK REGULATIONS/PERMISSIONS)

### 9.2 Pavement tables

There are tables related to the Cruz restaurant and the above-noted PCB food outlet may also wish to put tables in this area (belonging to Water of Leith 2000). ACTION: G JOHNSTON TO CHECK WHETHER THE OWNERS HAVE PAVEMENT LICENSES

### 9.3 Floating/eco homes and lodges, silt and refuse in Water of Leith

Cllr Mcvey reported that the eco-lodges planning application is held (at the applicant’s request). It was noted that the lodges cannot be built without permission from the land-owners

There was discussion over who is responsible for removing silt and flotsam originating from upstream from the WoL basins. G Johnston stated that Edinburgh Council cannot enforce dredging, while owners say they have no responsibility to dredge, that the only clear point is that boats cannot go in the water while the silt remains, and that SEPA have reported that there is no need to dredge and the water is clean (citing presence of otters and birdlife). J Brown stated that relevant titles state that owners do have responsibilities to dredge. It was noted that there are issues due to smells from rubbish caught on the silt, which at minimum are damaging businesses.

Cllr McVey noted that a report to Edinburgh Council was due but it had been delayed due to the relevant official’s retirement. HE PROMISED TO REPORT TO LHNCC AS SOON AS THE EC REPORT WAS AVAILABLE. G JOHNSTON STATED HE WOULD REPORT ON A MEETING (FRIDAY 6 JUNE) BETWEEN SEPA, FOWLB AND COUNCIL OFFICIALS.

### 9.4 Recording of meetings

J Brown noted an email from the Edinburgh CCLO (appendix 3) and asked whether recording meetings could be reconsidered. The chairman took the view that as long as one individual felt uncomfortable with recording meetings then he would not wish to do it as it might inhibit discussion. The chairman also felt that this was an issue that did not warrant a vote as such. The minutes secretary reported that recording had been useful on two occasions at another CC: one of these occasions proved that this CC had not decided to follow a course which would have been unwise. R Weir suggested that the question was balancing immediate, accurate minuting of potentially inhibited discussion versus potentially inaccurate minutes (which could be corrected at adoption stage) of uninhibited discussion.

### 9.5 Community Police Officer

CPOs have not attended the last two LHNCC meetings. ACTION: J BROWN TO FOLLOW UP

## 10 Date of next meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014

## Appendix 1: Secretary's report

Having only been on the Council and Secretary for seven months, I can only report on my observations in that time.

### LHNCC Membership

I think it would be beneficial, over the two month break, to promote the CC and encourage new members. We need younger members; new eyes bring fresh ideas. Maybe posters handed out at the Leith Gala will stir up some interest. Also, contacting ethnic community groups to make them aware of us and invite them to meetings might prove beneficial to both sides.

### Local Groups Representation

FOWLB, Victoria Primary Parents' Council and Newhaven Church are represented on our CC.

A new representative has come along in the form of Leith Business Association. This is an exciting Association which represents all businesses within the boundary of Leith, working to improve tourism and promote regeneration of new development in the area. The LBA is currently involved in putting together BIDS (Business Improvement Districts) for the Leith Walk and Shore areas, as well as a number of other projects to improve economic activity in Leith. They also attend the Leith Walk reinstatement Stakeholders' meetings and try and attend as many other CC meetings in the area as time allows.

### LHNCC Meetings

Our meetings are generally well attended but, as stated above, new members should be encouraged. Our meetings are public and we should be making sure that this is known to people in our area. We are lucky that our meetings are well attended by local Councillors and an MSP when possible. However, at least one Edinburgh Councillor is always present and this would be a good opportunity for members of the public to communicate any concerns they have. More advertising of our meetings is recommended.

### Leith Walk Renovation

Whilst not directly in our area, these renovations are of concern to everyone in the Leith area. The meetings are regularly attended so that, if questioned, we can give accurate progress reports.

### Planning

A new development of 56/60 flats is proposed by Port of Leith Housing on Ocean Drive. Concerns were raised by local residents and, as a result, a Port of Leith representative and the architect were invited to our meeting held on 05 March. However, as a result of a letter received from POLHA after that meeting, which was felt unsatisfactory, the situation will be looked at again before full Planning Application is submitted and further consultations will be requested.

A Planning Application was submitted by Tom King to place three lodges, for research purposes, at Rennie's Isle. This caused a great deal of discussion on the Council, but it was decided that this would be revisited when we found out if the application has been granted or not.

The year ahead will bring new challenges. Amendments in the SESplan will have to be looked at, especially regarding the large number of new housing envisaged near Leith Docks. Will the trams ever come to Leith? Who knows, but time will tell.

The Planning Concordat was set up – which proved a great topic for discussion – but we signed it eventually. There may be developments coming up soon which the Concordat would be ideal for.

### Website

We set up a website in February and everything any local needs to know is put on the site. It would also be worthwhile for all councillors to follow the website. This means you will get an email whenever any new post is added. We have had 648 hits during May which, considering we are a new site, is not bad at all. It might be worthwhile starting a new Facebook page and I'm sure Bruce said we have a Twitter account, but I'll look into that and report later.

### Old Port Road

Hopefully this issue will come to an end soon. New street lights have already been put in place and the flytipping seems to be under control. However, the road is still closed and, because it's under licence to CEC until January 2015, I doubt very much it will be reopened until Forth Ports take it back. Then, of course, we will have the job of getting them to repair it to a standard whereby it can be reopened. It's always nice to have something to look forward to I suppose!

### General

We had a social gathering with Leith Central and Leith Links recently which went very well. It was a good night and great to be able to put faces to names. It is hoped that these gatherings will continue; still social, but it will give us a chance to discuss developments/problems as they arise, when we can work together for the benefit of the whole community.

I have attended some very interesting and informative meetings since joining the CC. I found the Planning course very interesting – well up until the last hour, when I started to lose the will to live! – but generally these meetings are very good and there is always someone at the end of an email to answer any questions you have. I would recommend these meetings/courses, as it gives a better understanding of why we are Community Councillors.

After the summer break, it would be very beneficial if we could get out into the community, letting people know we are here, and make our main priority getting more local people to attend out meetings.

Jan Brown

Secretary, Leith Harbour & Newhaven Community Council

June 2014

## Appendix 2: Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

	2014	2013
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Administration Grant (City of Edinburgh)	705.24	705.24
Bank Interest	0.26	0.12
Other funding	240.40	
	<u>945.90</u>	<u>705.36</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Stationary/phone	114.51	274.47
Greener Leith	100.00	14.00
School Let	31.00	20.00
First Aid	24.00	169.00
Web Site	28.98	100.00
Web Site	150.00	150.00
School Trip	100.00	
	<u>548.49</u>	<u>747.47</u>
Surplus of income over expenditure	397.41	
Surplus brought forward	590.09	632.17
Surplus carried forward	987.50	590.09

\*MEETINGS HELD AT HOLIDAY INN NO CHARGE \*

### BALANCE SHEET 2013 / 2014

Current Assets	£987.50
Current Liabilities	0.00

## Appendix 3: Email (02 June 2014) from Edinburgh CCLO about recording meetings

Hi Janis

Further to your enquiry, I have sought advice from Committee Services on this issue and in theory there is nothing stopping someone with good typing or shorthand from taking a verbatim note of the meeting so recording with a view to producing the minute doesn't seem fundamentally different.

The Chair of the CC is responsible for the conduct at meetings and ensuring that the discussion and proceedings are conducted in such a way that decisions are reached in a democratic manner. If the Chair consults the membership and they think the recording might be intrusive in some way, then the Chair has authority to resist the request.

If the Chair of Leith Harbour & Newhaven CC is standing down, then the CC could revisit this by putting an item on the agenda asking how the community council wants to proceed. It would be important at this meeting to make clear what the recording of the minute will be used for.

Regards

Eileen