



Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council

Final minutes

Tuesday 29th April, 2025

18:30–20:30

Custom House, Commercial St
(access via the Quayside Door)

Present:

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| CB | Chas Booth (Ward Councillor) | CH | Connal Hughes |
| DT | Douglas Tharby (Meeting Chair) | IK | Isabel Kane |
| IM | Ian McCormack | JC | Jonathan 'Geo' Camp |
| JM | Joanne McClelland | MW | Margaret Wright |
| NT | Neil Tulloch | | |
| JS | Jim Scanlon | AE | Avril Ewing |
| MP1 | Member of the public 1 | MP2 | Member of the public 2 |

Apologies:

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| ED | Elaine Dick | MPH | Morgane Perez-Huet |
| ANM | Adam Nols McVey (Ward Councillor) | JR | Jason Ran |
| AY | Arthur Young | DF | David Fenton |
| KF | Katrina Faccenda (Ward Councillor) | MPH | Morgane Perez-Huet |

Distribution: Present and apologies

| Item | | Who |
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| 1. | Introductions & Apologies | |
| 1.1 | DT noted those who had sent apologies. | - |
| 2. | Declaration of interests | |
| 2.1 | None raised. | - |
| 3 | Minutes of 15th April 2025 meeting | |
| 3.1 | The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by NT and seconded by CH. DT explained what happened in the last meeting for those who were not in attendance. | - |
| 3.2 | The status of the minutes of the meeting in March were queried. DT noted they were approved at the meeting on the 15 th of April. | - |
| 4. | Matters Arising | |
| 4.1 | DT noted that minutes and agendas should be online, but there is no web manager yet in place. MP1 offered to help. | - |
| 4.2 | Several people present noted the challenge of getting the LHNCC email accounts activated. | - |
| 5. | Residents' Issued | |
| 5.1 | DT noted that none had been raised since the last meeting. | - |

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| 5.2 | DT noted that residents' issues tend to be raised through emails to the Secretary, or via Councillors. | - |
| 6. | Police Report | |
| 6.1 | DT noted no report had been provided. | - |
| 6.2 | JS noted that Leith Links have to request a report. JS offered to request the report for LHNCC. | JS |
| 6.3 | DT noted that the police report comes to the Chair@ and Secretary@ email addresses and is then forwarded on to Community Council members and put on the Google Drive. | - |
| 6.4 | MP1 raised the issue of antisocial behaviour by young people in the area. DT noted that the police report gives statistics to LHNCC. MP1 noted the 'Neighbourhood' app as a way of sharing information about antisocial activity, and asked what the community can do about it. DT noted that phoning 101 to report it and keep distance from any activity is the current advice. CB suggested getting an incident number from 101, and if no response is forthcoming then to report the ward councillors. | - |
| 7. | Standing Items and Updates | |
| 7a. | Planning & Licensing | |
| 7a.1 | DT noted that the Planning lists come out on Mondays and Tuesdays, and that B13 is the section relating to the LHNCC ward. | - |
| 7a.2 | DT noted that training sessions on Planning terms and processes are to be organised by City of Edinburgh Council Community Empowerment team. | - |
| 7a.3 | An application for removal of trees at Leith School of Art was discussed. It was agreed to comment on the application requesting mitigation of the tree removal and placement. JC to draft the comment and send to ED for review and lodging. | JC |
| 7a.4 | Two applications for Short Term Lets were discussed. IM noted a declaration of interest as he lives next to one of them. IM proposed a vote be held on whether the Council were generally against STLs in the ward. AE noted that Living Rent campaign against STLs. MW noted that all present can object as individuals. CB explained the broader context and process for notifying CEC of them. JS noted the Leith Links have a general position against STLs and HMOs. AE noted tat Leith Central have a similar position against PBSA. The Community Council voted in favour of IM's motion, and agreed to object to the two applications. JC and CH will draft the objections. | - |

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| | <p>JS agreed to share example objections Leith Links have made previously.</p> <p>DT noted the chair is to sign off on the objections before they are lodged, and suggested a working group on objections be formed.</p> | <p>JC/CH</p> <p>JS</p> <p>-</p> |
| 7a.5 | <p>The proposed development of Seafield was discussed. NT noted that the consultation closes on the 30th of April but that the Community Councils neighbouring the area have a deadline to comment a month later. NT noted he will attend the next meeting to be held on the 30th of May on behalf of LHNCC. NT noted that a heat network is proposed as part of the development and that LHNCC had been asked for a letter of support for a feasibility study. JM noted support for this, but requested that community benefit from the scheme be flagged in any letter. All agreed that a letter should be given, with NT to draft and JM to review.</p> | NT |
| 7b. | Transport | |
| 7b.1 | <p>ED's report of the last CCTT meeting was circulated prior to the meeting. DT gave the background to including to Community Council Trams Together (CCTT). DT asked the meeting attendees to consider joining the group on behalf of LHNCC.</p> | All |
| 7b.2 | <p>Several people noted they had been missed from the circulation of the report. DT to send the report on to AE and IK.</p> | DT |
| 7b.3 | <p>DT noted that the CCTT is now meeting monthly and running a 'red amber green' (RAG) list of issues.</p> | |
| 7c. | Environment and greenspace | |
| 7c.1 | <p>CB noted that there has been no note from Water of Leith Basins (FoWLB) Local Interest Group about joining LHNCC. DT to contact Don Giles.</p> | DT |
| 7c.2 | <p>Regarding the Water of Leith Basins and The Shore 4th Meeting of the Stakeholder Group on the 30 May, DT noted that he, ED, and Don Giles will attend on behalf of LHNCC.</p> | - |

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| 7d. | Heritage | |
| 7d.1 | JS explained the Leith History Society, of which he is chair. JS noted they have a full programme for next year. JS to send out dates. | JS |
| 7d.2 | JS noted the launch of the Custom House redevelopment and partnership with Leith Civic Trust on the 9 th of May at 2pm, by invitation only. | - |
| 7e. | Community | |
| 7e.1 | DT gave the background to Leith Chooses, noting that he has represented LHNCC on the panel. DT asked others to consider taking on this role. | All |
| 7f. | Local Place Plan (LPP) | |
| 7f.1 | DT noted he will raise the deadline for LPPs with Paul Lawrence, head of Place at CEC when they meet on the 13 th of May. | DT |
| 7f.2 | JM noted that she has send a draft plan to ED and MPH. Following their feedback she will send on the to LHNCC to get their input on the key organisations to involve. Following this a questionnaire will be sent out to get their input. IM offered his assistance. JM noted the initial focus on groups will become iterative as their input comes back. | JM |
| 7f.3 | DT noted that JR is a sociologist, so can support the LPP process. | - |
| 7f.4 | JS and AE asked if Leith Links and Leith Central can join the exercise. JM agreed to send on the excel once ED and MPH have returned comments. JM to attend LLCC and LCCC meetings. | JM |
| 7f.5 | JM noted that she has a stall to present the LPP exercise at Leith Festival. | - |
| 7f.6 | It was agreed that the aim will be one vision for Leith, but three LPP submissions. | - |
| 8. | Councillor/MSP/MP responses and updates | |
| 8.1 | CB presented his report, noting that CEC have been on recess for two of the last four weeks. | - |
| 8.2 | CB noted that at committee on the 3 rd of April free bus travel for carers was voted on, with CB advocating in favour. | - |
| 8.3 | CB noted the Licensing Board had met an that there had been two applications in the LHNCC area: Barry's Fish and Leith Bottle Shop. Both had been approved. | - |

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| 8.4 | CB noted two consultations are live. The first is on a statement of over-provision for areas in LHNCC ward, which closes on the 4 th of May. CB urges LHNCC make comment via the Consultation Hub on the CEC website. All agreed to make a comment in favour of the statement. IM to draft a response and send to the Chairs for review. | IM |
| 8.5 | CB noted the Scottish Government consultation on cruise ship levy, which has a deadline of the 30 th of May. IM to draft a response and send to the Chairs for review. MW offered to send on photos of the coaches in Newhaven when the cruise ships are in. | IM MW |
| 8.6 | CB noted apologies from ANM and KF. | - |
| 9. | Treasurer's Report | |
| 9.1 | DT reported the account balance, including interest accrued. | - |
| 10. | Community Council Internal/Governance meeting | |
| 10.1 | DT noted that the postponed training session may happen on the 12 th or 13 th of May, and that invites will come out by email. The LHNCC governance meeting will happen after that. | - |
| 11. | Key diary dates ahead of next meeting | |
| 11.1 | DT noted that on the 24 th of May is an event to commemorate the 110 th anniversary of the Gretna Rail disaster (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quintinshill_rail_disaster) which will be at 11am at Rosebank Cemetery. | - |
| 11.2 | DT noted that the next meeting will be at Leith Community Centre in the Shore Room at 6:30pm on the 27 th of May. | - |
| 12. | Any Other Business | |
| 12.1 | JS noted that he represents the community at Seafield Sewage works. JS noted that they meet every two months with various other stakeholders. JS outlined the current topics of discussion and projected future of the sewage works. | - |
| 12.2 | AE asked for crib sheets on recurring matters. CH suggested speakers outline each topic prior to starting discussion. DT noted the lack of Secretary is a challenge to a written update on issues. DT noted the importance of 'upskilling', a programme of which is being prepared. | - |
| 12.3 | DT noted the upcoming Leith Festival on the 14 th of June, noting that LHNCC and | - |

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| | LLCC have a stall together. | |
| 12.4 | MW noted the heritage crops exhibition at Custom House in May. | - |

Selected Acronyms used:

CEC – City of Edinburgh Council.
HMO – House of Multiple Occupation.
LHNCC – Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council
LLCC – Leith Links Community Council
LCCC – Leith Central Community Council
PBSA – Purpose Built Student Accommodation.
SG – Scottish Government.
STL – Short Term Lets.