

Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council

Final minutes of meeting (in person at Custom House)

25th March, 2025

This meeting was in person. No recording was taken, notes were made throughout the meeting Minute. Douglas Tharby in the Chair

Introductions

Chair welcomed all to the meeting including late arrivals.

Attendance

Neil Tulloch, Engagement Officer

Jason Ran, Member

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

Chas Booth, Leith Ward CLLR

Apologies

Elaine Dick, Vice Chair

Minutes of 28th January Meeting

Proposed by Don Giles, Seconded by Neil Tulloch

Matters Arising

Following on from the presentation given by Sam Goldblatt at the last meeting Chair drew the attention of the meeting to a City of Edinburgh Council draft guidance for the development of Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) to support the 2030 City Plan policy. This will be used to assess planning applications. This type of accommodation is not generally liked by Universities within the City. The consultation will close on Friday 23rd May

Residents Matters

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

Police Report

There was no report available at the time of the meeting. Chair will distribute any report when available.

Planning

Western Harbour

There had been a public event at Heart of Newhaven on 4th March where the Western Harbour Masterplan was outlined by the Planning Consultants. The original plan for plot A1 presented at our November 24 meeting had now been withdrawn. Visuals on the whole development presented at that meeting were circulated and discussed.

Seafield

It was pointed out that this project was now five years since inception. The Sounding Board had met on 3rd March and the Public Consultation was in its final stage ending on 30th April as previously advised. There had been a public event at Leith Library on Friday 21st March with a disappointing low attendance. There are some outstanding issues to be resolved including on the tides/waves on the old promenade and the possible implications of climate change. Recent Community Council Elections had restored the membership of Craigentenny and Meadowbank CC to the group.

Ocean Drive

There was a brief discussion on the building works on Ocean Drive with particular reference to the heights of the buildings in the area. CLLR Booth confirmed that there were a number of regulations on the height of buildings and the consideration of the impact of their height on the area .

Transport

There was a brief mention of works currently being undertaken on The Shore and the restoration of bus services on Henderson Street noted.

The group established some years ago, Community Councils Together on the Trams (CCTT) were due to meet on Tuesday 25th March and a report was anticipated at the next meeting. It was disappointing that there were so many remedial works required.

Environment

The Member from FOWLB mentioned the Stakeholders meeting on the Water of Leith planned for January 24th which had to be cancelled. As yet there had not been a revised date. There was a brief update on activity in the basins.

Heritage

There was no report at this meetin

Community

The Steering Group of Leith Chooses were meeting on 26th March to review the process used and make some plans for the future based upon a recent survey. There are plans to widen the PB schemes such as Leith Chooses across the City when the new Visitor Levy is introduced.

Councillor Reports

CLLR Booth reported that there was a cycle hire scheme for the City being considered. The possibility of a Cruise Ship levy was mentioned. There were some issues around the Low Traffic Neighbourhood in other parts of Leith now adopted. The recent Fireworks Summit was mentioned and its possible implications going forward.

There was a brief update on the site of the former Wetherspoons at the Foot of the Walk. The Licensing Board application by the new owners had been granted.

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance currently at last Statement £832.07

Treasurer will draw up Financial Accounts at 31st March in preparation for the new Community Council and its AGM in June.

Community Council Elections

There was a brief discussion on the inauguration of the new LHNCC on Tuesday 15th April and the handover from our Returning Officer. Invitations would be issued shortly to all.

Induction for all Community Councillors would begin with a formal Introduction to the new Scheme by Governance and the EACC with an in-person event on 26th April and two on-line events on 28th and 29th April. Further training topics were under development between the EACC and the Community Empowerment and Engagement Team with both individual programmes and an interactive toolkit being discussed.

Key Dates before next meeting

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

Any other business

None were mentioned

Date of next meeting

The first meeting of the reformed LHNCC would be on 29th April at Custom House, 6.30-8.30 p.m.

Prepared by Douglas J Tharby, Chair