

Minutes of New Town & Broughton Community Council's annual general meeting, held at Broughton St Mary's church on Monday 9 June 2025 at 7pm

Actions and decisions are RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS. *ND* ('no dissent') means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision.

URLs have been added by the minutes secretary.

Actions (to be omitted from online version)

Item	Actor	Action
3.f	B Ryan	Get login details for Nextdoor account set up for NTBCC
6	B Ryan	Set up necessary convenor email addresses, and enable convenors to access them, as well as enabling new office bearers to access those addresses.

Items 1 to 4 were chaired by P Williamson, item 5 by B Ryan, item 6 and the following ordinary meeting by P Williamson.

1 Welcome and apologies

1.a Attendance

Fiona Banatvala	NTBCC	Joe McAdam	NTBCC	Peter Williamson	NTBCC
Michael Birch	NTBCC	Susan MacInnes	NTBCC	Cllr Jo Mowat	City centre ward
Pierre Forissier	NTBCC	Richard Price	NTBCC	Cllr Jack Caldwell	Leith Walk ward
Stephen Hajducki	NTBCC	Nicholas Reid	NTBCC	Alan McIntosh	<i>Broughton Spurtle</i>
Shaun Hodge	NTBCC	David Renton	NTBCC	At least 3 residents/visitors	
Simon Holledge	NTBCC	Vanessa Roëves	NTBCC		
Ken Lochrie	NTBCC	Gerald Wells	NTBCC		

1.b Apologies

Stuart McAllister NTBCC | Cllr Hal Osler Stockbridge and Inverleith ward

2 Formal approval of [2024 AGM minutes](#)

- Accepted as-is (proposed M Birch, seconded D Renton, *ND*)
- It was noted that updates to CEC licensing software are not yet in place.

3 Annual reports

The points below should be read in conjunction with the linked reports.

3.a [Chair](#) (P Williamson)

- NTBCC deals with a lot of items.
- Its walkabouts have value – it looks forward to more of these.
- NTBCC needs to engage more effectively with its community. Communications with residents could be improved. However, community councils are among the most trusted types of organisations.
- NTBCC needs to strengthen its engagement with Edinburgh World Heritage.
- NTBCC's work is currently driven by CEC. Is this appropriate? Could it take on other topics, e.g. children/young people?
- NTBCC thanks its CEC councillors for their very positive involvement and help.
- NTBCC thanks its convenors, officers and other contributors.

3.b [Planning](#) (R Price)

- NTBCC has made ~20 submissions over the past year.
- It does not have a convenor, but takes a collaborative approach.
- NTBCC's [contact form](#) has been a route to residents' issues. It picks up issues from the weekly planning lists, by following the local review body and from the Scottish reporter, due to more appeals being submitted.
- Many short-term let applications, especially for certificates of lawfulness, are in progress.
- Experience suggests that NTBCC is not very influential on planning. It could use the 'statutory consultee' route more.

3.c [Licensing](#) (A Gaillard)

- A report will be published soon.
- A [consultation on gambling policy](#) is open to 22 June. In NTBCC's area, only one operation might be affected.
- There have been questions about the consistency admitting children and young people to licensed premises.
- There is increasing encroachment on roads by pubs etc, leading to conflict with pedestrian movement. Tables and chairs currently can only be on pavements from 9am but some premises wish to start sooner for the breakfast trade.
- There is ongoing considerable confusion over the two types of short-term letting license.
- The alcohol overprovision policy is still under consideration. However, there have been few concerning license applications in NTBCC's area this year.
- It is not possible to see Section 50 (serve alcohol on premises) applications or even completed decisions.
- Planning permission is granted to the property, while licenses are granted to individuals. This is causing some issues.

3.d [Transport and environment](#) (M Birch)

- Trams:** there is now a list of over 800 outstanding issues. CEC is now working more positively, e.g. on Elm Row.
- Active travel** – The Waverley ETRO was approved. The East Area ETRO has been deferred until September. The Broughton St/Canonmills ETRO will come to committee in 2025. CCs are not permitted to comment on ETRO reports, even if they contain errors.

- **City mobility plan:** see [report](#).
- **Traffic noise (East London St etc):** see [report](#)
- **Supported bus services:** our survey was helpful. However, what can be done to reduce the need for such subsidies?
- **Communal bin review:** NTBCC has been involved since 2021, leading to good collaboration with CEC. It's unfortunate that this hasn't continued.
- **Air pollution:** see [report](#).
- **Street cleansing:** CEC statistics show improvement but this isn't NTBCC's experience.

3.e [Culture & communities](#) (S Holledge)

- The NTBCC Culture & Communities Committee shadows the CEC Culture & Communities Committee, one of the six 'political committees' of the council.
- NTBCC has held ad hoc meetings on issues of interest to members, rather than regular committee meetings, as a reflection of the diverse content that comes to the CEC committee.
- Matters of public interest considered at both NTBCC and ad hoc meetings included firework control zones, details of the tourist visitor levy, the 'Winter Festivals' in Princes Street Gardens, management rules for public parks and greenspace, while commenting formally on the draft 'Princes Street and Waverley Valley Strategy', and the proposed installation for an extended period of the 'Big Wheel' in East Princes Street Gardens (which in line with our advice didn't happen), and the Fly Music Festival (West Princes Street Gardens).

3.f [Engagement](#) (S Holledge)

- The Engagement Plan included sections on changes under the City of Education Council Scheme and Boundary review for community councils, NTBCC's seven natural neighbourhoods, the distribution of NTBCC community councillors by street of residence, explanation of past video-conferencing and in person meetings, use of noticeboards for meeting notices, the NTBCC website, the use of X/twitter and Bluesky micro-blogging social media, residents associations and their membership of NTBCCX, walkabouts, a list of formal responses to local government consultations and deputations to council committees, engagement with other community councils and other external organisations, links to previous Engagement Plans (2020-2024) and a list of six suggestions for future engagement.
- It was suggested that NTBCC could use Instagram, facebook and [Nextdoor](#) as well as its website, X and BlueSky
 - **ACTION: B RYAN TO GET THE LOGIN DETAILS FOR AN NEXTDOOR ACCOUNT FROM A FORMER NTBCC MEMBER.**

4 [Approval of Annual Accounts for Financial Year 2024-25](#)

- NTBCC basically broke even over the financial year.
- Although the annual CEC grant did not change, NTBCC has reduced costs thanks to alternate online meetings.
- Despite this, there is concern that NTBCC might go into deficit. CEC has made no commitment around such issues. However, NTBCC may qualify for some supplementary funding this year. It could also apply for grants.
- There was discussion of which types of social media CEC uses, and whether the annual grant would change given the recent boundary changes. (NTBCC's population was reduced by the boundary change, so the grant might decrease.)

The accounts were approved as-is (proposed M Birch, seconded R Price, ND).

5 [Election of office bearers](#)

There was only one candidate for each role, apart from engagement officer: a job-share was proposed and accepted.

Self-nominations were permitted. M Birch was thanked for his work as both secretary and transport/environment convenor over the last year.

Role	Nominee	Proposer	Seconded	Outcome
<i>Chair</i>	P Williamson	G Wells	K Lochrie	Williamson elected
<i>Vice-chair</i>	R Price	R Price	P Forissier	Price elected
<i>Secretary</i>	S MacInnes	S MacInnes	P Williamson	MacInnes elected
<i>Treasurer</i>	N Reid	N Reid	M Birch	Reid elected
<i>Engagement officer</i>	F Banatvala and S Hodge	P Williamson	A Gaillard	Banatvala and Hodge elected

6 [Election of committee convenors](#)

The Engagement and communications roles were merged.

Role	Nominee	Other members
<i>Culture and communities</i>	No candidates. P Williamson will take on this role for now.	To be confirmed later
<i>Licensing</i>	A Gaillard	
<i>Planning</i>	R Price	
<i>Transport and environment</i>	M Birch	
<i>Engagement and communications</i>	F Banatvala and S Hodge	

- **ACTION: B RYAN TO SET UP NECESSARY CONVENOR EMAIL ADDRESSES, AND ENABLE CONVENORS TO ACCESS THEM, AS WELL AS ENABLING NEW OFFICE BEARERS TO ACCESS THOSE ADDRESSES.**
- There was discussion of where these roles came from, and how they might evolve.

7 [Any other business](#)

None