

Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council

Final minutes of meeting (online only)

25th February, 2025

This meeting was held on-line using Microsoft Teams. A recording was taken and reviewed for the accuracy of the Minute. Douglas Tharby in the Chair

Introductions

Chair welcomed all to the meeting including late arrivals.

Attendance

Elaine Dick, Vice Chair

Neil Tulloch, Engagement Officer

Arthur Young, Member

Don Giles, Friends of Water of Leith Basin (FOWLB), Member

Chas Booth, Leith Ward CLLR

Apologies

Jason Ran, Member

Katrina Fascenda, Leith Ward CLLR

Adam Lois-Mcvey, Leith Ward CLLR

Minutes of 28th January Meeting

Proposed Neil Tulloch, Seconded Douglas Tharby

Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising

Residents Matters

There were no Residents Issues advised to Secretary prior to the meeting

Police Report

Acting Sgnt Casselden was thanked for his report on behalf of LHNCC. His successor will hopefully attend at our next meeting. It was hoped that there will be physical attendance of a police officer where possible at all future CC meetings. Some statistics from the report received (circulated to Members in advance of the meeting) were read out.

Planning

There was comment on Western Harbour 24/05114/FUL application. Information received suggested that this might now go to the Planning Development Sub Group (DSG) of CEC. Possible dates would be in March 2025. This development is a Major Development but not defined as a National Development and this has a bearing on its treatment by Planning. There was much discussion throughout the remainder of the meeting covering the procedure of DSG and its practice, the role of CC and resident's Objections etc., material considerations and the possible outcomes.

A local resident raised questions with regard to the future development(s) at Western Harbour and the accessibility of the area.

ACTION: Chas Booth agreed to provide more info relating to Planning Procedure around the process for clarity.

Our Guest for the meeting Sam Goldblatt gave a brief an outline of a campaign centred on the plans to build Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) in Bangor Road. It is felt that the plans proposed are not in sympathy with local housing or appropriate to Leith as there are no University facilities in the area. Reference was made to previous campaigns on Leith Walk and a contact suggested.

It was pointed out that there is a similar type of application being submitted in Trinity CC area.

There was an update on Seafield, the mixed use development that is proposed connecting LHNCC area with Portobello . There is a statutory Consultation currently running until 30th April on CEC Hub. A number of open events will outline the now developing plan, our local event being on Friday 21st March at Leith Library. An update on the Sounding Board due to meet next week will hopefully be available at our next meeting.

Transport

It was reported that the Leith Connections part within Leith Links area is now permanent. There was some comment made about works in LHNCC area around Sandport Bridge.

The group established some years ago, Community Councils Together on the Trams (CCTT) had a meeting on 4th February where terms of reference were confirmed and an update of the status of works still to be completed were discussed. It was noted that the Contractors were no longer attached to the Trams to Newhaven project. It is hoped that a report from CEC would be available shortly. Some comments on the Tram Corridor including landscaping as ongoing issues were mentioned.

Environment

Member from FOWLB mentioned the Stakeholders meeting on the Water of Leith, the issue of proposed additional barges in the northern basin and the Water of Leith 2000 proposals on the river. Concern was expressed as to the future ownership of Custom House in view of its current development proposals.

Heritage

There was no report at this meeting.

Community

It was reported that the Leith Chooses Awards night on 20th February was a great evening with 10 Applications receiving their FULL funding request and 1 receiving a PART request. Thirty applications were submitted this year and 22 applicants attended the voting day on 18th January. Some 11,900 Votes were cast which is a great achievement. There are plans to widen the PB schemes such as Leith Chooses across the City.

Councillor Reports

CLLR Booth reported that the CEC Budget had been approved with a Council Tax Rise of 8%.. There had been further discussion at Council on 'workplace parking' provision and CEC had ended its use of Twitter in preference to Bluesky.

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance currently at last Statement £865.66

Community Council Elections

The current position as at date of meeting there were 8 successful Nominations and 0 Local Interest Groups. LHNCC would hence be reformed, details on Inauguration would follow in due course.

Key Dates before next meeting

Close of Nominations for CC 27th February

Other dates mentioned:

Coastal Rowers' event at Newhaven Harbour, 26th April
Celebration of Cherry Blossom, Starbank Park, 27th April

Any other business

Chair asked around the room. Water pollution issues in the eastern harbour area were mentioned following a diesel spillage.

Date of next meeting

25th March at Custom House, 6.30- 8.30 p.m.

Prepared by Douglas J Tharby, Chair