

# LEITH LINKS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES AGM & Meeting

MONDAY 27 MAY 2019  
6.30pm

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

**Councillors Present:** Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Chrissie Reid, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson, John Tibbitt (Vice-Chair), Michael Traill.

**Elected Representatives:** Cllr Adam McVey, Cllr Gordon Munro.

**In attendance:** PC Mark Barrie, PC Callum Clark, 2 members of the public.

**Minute Taker:** Kay Goodall.

#### 1. Welcome

Acting Chair for the AGM, Cllr McVey, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Chas Booth and Deidre Brock MP.

#### 2. Adoption of Minutes of last AGM on Monday 28 May 2018

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

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

This year's report incorporates reports from Chair and Secretary, and provides a summary record of LLCC's work over the year. It is again designed to be as attractive and readable as possible for the community, and highlights responses to planning applications, trams, parks and green spaces, the £eith Chooses project, and combating the Seafield sewage smells. The report was adopted unanimously and Sally was thanked for her work.

#### 4. Treasurers' Reports & Presentation of Accounts

LLCC has two bank accounts, one which is for the general running of LLCC, and the other which is a project account (currently used exclusively for managing £eith Chooses). Access to online banking is now a possibility and should speed up transactions once it is fully up and running.

The main income sources for the year were: to the main LLCC account, the annual grant from CEC of £737, and to the project account, the Scottish Government Community Choices Grant funding of £3000. Running a PB event like £eith Chooses actually costs more than £3000, but LLCC had been able to also use funds carried over from last year (underspent as one project had not claimed their grant). The Treasurer's reports were adopted unanimously.

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### 5. Election of office bearers

Cllr McVey called for nominations. The newly-elected office bearers are:

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

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

Secretary: Sally Millar. Nominated by Michael Traill; seconded by Andrew Mackenzie.

Treasurer: Gail Clapton. Nominated by Michael Traill; seconded by Angus Hardie.

Sub-Committee Chair, Parks & Greenspaces: David Igoe. Nominated by Angus Hardie; seconded by Andrew Mackenzie.

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

All nominations were accepted and approved unanimously. Congratulations were extended to all.

The AGM ended at 6.45pm and Cllr McVey handed over to the LLCC Chair, who thanked Cllr McVey, and welcomed councillors and attendees to the “ordinary” monthly LLCC meeting.

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### 6. Police report by PCs Mark Barrie and Callum Clark

*Gala Day 8 June:* there will be a bike marking stall and officers patrolling and engaging with the community.

*Just Eat Cycles:* Vandalised and missing bikes have been replaced. A redesign of the locking mechanism is planned to make them more secure.

*Police Scotland meeting with Residents of Manderston St & Gordon St:* PC Clark is addressing complaints about untaxed vehicles and illegal parking.

*Local task force on drugs:* this work is ongoing.

*Speeding on Restalrig Rd & Lochend Rd:* officers have carried out speed checks there and this successful campaign will continue. Police have experienced an arrogant and dismissive response from some drivers. PC Clark has worked with local school children to create attention-grabbing leaflets on child safety that officers will hand out to drivers.

*Water rescue and safety:* training provided for Police by HM Coastguard, focusing on Portobello Beach & Leith Docks.

*Response inspector for the area:* Inspector Murray Tait is taking on this role.

*Speeding on Duncan Place & Links Gardens:* the officers explained that CEC decides where speed warning signs are placed, but that PCs Mitchell & Kennedy do patrol as much as possible at peak times.

**ACTION: PC Barrie will feed back to PCs Mitchell & Kennedy re Salamander Place & Links Gardens.**

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*Anti-social behaviour in the evenings by children, at the bottom of Lochend Road.*

**ACTION: PC Clark will follow this up.**

### **7. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 29 April 2019**

Proposed by Gail Clapton; seconded by Andrew Mackenzie. Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>

### **8. Redesign of Easter Road / Duke Street / Lochend Rd roundabout**

It was noted with disapproval that there had been very poor consultation by CEC (actually none) with locals over this major change. CEC had agreed to LLCC carrying out an informal consultation via the LLCC website. Many comments were received; some were supportive but there were many serious objections. Many feel that the existing roundabout works better than the redesign would. Not being able to turn right from Lochend Road would cause a 'rat run' along Primrose St / Burns Street. Cllr McVey felt that better solutions for pedestrians would be achieved by the redesign. Questions were raised as to whether the changes proposed were just temporary, for the tram works period, or permanent?

**ACTION: LLCC will contact CEC to ask for responses to the concerns expressed.**

### **9. Parks & Greenspaces Committee**

#### ***Playpark***

The upgraded children's playpark should be completed by August. A car is parked there for night security.

#### ***Gala Day***

Arrangements for the CCs stall are in hand. The Parklife Project team will also be at the Gala Day.

#### ***John Rattray Statue***

The unveiling ceremony will be 11 September. Meanwhile, the dunes still need to be re-seeded.

#### ***Bowling Club building***

Projekt 42 may not take this over. The building is deteriorating and the green has been neglected.

**ACTION: David will write to Evelyn Kilmurray to register concern and ask about plans for the site.**

### **10. Planning & Licensing Committee**

#### ***Constitution St traffic works***

These start on 28 May. Again, noted with disapproval that CEC / Trams team consultation with locals had been poor (non-existent). Tram work disruption will start in October. Full information can be obtained by signing up on the trams mailing list.

**ACTION: Cllr McVey will ask CEC whether LLCC can be sent the regular Roads Report for the city.**

#### ***Constitution Street planning applications***

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Two more applications for Constitution Street have been submitted, both from the same property owner / developer who already owns a very large proportion of property in the immediate area: for 20 residential units on John's Lane and for John's Place to convert to a 20-room guesthouse or hostel. LLCC will object to these. There is already an overprovision of such accommodation in the area. Cllr McVey said that CEC is gradually managing to reduce its use of such hostels, in spite of huge pressure of need. Soon no families will need to be placed in B&B accommodation.

### **11. SCDC Supporting Communities Programme**

SCDC is offering to help community councils in strengthening community engagement.

**ACTION - Sally will add LLCC to the application list provisionally.**

### **12. Leith Creative – Place-Making, Leith Proposals Map**

Duncan Bremner explained that Leith Creative aims to produce a Leith-based proposals map with the help of other groups such as the Cockburn Association, and the local Leith CCs. A co-design event with Leith Links Community Council was agreed for 28 September.

**ACTION: Duncan will book a venue.**

### **13. Scottish Government Investing in Communities Programme**

The Community Choices grant has been folded in with other funds and so applying is more complicated than before and would require partnering with other organisations. The timeframe for application is very short. LLCC will therefore not apply this year. Participatory Budgeting in the form of Leith Chooses (with CEC community grant funds) is intended to take place again in 2020. Sally is on the steering group.

### **14. Seafeld Sewage Plant**

Eileen, Michael and Jim met with John Telfer and Bill Elliott of Scottish Water. It was not a productive meeting. Money for the plant will not be available in the next financial year. Scottish Water continue to believe that Seafeld has the capacity to cope with housing expansion.

**ACTION: Chair will contact Ben Macpherson MSP to emphasise that nuisance to the community is getting worse not better, and to ask for priority attention from Scottish Government.**

Chair thanked all attendees. Meeting ended at 8.30pm.

**Date of Next AGM: Monday 27 May 2020, 6.30pm.**

**Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 24 June 2019, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate. PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6.30pm.**