

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON 16  
JULY 2025 AT THE OPEN DOOR**

**Present**

Office Bearers Alastair Webb (AW) (Chair), Caroline McKinley (CM) (Secretary), Goff Cantley (Planning Officer), Carol Duncan (Engagement Officer), Theo Spanellis (Treasurer)

Members Moira Gibson, John Robson, Callum McLeavy, Tamsin Kilgour, Iain Meiklejohn

Ex officio members Cllr Neil Ross

**Apologies**

Ken Harvey, Serena Naismith, Jennifer Scarce

**1. Opening remarks**

AW thanked all present for attending and thanked members and regular attendees at meetings for their support during the year. He explained that this was the first time that an AGM had been held with the new office bearers who were still getting up to speed on their roles and responsibilities.

**2. Annual Report from the Chair and Secretary**

The Reports (appendix 1 to these minutes) was approved by members. AW and CM briefly went through some of the highlights.

**3. Annual Accounts**

The Statement of Accounts for 2024/2025 are attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes. There being no questions, members approved the Statement for submission to the City Council.

## **Appendix 1**

### **MCC Chair AGM Report 2025**

- The initial point to emphasise is that, under Willie Black's leadership, MCC has consistently served as a safe environment for the discussion of local matters.
- A notable example from the past year includes the two sessions held with the developer concerning the Post Office redevelopment plans. These meetings were well attended and marked by constructive and respectful dialogue, which led to significant modifications to the proposed plans. While it is understood that consensus is not always achievable, these discussions ensured that community members had the opportunity to express their concerns and be heard.
- Morningside benefits in many respects, particularly in the positive relationship we share with our local councillors (Cllrs Ross, Parker, Munro, and Watt). They are diligent in following up on council-related queries raised by residents, keeping the community informed, and making considerable efforts to minimise party politics in local affairs. Given the complexity of council operations—often shaped by factors beyond immediate control—our councillors play a crucial role in helping the community navigate these challenges and advocate effectively for local priorities.

### **Looking Ahead**

- There are, initially, organisational matters to address, including supporting new Community Councillors as they familiarise themselves with banking procedures, website management, and related responsibilities. It has been encouraging to witness members actively contributing to these essential tasks.
- Going forward, we will continue to prioritise being a safe forum for open discussion, finalise our place plan to ensure planning rules align with both resident aspirations and future developments, and seek ways to improve coordination between the council's daily activities and the needs of the community. By doing so, we hope to foster greater engagement and participation at our meetings.

### **AGM Secretary Report**

We have 13 elected members, a new chair, secretary, treasurer, IT support and engagement officer.

We send out minutes of our meetings to:

Circa 100 local residents

We also post on:

- Our Website
- Facebook – our page and I Love Morningside
- Noticeboards in the local area

We plan to have 10 meetings a year and everyone is welcome to attend

Our constitution and map of the area we cover are on our website

### **Nominated Groups**

At present we do not have any nominated groups – we would like to have some form local organisations – school PTA, trader association etc – ACTION – to approach. We can up to 7

Local interest groups must first apply to be registered with the City of Edinburgh Council. The approved forms will be available from the City of Edinburgh Council.

Registration for community council purposes will be accepted from any local interest group provided it complies with the following criteria:

- The organisation must be a voluntary group that has been in operation for at least 12 months prior to the notice of election.
- The organisation must be a properly constituted group with a publicly available constitution, the objects of which explains how it provides services for public benefit not restricted to its members.
- The organisation must have a committee that (after the first year) is elected at an AGM and has a minimum of three members.

#### **Community Engagement**

- We regularly consult with our local community and are currently developing an LPP via a subgroup of people who are nominated members of the CC.
- We have currently put out a survey where we received 206 responses – this covered feedback on various items such as sense of community, leisure facilities, distinctive architecture, impact of climate change.
- We also consulted with the local primary school via their eco committee and received amazing drawings and feedback on what their favourite places are in Morningside.
- We also consulted with the senior school via a survey and received 231 responses, this was in partnership with – AACT.
- We plan to run more consultation activity in the autumn to complete this process for the LPP


## Appendix 2: Annual Accounts 2024/2025

**Morningside Community Council**  
**Annual statement of accounts**  
For the period from 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025

	2024/25	2023/24
<b>Receipts</b>		
Accounting and legal fees	-	-
Bank charges	-	-
CC administrative allowance	2,775.00	-
Community Projects	-	-
Employee clearing account	-	-
Flyers and promotion	-	-
Other income	500.00	-
Reimbursement for payments	-	-
Rent	-	-
Subscriptions	-	-
To pay by check	-	-
<b>Total — Receipts</b>	<b>3,275.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Less: Payments</b>		
Accounting and legal fees	-	100.00
Bank charges	4.25	-
CC administrative allowance	-	-
Community Projects	-	860.00
Employee clearing account	-	-
Flyers and promotion	658.80	-
Other income	-	-
Reimbursement for payments	1,598.00	398.52
Rent	150.00	688.00
Subscriptions	40.00	40.00
To pay by check	-	-
<b>Total — Payments</b>	<b>2,451.05</b>	<b>2,086.52</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>823.95</b>	<b>(2,086.52)</b>
Cash at the beginning of the period	643.57	2,730.09
<b>Cash at the end of the period</b>	<b>1,467.52</b>	<b>643.57</b>

Treasurer: THEODOROS SPANELIS  
Reviewed and approved: 01/07/2025

Independent Examiner: LISBETH CRAIG (Chartered Accountant)  
Reviewed and approved: 10/07/2025

  
Lisbeth Craig