

MINUTES
AGM 2017/2018
MONDAY 28 MAY 2018
LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE, NEW KIRKGATE

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

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Acting Chair for the AGM, Councillor Booth, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from David Igoe, Eileen Simpson, Ben Macpherson MSP and Councillor 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 Millar 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. Later developments will be 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 to developers.

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 2018. 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.

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 Traill is designing a web form for the LLCC website that will enable messages to be relayed automatically to the relevant authorities, and also copied to local councilors and MSP.

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

An immediate response is still best achieved by telephone (although there have been cuts to the staff dealing with such calls), but the web form will enable every complaint to at least be recorded (unlike complaints made on Facebook).

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 for the general running of LLCC, and another which is exclusive to managing the Leith Chooses project ('LLCC Project Account').

Gail Clapton presented the LLCC accounts. Expenses were such matters as Minute 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 Project (Leith Chooses) Account which she administers. The only income was the Scottish Government Community Choices grant funding of £82,800 for Leith Chooses. Expenditure up to now has covered the costs of graphic design work, printing etc. for promoting the project and carrying out the voting event. The current balance is £77,144.01. The major expenditure (i.e. payment of grants to community projects) will fall under next year's accounts. Both sets of accounts were adopted.

Leith Chooses

Cllr Booth minuted his thanks to everybody for the mammoth amount of work that went into the highly successful Leith Chooses project. Chair observed that CEC officers involved were very enthusiastic about how well the partnership between Council and Community Councils had operated. An evaluative report of the project (from Council members) will be presented at the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 14 June 2018, and a report has been sent to Scottish Government from LLCC.

CEC has already allocated Leith's Community Grants Fund for participatory budgeting next year. Scottish Government Community Choices fund is again available for the coming financial year, applications opening in June/ July. There is also a council commitment that 1% of the CEC discretionary budget is to be distributed through participatory budgeting by 2020, which is a major challenge, as the Leith Chooses model, for small community projects, does not just 'scale up'.

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

Jim reemphasised 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 briefly. 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: Jac Rogers. Nominated by Adrian Graham; seconded by John Tibbitt.

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

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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