



LIBERTON ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting 19th October 2024 Anderson Hall Liberton Kirk

Minutes:

In attendance; Committee – Alex Hammond-Chambers, Joan Foulner, David Cavanagh, Martin Reynolds, Dorothy Burns-Brown, Rosy Carmichael, Margaret Collingwood, John Doohan, Chris & Debbie Barclay.

Members of the Liberton Association approx. 90

The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP & Secretary of State for Scotland
Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Apologies; Rodger Stirling, Daniel Johnston MP, Councillor Marta Matos Coelho, Donald Anderson, Anne & Andrew Cowgill, Mr & Mrs David Bennett, David Lamb.

1. Welcome

Alex Hammond-Chalmers (President) opened the meeting, welcomed those present and explained the agenda.

The Rt Hon Ian Murray spoke to offer his support of the Association over the years, it was the 22nd time he had attended. He acknowledged the work of the previous Committee in particular Derek Kennedy and Anne Sutherland and for the current Committee contributions towards the community. He acknowledged local concerns regarding planning and the lack of GP's in the area which he is campaigning to improve.

2. Apologies (as above)

3. Minutes of last meeting

Secretary (Dorothy Burns-Brown) discussed some outstanding issues since the last AGM in October 2023 which were going to be addressed fully later in the meeting

4. Presidents report

Alex reported the ongoing work of the Association. Alex referred to the Constitution to reiterate the role of the Association to allow us as a community to handle any issues of broad concern regarding the local

infrastructure, potential planning applications and the preservation of our greenbelt areas. He thanked the membership for their continued support which is invaluable.

5. Treasurer Report

Joan Foulner (Treasurer) provided detail regarding the report (see addendum) Joan reminded those present that the fees are £5 per person.

6. Subscription

It was agreed by those present that the subscriptions could be remain at £5 per person.

7. Election of Office Bearers

There was one new application for the Office Bearer role of Treasurer. Joan Foulner has decided to step down and Debbie Barclay was proposed as the new Treasurer, this proposal was accepted. Alex thanked Joan for her work as Treasurer, Joan will continue as a Committee member. It was proposed and accepted that the remaining Office Bearers, President Alex Hammond-Chalmers and Secretary Dorothy Burns-Brown should remain in office for another year.

8. Election of Honorary Independent Examiner

Alex proposed David Lamb S.S.C as the above, thanked him for his services in the past and for agreeing to continue in this role. The proposal was accepted by those present.

9. Constitution

The current Constitution was accepted by those present.

10. Secretary Report

The Secretary reported that the Committee has met regularly during the last years with 6 full meetings and 1 planning meeting.

The committee continue to review the planning applications and local issues which are observed and reported and liaise with the council and the relevant bodies to address these issues.

The Association has continued to communicate with members through news bulletins, emails, postal letters and our media platforms such as Facebook, Website & Twitter. The Secretary asked the members to please let her know if they have changed their email address. The secretary also explained that membership numbers are static and requested members to spread the word about the Association to their neighbours and friends in the area.

11. David Cavanagh gave an update on local planning and facilities.

- City Plan 2030 – has been approved by ScotGov – this will be ratified at a full Council meeting on 7th November
<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=7293>
- City Plan 2040 – This is at the very early stages of development. Details of how the council will engage with people and when they can get involved in the City Plan 2040 process can be found here.
<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/35821/city-plan-2030-dps-2024>
- Barratt/David Wilson Homes and the Catchelraw Trust have submitted an application for Planning Permission in Principle (**24/01525/ PPP**) for a proposed residential and commercial development at Frogston Road East. 933 comments, of which 897 were objections, were submitted. The Association submitted an objection to the application. The application is still awaiting assessment.
- Northfield House Hotel – Developers applied for permission to build a 100 person student accommodation block. This was rejected by the council but overturned on appeal by the Scottish government. After repeated arson attacks, the building was demolished and stands derelict. No building work has commenced.
- Liberton Hospital – an Information Forum has been established to consider, comment on and shape the regeneration proposals for the old Liberton Hospital site. A meeting of the forum was held on 13th June 2024. The next stage will be the preparation of a PAN.
- Liberton Brae/Kirk Brae Junction – ongoing dialogue with City of Edinburgh Council about this junction. Numerous issues, including pavement parking at pinch points, lack of full pedestrian crossing light sequences. This is the only junction in Edinburgh South without a full pedestrian crossing sequence
- Kirk Brae pedestrian crossing – is now in place and greatly appreciated.
- Mayfield Road closure – is near completion and it is proposed that the road will reopen in December 2024
- Liberton High School – construction is underway

Facilities

- Alnwickhill pavement update – the Craigmillar Trust have now agreed that they are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the pavement and have sent an agent out to carry out an assessment.
- Liberton Park football changing rooms – Rosie Carmichael and Tom Fitzgerald contacted David Meadows of Balfour Beattie, following a meeting with Edinburgh South Community Football Club. It was suggested that rather than removing the cabins, they be refurbished to provide usable changing rooms, and therefore it would be preferable to have a cash contribution to this initiative.

- Hedges on north side of Liberton Drive- a request to the Council has been submitted for the persons responsible for leasing the adjacent land to cut back the hedges
- Crash Barriers on Liberton Brae – need refurbishment/repainting following their replacement 4-5 years ago. A request has been submitted to the Council.

12. Margaret Collingwood presented the new version of the booklet 'Aboon the Kirk'.

The first edition of 'Aboon the Kirk', was produced in 2020 to mark the centenary of Liberton becoming part of Edinburgh. The booklet describes places of interest in the area which can also be combined into walks.

The third edition is now complete with additions such as Mortonhall House and the WWII gun emplacements.

A donation of £1.20 per booklet was requested to cover the printing costs. If you would like a copy of the booklet, please contact the Secretary. Booklets will also be available from Liberton Kirk.

In association with the booklet the committee have now completed the associated video of Liberton from the Sky.

13. Q&A

Q&A included.

1. Do the Association members attend the Committee meetings? – it was explained the meetings usually include the Committee members with invited guests where required for advice or information. The Committee always welcome items for discussion and are available by email or if you see us out and about.
2. The path at Stanedykehead, beyond the houses, is full of potholes – the road is private land and the responsibility of the Mortonhall Estate. The committee will contact the agents to request that the road be repaired.
3. Liberton Tower update – Liberton Tower which is owned by the Craigmillar Trust has now been leased for 25 years to Lord Tankerville (Peter Bennett). The Committee has no knowledge of the contents of the lease, but they have had information from Lord Tankerville that he intends to refurbish the Tower and spend time there.
4. Flooding and damage to Ellens Glen Road – the culvert has collapsed and needs to be replaced/repaired, there is some question as to

whom will be responsible to the costs of the work, it is suggested that local residents may have to cover some of the costs. Councillor Cameron informed us that the council are having problems finding a contractor who is willing/able to carry out the work.

14. AOB – none to report

15. Showing of the Video associated with 'Aboon the Kirk'

David Cavanagh gave the background to the video and along with Margaret Collingwood provided the script. He thanked Lee Simpson the aerial photographer, Iain Stirling the narrator and Cameron Howell the editor for their contributions. The video was well received and enjoyed by those present.

David explained that there is a lot of unused footage of the area available which can be available on request.

The video is now available on YouTube <https://youtu.be/SZ10eeFBI7s>

16. The President opened the meeting for Q&A. There were no further questions.

17. The President closed the meeting and thanked all those present for attending and participating.