



March 2025 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th March 2025
at Stockbridge Parish Church, Stockbridge, Edinburgh

Present, S&ICC: Clive Preston (Chair); Gregan Crawford; Geoff Calder; Nigel Clark; Pam Barnes (Planning); David Chamberlain (Treasurer).

Members of the Community: Peter Wilson, Amanda Adamson, Joan Beattie, Devon Magliozzi, Gordon Bentley, Sue Bentley, Andrew Naughtie, Caroline MacFarlane, Mairi Buchanan; Holly Harrison.

Ward Councilors and Member of Parliament: Cllr Max Mitchell; Cllr Hal Osler.

Apologies for absence: Sandy Clark; Peter Chalmers; Tannis Dodd (secretary); PC Holly Matheson.

CC Chair – Welcome from Clive to the last meeting of this CC in its current format with particular welcome to those attending who are going to become Community Councillors.

1. Minutes:

Minutes from meeting in February 2025 were approved.

Matters arising:

Meetings at Broughton High School – Clive has managed to arrange a meeting where Clive and Geoff will be meeting with the 5th years on the 31st of March – possibly the last one for this academic year.

Community Council elections – Cllr Max Mitchell is the Returning Officer, and he will Chair the start of next meeting where he will be confirming the new Community Council members. We have enough members to form a Community Council without having elections. At this meeting a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Engagement Officer and Vice Chair will be chosen and a regular meeting will then follow. New Community Councillors will have been informed about training sessions – one is in person and only 2 Community Councillors from each CC can attend and there will also be an online session. The next meeting will take place on April 16th, 2025. EACC is disputing the 2-person limit and are negotiating to see if they are able to set up more. At the next meeting two people will be nominated to go along.

Engagement Officer is quite an important post as we are now required to show how we have engaged with the community over the year. We hope to be able to find someone willing to take on this post in the new CC. We also have various posts to fill which include Planning and Licensing if anyone is interested in taking on these positions. We also need people to cover Transport, Environment and Localities. Clive and Tannis have suggested we look at covering things a little differently in our meetings going forward.

Gregan said he looks after the website and will post things that come to him.

Pam is stepping down and has been a Community Councillor for about 15 years, has been very involved with Planning and has done her work extremely well. She will be a great loss to us in terms of her experience. Clive expressed our thanks from the Community Council for all she has done. We hope she may be able to give some guidance to the next person who takes on Planning.

2. Brief reports:

a. Police Scotland

Report was read out that was sent in by PC Matheson.

b. Councillors (on any local matters/action points):

Cllr Hal Osler

Bins – Phase 6 now being dealt with – in Stockbridge it is St Bernards Crescent, St Stephen St, NW Circus Place and up into the Terraces, Danube St, Carlton Terrace, Clarence St and surrounding environs.

Have finally managed to get the Council to listen to residents. Surprised by the potential introduction of gull proof sacks in the whole area. This has caused some concern with some of the streets especially the Terraces who just wanted the bins placed on the other side of the road which is where they are now and have never wanted the gull proof sacks. Concern if all surrounding streets have gull proof sacks that there will be a continuing issue with illegal dumping. This is all coming to the committee in June. There has been a survey available to be filled in concerning the bins.

Caroline MacFarlane had a leaflet from the New Town Broughton CC encouraging people to fill in the survey about the bin hubs. She attended one of the drop-in sessions and was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Council was going to listen to feedback.

Concern from local resident in Dean St that leaflet has strong message about gull proof sacks and what is on the council website does not tally with the thoughts. The big bins were moved from their street and for the first time they have seen rats on the street during the day. They would prefer to keep the small bins and have gull proof sacks for dry recycling but would prefer not to have a whole line of bins down the street as they have a lot of footfall on the street because of the Stockbridge Market etc.

Important that all opinions are given to the Council as each area will have a different solution. They would like a mixed approach as to how things will be done.

The preferred options being offered are either bin hubs or gull proof bags. The large black bins have gone, and they have been replaced by smaller black bins which do not have the same capacity even with the increase in number – concerns about people dumping all around them.

Still trying to work the way through how they deal with glass bins. The problem with the rats is a disruption with their food source as they used to be able to get into the big bins and it is their breeding season. Environmental issues for the bins are not always considered.

The Depot in Inverleith Park – there has been a meeting and there is to be a site visit. Forestry etc are vacating the Depot at the end of this year. They are exploring ideas about what to do with this part of the Park. Possibly a café in one of the buildings? The toilet modules are going to be coming to the Park soon.

Cllr Max Mitchell

Warriston cemetery opened on Wednesday after being closed since the storm.

Sheltered housing repairs are being looked into.

Survey in Danube Street done about rat running – acceptance from road safety that they need to look at the junction to slow down traffic.

Request to look at the junction at India Place.

Leslie Place residents not keen on suggestion of double yellow lines on north side of the street.

There is going to be a traffic survey on Dean Street.

There will be double yellow lines installed on south side of Ferry Road at Goldenacre and changes to parking in the Bangholms. This has caused concerns and issues with residents.

Pam raised issue of there being an awful lot of graffiti about. It gets cleaned and then almost immediately there will be more graffiti.

c. Chair

World Heritage Meeting which Clive will attend is being held because the Site Management Plan and Action Plan which has been developed by the World Heritage team has been finalised and they want meeting with people and groups that will be part of the oversight group; this will keep an eye on what they are doing. Chairs of various Community Councils have been invited to join this oversight groups.

d. Secretary

Nothing to report.

e. Treasurer

The end of financial year is end of March – if there are any expenses, please let David know asap. We currently have £1600 with £200 bill to be paid April 1st towards insurance. We have good funds and is there anything we should be funding? Tannis put in her expenses and the rental of the room has been resolved and paid up.

f. Transport

Nothing to report.

g. Environment

Nothing to report.

h. Licensing and Planning

Licensing:

Nothing to report. There is a long list of types of licences covered under licencing not just alcohol. For example – music, entertainment, HMOs and short term lets, public entertainment, tattoo parlours, dogs etc.

Planning:

Consultation on Planning Guidance is still open. Well written.

The Grange – Geoff said that he had written to the Grange requesting a meeting with the Chairman. Long reply saying he couldn't see any relevance in meeting with the residents. The group made a press release which has gone out and the next stage is to write to their MSP. Clive has written to MSP Angus Robertson.

Mairi Buchanan wrote to MSP Angus Robertson twice and got a response a few days ago - not sure if he answered the questions. She is still concerned that there are no further steps forward to take for this Reporter's decision.

The group is moving forward with this.

Draft Local Housing Strategy going on if you have a chance to look at this.

Consultation on Student Housing which is relevant to this area as we have the site in Orchard Brae which has been refused. There are also two others on our doorstep – one in old Royal Bank building at bottom of Dundas Street and one in Eyre Place Lane.

Heriots Playing Fields have come back with their plans to build artificial pitches with quite a few lights as well – it is along the boundary of Ferry Road. They have applied twice before but have withdrawn them and this is the third one which seems pretty much the same. Clive has written an objection again with the same objections.

Third Mast on Inverleith Row – one has now come down so there are only two. Still an ongoing enforcement investigation going on with the southern one because belief it was built out with the time frame it was allowed and not in the exact position it was meant to be.

42 Raeburn Place – residential property that someone wants to make into an ophthalmology clinic and community hub – nothing has been heard about this at this point.

Provisional plans for the Seafield area have been released. There is an open session at Leith Library on Friday.

Hal raised the City Plan 2030 and an ongoing issue about statutory and non-statutory guidance for Developers – a problem the Planning Committee is trying to sort out.

Nigel commented that recently a light has been erected at the bottom of Saxe Coburg, between the two bollards and there has already been a complaint about it. It is also not in keeping with the other lights. There is a standard design of lights used –and Hal and Max to look at it.

i. NW Localities

Nothing to report.

j. Parks and Amenities

St Marks Park is going to get its underpass sorted out and other improvements are being done along the Water of Leith.

Bundles of hay have been put in Inverleith Pond to try to prevent algae.

AOB

Broughton High Meeting – Geoff wants to do a short presentation and requested to take a photo of the group to add to it. This was done.

Report of a hearse going into Warriston was stoned – had anyone heard anything about this?

Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday April 16th, 2025, at 7pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend community council meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to raise a subject, please contact the S&ICC at stockbridgeandinverleith@gmail.com or visit our website www.stockbridgeandinverleithcc.org.uk