

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

AGM 2017/2018

MONDAY 29 MAY 2018

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE NEW KIRK GATE

Councillors Present: Stephen Brennan, Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Adrian Graham, Angus Hardie, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Chrissie Reid, Jacqueline Rogers, Jim Scanlon (Chair), John Tibbitt (Vice-Chair), Michael Traill.

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Adam McVey.

In attendance: Caroline Galloway (Comprehensive Design Architects), Catriona Gray (Comprehensive Design Architects), Rob Levick (Leith Harbour & Newhaven Community Council), PC Lauren Mitchell, PC Chris ??, Jamie Parish (Comprehensive Design Architects), Keith Stark (Enterprise/City Car Club), Danny Teague (Teague Group), members of the public.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome

Acting Chair for the AGM, Cllr Booth, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from David Igoe, Eileen Simpson, Ben Macpherson MSP and Cllr Gordon Munro.

2. Minutes of previous AGM (May 2017)

The 2017 AGM minutes were proposed by Michael Traill and seconded by John Tibbitt. They are available at www.leithlinksc.org.uk/

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

Chair thanked Sally for producing the annual report in the form of a helpful booklet. It has been a busy year for LLCC, and what follows highlights just a few of the activities.

£eith Chooses

Largest ever numbers voted during £eith Chooses and the successful groups have now received their money. The projects receiving grants are listed in the LLCC booklet to encourage readers to take an interest in the projects as they develop. Developments will also be announced on social media. £eith Chooses as a whole is now at the evaluation phase.

Planning applications

For the members of the public, Chair explained LLCC's role in commenting on planning applications in the Leith Links area (and elsewhere when relevant e.g.. Stead's Place, in Leith Central Community Council's area, as Leith Links residents regularly use Leith Walk and are affected). Leith is facing a lot of new development currently, as many previously industrial 'brownfield' sites become available.

Seafield smells

Earlier in the year, LLCC met with Roseanna Cunningham, the Environment secretary, who initiated a strategic review of the site, the area it covers, and how odours may be created and are policed. The review was published in March 2018.

Problems and solutions

The Seafield plant takes in sewage from a massive area, as far as Wallyford and Gorebridge. By the time sewage arrives at Seafield it may already be septic and causes a stench in the uncovered settlement tanks. There was a particularly smelly period in March / April. The smell tends to be worst around the Pirniefield area due to wind factors. In the long-term it may be necessary to rebuild / move the facility elsewhere as the city grows in size.

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Communication and legal action

LLCC is concerned about Scottish Water's communication strategy. They send out emails to notify when work is about to be carried out. However, when there has been an odour, they do not generally inform residents of the cause of the problem. Obtaining information has also been difficult because although Veolia is a private company, they claim exemption from Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 because they provide services that are a function of a public authority.

Making complaints: phone calls and web form

LLCC urges residents to keep complaining about odour. Michael is designing a web form for the LLCC website that will enable messages to be relayed automatically to the relevant authorities, and also being copied to local councillors. An immediate response is still best achieved by telephone (although sadly there have been cuts to the staff dealing with such calls), but the web form will enable every complaint to at least be recorded. At present, residents often raise the matter on Facebook - not the best way to reach the parties responsible for addressing the problem.

4. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts

Gail Clapton, Treasurer, took over a few months ago when the previous treasurer moved out of the area. LLCC has two bank accounts, one of which is exclusive to managing the £eith Chooses project, and one which is for the general running of LLCC.

Gail presented the LLCC accounts. Expenses were such matters as minutes secretary's costs, insurance and Data Protection registration. The only regular income for LLCC comes from the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), which is a grant of around £737 (last year) based on population numbers, which has not yet been paid to LLCC for this financial year. The current bank balance stands at £1,727.75.

Sally Millar presented the £eith Chooses account which she administers. The only income was the Scottish Government Community Choices grant funding of £82,800 for £eith Chooses. Expenditure up to now has covered the costs of design work, printing etc. for promoting the project and carrying out the voting event. The major expenditure (i.e. payment of grants to community projects) will fall under next year's accounts.

£eith Chooses

Cllr Booth thanked everybody for the mammoth amount of work that went into the highly successful £eith Chooses project. Jim observed that CEC officers involved were very enthusiastic about how well this partnership had operated. An evaluative report of the project will be presented at the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 14 June 2018, and a report will be sent to Scottish Government from LLCC by 31 May.

CEC has already committed their Community Grants Fund to participatory budgeting next year. There is also a council commitment that 1% of the CEC discretionary budget is to be distributed through participatory budgeting by 2020, although the experience of LLCC suggests that the kind of work involved in £eith Chooses for small community projects will not be easy to scale up.

The Scottish Government Community Choices fund is again available for the coming financial year, applications opening in June/ July.

5. Election of office bearers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Sub-Committee Chairs (Parks & Greenspaces, Planning & Licensing))

Jim reminded that LLCC is the only elected community council in Edinburgh, due to its success in attracting local people to stand for election. Cllr Booth called for nominations for office bearers and asked each outgoing office holder to summarise their role. The newly-elected office bearers are as follows:

Chair: Jim Scanlon. Nominated by Michael Traill; seconded by Chrissie Reid.

Vice-Chair: John Tibbitt. Nominated by Michael Traill; seconded by Jac Rogers.

Secretary: Sally Millar. Nominated by Michael Traill; seconded by Adrian Graham.

Treasurer: Gail Clapton. Nominated by Michael Traill; seconded by Jac Rogers.

Sub-Committee Chair, Parks & Greenspaces: Jacqueline Rogers. Nominated by Adrian Graham; seconded by John Tibbitt.

Sub-Committee Chair, Planning & Licensing: Andrew Mackenzie. Nominated by Jac Rogers; seconded by Angus Hardie.

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6. LLCC Representation at other groups/committees (Neighbourhood Partnership, NE Locality, EACC, Trams Consultations, Leith Chooses etc.)

It was agreed last year that it is not necessary to formally nominate and elect representatives to most of these groups. Volunteers agreeing to take on these roles are however required to report back throughout the year, for transparency.

The Leith Neighbourhood Partnership does however require election of nominees and Chair (Jim Scanlon) and Vice-Chair (John Tibbitt) were chosen for these posts.

7. Date of Next AGM: 27 May 2019.

Cllr Booth closed the AGM at 7:45 pm.



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