

## EDINBURGH ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25 NOVEMBER 2021

#### Attendees

Carter, Joan, Southside CC  
Dick, Elaine, Leith Harbour and Newhaven CC  
Doig, Ian, Merchiston CC  
Duncan, Carol, Morningside CC  
Feketey, Percy, Cramond and Barnton CC  
Giblett, Keith, Queensferry & District CC  
Hancock, Paul, West End CC  
Hodgart, Robert, Southside CC  
Holledge, Simon, EACC / New Town & Broughton CC  
Houston, David, Colinton CC  
Kerr, Steve, EACC/Corstorphine CC (Chair)  
Loudon, John, Cramond and Barnton CC  
McKinley, Graeme, Queensferry & District CC  
Miller, Sally, Leith Links CC

Parker, Tim, Trinity CC  
Robertson, Ken, Grange Prestonfield CC  
Rodger, Bill, Trinity CC  
Scanlon, James, Leith Links CC  
Schwarz, Peter, Liberton and District CC  
Shaw, Ronald, Liberton and District CC  
Summerfield, Liz, Tollcross CC  
Tharby, Douglas, Leith Harbour and Newhaven CC  
Tinlin, Norman, Fairmilehead CC  
Traill, Michael, Leith Links CC  
Wightman, Judy, Ratho & District CC  
Wignall, Mike, Gilmerton Inch CC  
Williamson, Ian, Cramond and Barnton CC  
Wright, Kenny, Drumbrae CC

#### **Pre-Meeting Presentations:**

##### **1. Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place, CEC: Key Priorities for the Place Directorate.**

Sustain and reactivate services affected by the pandemic;  
Take forward the development agenda for the city;  
Foster the active travel project;  
Build out the 20 Minute Neighbourhood programme;  
Improve engagement with Community Councils; set up a Community Empowerment Team to that end.

Questions directed to Mr Lawrence centred on the poor dialogue between CEC and Community Councils / Residents reflected in claims of weak response to issues raised and weak consultation on CEC initiatives launched (eg. Spaces for People). The Council isn't getting its message across, and communities aren't convinced the message is meant with them in mind.

##### **2. Cllr. Neil Gardiner, CEC: City Plan 2030 – The proposed Local Development Plan for Edinburgh.**

Target outcomes:

- A sustainable city which supported everyone's physical and mental wellbeing
- A city where everyone lived in a home they could afford
- A city where you did not need to own a car to move around

- A city where everyone shared in its economic success

City Plan 2030 is at the point of inception. Questions directed centred on 'imbalanced development' with hotel, office and student residence build acting against the clear need for low-cost housing provision and mixed-use support in a 20 Minute Neighbourhood context. Tourism development is a fundamentally divisive issue.

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair (Steve Kerr) opened the meeting and noted apologies from: A Mitchell, Queensferry, K Symington, Currie, J Malborough, Leith Harbour & Newhaven and W Black, Morningside.

### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 21 November 2020 were approved on the proposal of S Holledge (Secretary) seconded by J Wightman (Treasurer). The Chair noted that the minutes had been posted on the website and that any matters arising had been covered during the ordinary meetings.

### **3 Chair's Report**

The Chair reported that he had taken over the role in January 2021 with the aim of progressing 3 reforms:

- To ensure that EACC listened to the criticism and represented all communities across the city. He had established a Steering Group to listen to views with the intention of moving to a Board structure
- To improve communications with the Council and the Edinburgh Partnership where a forum had been established to ensure that CCs had the opportunity to contribute and participate.
- To seek reform of Community Councils Scotland wide. COSLA had been approached and had also allocated staff from their improvement service to assist. A detailed report would be on the website.

### **3 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary referred to his written report noting that:

- EACC had worked well as a virtual organisation for the past year.
- The cost has been limited to a Zoom subscription. In the future it was hoped to be able to offer hybrid meetings, where there was a choice between 'in person' or video conferencing.
- Since the last AGM on 19 November 2020, there had been three ordinary meetings (25 February, 9 September, 21 October). The final meeting required under the Constitution would be on 16 December.
- There had also been three in-depth special meetings with presentations on:
  - Events in the New Green Edinburgh — the Public Spaces Management Plan (PSMP) Exercise (10 December 2020),
  - Carbon Neutrality Edinburgh 2030: What it means and how we get there (22 April 2021), and

- Sharing Ideas about Biodiversity: Copenhagen, Oslo and Edinburgh (23 September 2021)
- There are 46 community council areas in Edinburgh. Two of these were not constituted after the last elections: Silverknowes and Wester Hailes. The Secretary had managed to successfully contact 36 of them
- EACC participated in Twitter and now had over 400 followers, double the previous year. At least 37 Community Councils also had accounts
- EACC had sent a survey questionnaire to Community Councillors, the results of which would be published when ready. He thanked K Symington for the assistance with this.

#### 4 Treasurer's Report

J Wightman referred to the Accounts and her report which had been circulated and drew attention to two expenditure entries of £175 for the website and £145 for Zoom. This left a balance of £184 which was somewhat tight for what was needed.

The Chair reported that external funding came in the form of a grant from the Edinburgh Partnership which should cover costs and the website and reengagement. He had been asked to make a case for approval and he would do this for the December meeting.

#### 5 Amendments to the Constitution

S Holledge reported that there were three proposed amendments:

- *Delete 5c - under Finance:* The Office Bearers should have the authority to spend up to one quarter of the EAC income in any year, any such expenditure to be reported to the next Committee meeting. Any additional expenditure to be authorised by the Committee.
- *Change 6c - under Office Bearers and Committee:* Office Bearers to stand down at each AGM but to be eligible for re-election. Nominations for Office Bearers will be submitted to the EACC Secretary no less than seven days prior to the AGM.
- *Change 8 - under Alterations to the Constitution:* Change the notice period for alterations from 21 to seven days.

Chair said that he would call an EGM in the early New Year to consider these changes and others that he would be proposing.

#### 6 Election of Office Bearers

The Chair handed over to I Doig who had agreed to act as Returning Officer.

I Doig reported that nominations had closed on 18 November. Nominations were:

Chair - Steve Kerr  
Vice-Chair - Keith Giblett  
Secretary - Simon Holledge  
Treasurer - Julie Wightman

All nominations were seconded and uncontested.  
All four were duly appointed on the proposal of K Wright seconded by I Doig.

S Kerr then took back the Chair

**7 Appointment of Independent Scrutineer**

J Wightman said that Christine Cameron was happy to continue as independent examiner for the accounts and she was duly appointed on the proposal of J Wightman seconded by S Kerr.

**8 Any Other Business**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members for their attendance and drew the meeting to a close.

The next ordinary meeting would be on 16 December 2021.

*Ken Robertson, Acting-Secretary, November 2022*  
*pp. Simon Holledge, Secretary, November 2021*