

Stockbridge & Inverleith
community council

May 2025 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on May 21st 2025
at Stockbridge Parish Church, Stockbridge, Edinburgh

Present, S&ICC: Clive Preston (Chair); Gregan Crawford; Geoff Calder; Nigel Clark; John Edward; Alexander Martin; Devon Magliozzi; Peter Wilson; Tannis Dodd (secretary), David Chamberlain, Christian Low, Holly Harrison; Andrew Naughtie

Members of the Community: Dan Thompson; Ruth Smith; Jean Grier; Evelyn Henderson-Child; Dee Atkinson; Nasim Doherty; Chris Doherty; Bill Keil; Amanda Adamson; Peter Chalmers.

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

Apologies for absence: Sandy Clark, Pam Barnes

CC Chair – Welcome from Clive.

Minutes. Minutes from the meeting in April 2025 were approved. One correction for the initial meeting minutes – it is Engagement and Inclusion officer.

It was confirmed that Christian Low and David Chamberlain have been elected to the Community Council. David agreed to be Treasurer and Christian agreed to take on licensing.

Matters arising:

Meeting at Broughton High School – very little response to proposed meeting with the new 5th years this term – may be postponed to new school year.

Edinburgh World Heritage meeting is to be held on the 12th of June – Clive is to attend.

Gregan has updated the website members page – please check to make sure all correct.

2. Brief Reports

a. Police Report

The police had sent a written report which was read out and has been emailed separately.

David commented that there had been incidents of stone throwing into the allotments. Cllr Hal Osler commented that the police are depleted in numbers at the moment in our area and that there had been problems with rat running and speeding in the area.

b. Councillors Reports

Cllr Max Mitchell – works at Comely Bank Avenue due to finish soon – they are urgent works for gas and they appreciate how frustrating it has been.

Tennis Courts in Inverleith Park – aware gate not working properly but due to be fixed soon.

Bin Hubs – next update will be in June.

Goldenacre Steps have finally been repaired.

Toilets in Inverleith Park are nearing completion.

Hamilton Place toilets – complaints have been received about the cleaning and maintenance of them.

Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) – update – crossing between Botanic Gardens and Inverleith Park which has been in the pipeline for about 10 years. There has been some movement on this and hopefully progress will be made. The scheme for Carrington Road has been paused but they are endeavouring to push on this and get it delivered. Questions raised about the funding set aside for this scheme and where it is to go now.

Cllr Bandel has been absent for 6 months which could result in dismissal from the Council but it has been agreed to extend her period away for another 6 months in the hope she gets better soon.

Cllr Hal Osler – 42 bus route was stoppped and severed the connection between Craigleith and Stockbridge. There is a motion being put forward to put on a smaller bus on this route to keep the connection between the two.

Cllr Vicky Nicholson – updated us on upcoming events at LifeCare on Cheyne St.

Bedford Court – tree works have been done there.

Compaints have been received about Dominos bikes taking up parking spaces in Raeburn Place.

c. Chair Report – Clive Preston

Fringe Society contacted us about their future plans – they are to be based in Infirmary Street now and would like to engage with us about their future plans and find out what would be useful to local residents. It was suggested we ask her to come and talk to us in the autumn.

Devon to attend drop in development day for the Community Grants Fund.

d. Secretary – Tannis Dodd -nothing to report

e. Treasurer – David Chamberlain

We have £1600.00 in the bank. The accounts for the year to 31st March 2025 were circulated to be checked. They now need to go to independent advisor to be signed and sent off to the Council.

The main expenses are insurance, room rental and secretary expenses.

f. Roads and Transport -Geoff Calder

TRO coming up for Fettes parking zone coming up soon

Problem with speeding in Warriston.

g. Licensing – Christian Low

Christian had only just agreed to take this on so no update this month.

The licence required for chairs and tables consent on pavements has had its hours increased from 7.30am – 9pm and also from 9pm – 10pm. Comments were made about how some of the tables and chairs on Raeburn Place take up quite a lot of space and cause congestion on Raeburn Place. There is supposed to be at least 1.5 metres between tables and chairs and the edge of the pavement. Some traders have questioned how they are allowed to be on the pavement when other businesses are no longer allowed A-boards etc on the pavement. These are deemed to be clutter by the Council. Any issues of extension of tables and chairs on the pavement can be raised with our local Councillors.

There is an issue about the tables and chairs outside Cata and the width of the pavement there.

h. Planning – Alexander Martin

Some local applications were summarised. It was pointed out our role is to be guided by members of the local community who ask us to look at more local planning issues. Change of use is also an issue we can look at.

42 Raeburn Place – change of use on this property was rejected. We were asked by a local resident to keep an eye on this in case it comes to appeal.

Royal London on Henderson Row – just outside our area but we have been contacted by the developer to discuss their plans and how they will affect our area. Alexander to follow this up. It was suggested that we also contact New Town and Broughton CC to see what their position is.

6 Malta Terrace – a local resident has asked us to look at this application. The site of the project is of concern and the possible increased risk of flooding as a result of the proposals. Alex to look into this.

Dan Thompson congratulated Alex on his comprehensive objection to a planning application on Inverleith Place.

5G Mast on Inverleith Row – local residents came to ask if it had been determined whether the second mast had been put up properly. Max said they were still waiting to hear back on the installment date and whether proper procedure had been followed. Max to follow up.

j.Environment – Peter Wilson

Peter is planning to contact friends groups and organisations in the area.

New toilets are now in place in Inverleith Park though not yet working. We have been contacted by Thriving Green Spaces about the possibility of a mural on the new toilet block and asked us for our input. It was suggested that they ask Broughton High if the students would like to get involved as they wanted to work with local artists. Peter to follow up on this.

Point Pollution – Peter is wondering how many other people suffer from cooking smells coming out of restaurants and filtering into peoples homes?

Sepa event June 4th – Peter to attend.

The depot at Inverleith Park is due to no longer be used by the Council from the beginning of 2026. Clive and Tannis have been invited to a meeting at the depot by council officials so they can run by us their future plans for the site. Meetings with other groups have already taken place; Peter is to attend as well.

Plans for Ferranti's bowling green have been put on hold – it is currently being used by the Petanque Club to store their stuff. With the changes due to happen at the depot the original plans for Ferranti's have been relooked at.

k. Update on the Grange Club – Geoff Calder

There is considerable noise coming from the new courts and they suggested a screening be put up. The group have approached the Chair and Groundsman of the Club with some solutions but they have not been very interested - cost being an issue.

Also suggested deflating the inflatable dome in the summer but this was also rejected.

The group's next step is to write to the Councillors to see if they can arrange a meeting with the Grange. This may not be well received by the Grange. Vicky has also asked MSP Angus Robertson to write to the Grange but he has not been able to set up a meeting yet. Vicky encouraged people to write to MSP Angus Robertson to encourage him to pursue this.

They can engage with the noise team again but it is very difficult to measure noise.

The group asked if they could see the reasoning behind the decision made by the Reporter to overturn the decision made by planning but it was decided by the Director of Legal Services gave a range of reasons why the process of the appeal was not in the public interest. One of the reasons given for the overturning of the planning decision was that it was thought to enable greater access to sports for people in North Edinburgh.

3. AOB

Friends of Water of Leith – can we make a connection with the Water of Leith Conservation Trust again and perhaps give them a sub towards their clean up operations. It was agreed we could look into this.

Warriston Cemetery – local resident questioned whether the land just outside the gate was for public use to park on as when she has parked there a local resident has told her she can't. It seems that the land is owned by the Bereavement Service and is for use by the public who wish to visit the cemetery.

Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday June 18th, 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