

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGM MINUTES (DRAFT) MONDAY 29 May 2017 LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEW KIRKGATE)

Community Councillors Present: Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Abu Meron (Treasurer), Sally Millar (Secretary), Chrissie Reid, Jacqueline Rogers, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson, John Tibbitt (Vice -Chair), Michael Traill.

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Adam McVey.

In attendance: PC Margo Darling, Adrian Graham, PC Paul McNiven, Lee-Anne Menzies (for Ash Denham MP).

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Stephen Brennan, Miles Briggs MSP, Deidre Brock MP, Gail Clapton, Susan Dougal, Cllr John McLellan, Ben Macpherson MSP, Walter Manclark, Cllr Gordon Munro, Tommy Sheppard MP and Cllr Alex Staniforth.

2. Adoption of Minutes of last AGM on Wednesday 25 May 2016

Proposed by Michael Traill; seconded by Sally Millar. Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>

3. Presentation of Annual Report (incorporating Chair and Secretary's Reports)

At past AGMs, Chair and Secretary presented reports orally for minuting. This year Michael has created a template for an illustrated Annual Report booklet. Chair thanked Michael for his work on this. The booklet is available at (<http://www.leithlinksc.org.uk/lcc-annual-report-2016-into-2017/>). It will have far wider reach than Minutes. Paper copies can be distributed at local venues and events, and in an electronic format will be shared widely, throughout the year. This busy year has been particularly notable for: its election in October - LLCC is the only Community Council in Edinburgh within living memory to have gone through this democratic process; and the very successful Community Links Fund Project. LLCC has above all focused strongly on engaging the community, throughout the year, and when people ask "what does the Community Council do?" or "what can it do for me?", this booklet provides answers.

There was discussion about where else the booklet should be distributed, eg. circulated to churches and GP surgeries.

4. Treasurers Report & Presentation of Accounts

This has been an exceptionally busy year.

Income which is normally only the City of Edinburgh grant, was greatly increased by the Scottish Government Community Choices grant of £20, 869.

Expenditure: Basic LLCC expenditure was £1256 - around twice as much as in previous years, and greater than income, so using up some of its financial reserves. This was because the Community Council has done at least twice what they did in previous years, including printing and distributing two sets of leaflets to every household. The costs of the minute-taker are also a new expense.

Community Links Fund grant expenditure: The largest part of the spend (£16,461.66) was the award of grants to the successful projects. Other spending was on publicity/ dissemination (leaflets, posters FB boosts etc.), venues, catering, equipment and stationery. The Scottish Government grant of £20,869 was overspent by £64.29 in the end. LLCC is subsidising this from its reserves, which can be easily justified because LLCC has acquired in the process useful assets such as the pull-up banners, display stands etc. A list of the successful projects is available in the Annual Report. A Final Project Report is at <http://www.leithlinksc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/LeithLinksFinalReport.pdf>

Because of the very tight time-scales, a number of winning project award cheques were not cashed by 31 March 2016, so these will carry over to next year's accounting.

In summary, LLCC started the year with £1980 and ended with a bank balance of £1467, so it remains in surplus in spite of using some reserves.

Adoption of the accounts: proposed by Michael Traill; seconded by Angus Hardie.

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

5. Election of office bearers

Chair: Jim Scanlon. Nominated by Michael Traill; seconded by Sally Millar.

Vice Chair: John Tibbitt. Nominated by Jim Scanlon; seconded by Michael Traill.

Secretary: Sally Millar. Nominated by Chrissie Reid; seconded by Michael Traill.

Treasurer: Abu Meron. Nominated by Michael Traill; seconded by David Igoe.

As there were no other nominations for the posts, all office bearers were elected nem. con.

6. Appointment of LLCC representatives

The meeting approved the appointment of councillors to represent LLCC at the following groups and committees and to take the lead on matters relating to their activities. It was agreed to have two names, which saves scrabbling around at the last minute to find alternates if necessary.

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC): Abu Meron / Alternate Chrissie Reid. Abu wished to minute his concern that at the first EACC meeting he attended, EACC had called on another community council to advise the meeting, even though LLCC is the only elected community council in Edinburgh and has greater experience of the campaign, election & voting processes, He observed that given EACC's declining membership, it was particularly important that its decisions be reached democratically.

Seafield Sewage Plant: Jim Scanlon ex officio as Chair, and Eileen Simpson as LLCC representative.

Leith Decides – Sally Millar (no alternate as future of this event is unclear, for now)

Leith Neighbourhood Partnership / North-East Locality Partnership: Jim Scanlon and John Tibbitt.

Cllr Chas Booth noted that Leith Decides may change and move towards a more locality-based approach (the city is split into four localities, with LLCC in the North-East Locality). There is however no doubt that the role of participatory budgeting will increase in the future, whatever form it takes.

There was discussion about joint working with other Community Councils in the North-East Locality formally and/or informally. It seems that the other community councils are currently happy for Leith Links to take a lead in organizing joint events, although nobody wants 'meetings for the sake of meetings'. Chair noted that the shared training sessions and other meetings organised by Michael have so far been very successful. It was agreed that it should be a joint responsibility of all LLCC Councillors to work towards developing this. It will be kept as a standing item on the agenda.

7. AOCB

Police Report

Threat level: PC McNiven read a statement from Chief Constable Phil Gormley on the security / terrorist threat level, which was reduced on 27 May from Critical to Severe. A multi-agency co-ordinating centre has been set up, and Police Scotland is carrying out a review of all events, providing extra policing where appropriate. There are also higher-visibility patrols. However, there is no intelligence suggesting a particular threat to Scotland. The public are asked to remain alert.

Online Neighbourhood Watch alerts: PC McNiven also informed the meeting that Neighbourhood Watch Scotland has created a new alert scheme enabling the public to sign up online for alerts. This was recently piloted in Oxfords and is now being rolled out to Leith. Details are available at

www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

Seafield Sewage Plant

Chair and Eileen attended the last Seafield stakeholders' meeting on Friday 19 May at Seafield. They have posted a written update on the situation on the LLCC website <http://www.leithlinksc.org.uk/the-seafield-stench-latest-update/>

Burning smell The burning rubber smell is coming from a filter due to be replaced in July. However a piece of equipment will also be placed on the top of the chimney which should burn off the gases causing the smell.

Sewage smell: There were 95 phone calls received during April/ May about the smell of sewage – a very long-standing problem. Because of low rainfall, the sewage in the pipes is thick, flow is slow, utting the separator under pressure. There were very significant leaks. SEPA served an enforcement order on the plant to deal with this.

Ben Macpherson MSP has organised a meeting on 20 June with Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, to be attended by LLCC, LLRA and Prof. Jackson (scientific expert), to inform her of the community's acute concerns.

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Cllr McVey commented that the focus of that meeting, and of the local campaigns, should be directly on the need for new investment in the plant. The leak which caused a “tennis court-sized leak of sludge” was caused by the digesters, not the separator. Just ‘covering the tanks’ is no longer recognized as an adequate ‘solution’. The whole plant needs a full upgrade, and Scottish Water can impose a duty to do this upon Veolia. The problems are likely to increase because of climate change potentially causing low rainfall, and one company in Liverpool is putting aside money to cover the additional costs.

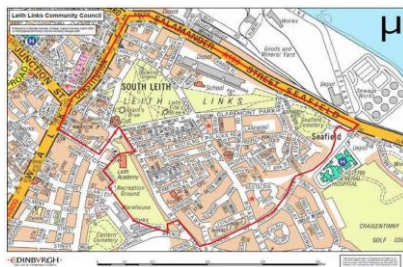
Pressure will also need to be kept up on the City Council to create a single point of contact for all complaints. Cllr Booth has raised this as an urgent matter, but it has repeatedly been deferred to the next committee meeting.

There is Holyrood legislation forthcoming that, if enacted, could potentially enable a legal ‘class action’ (previously permissible in English, but not in Scottish law) against those responsible for Seafield smells.

Chair thanked all attendees. Meeting ended at 8.40pm.

Date of Next AGM: 28 May 2018, 7pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 26 June 2017, 7pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, New Kirkgate



@LeithLinks_CC



/LeithLinksCC



www.leithlinksc.org.uk



contact@leithlinksc.org.uk