



## **Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting**

**held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in the Burgh Halls at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Chair Martin Crook (MC), Lyn Aitken (LA), Aileen Boyle (AB), Gill Fawcitt (GF), Brenda Galloway (BG), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Fiona Low (FL), Lesley Malone (LM), Ron Smith (RS), David Tait (DT), Verena Throp (VT), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK) and twelve members of the public.

**Apologies:** Councillor Martyn Day. Bruce McCallum

**Minutes of previous Meeting.** The minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> March previously circulated were accepted as a true record of the meeting after BG asked that the Police report be put immediately after the planning report as had happened at the meeting. JK proposed the minutes and RS seconded them.

- 1. Review and updates.** Everything is covered in the agenda.
- 2. Reports from working groups and discussion.**

**a) Planning and development.** JK gave an update on his AGM report. The Cala application is with planning at present. He sent a letter to McTaggart and Mickel. He had received a reply to his letter re the gantry on the Avon Viaduct to say that the heavy gantry would be bolted to the outside of the bridge.

He then introduced the application by McTaggart Construction for 7 Council houses and 8 flats houses at Mill Road. In January 2011 the Council registered an interest with possibly 60 houses on the site, then in the Main Issues Report 30 units were mentioned dependent on school capacity. In August 2014 planning put capacity at 30 units. The application April 2015 for 15 units. Concerns about the proposal include a clear problem because of the way the houses are sited and the layout.. The houses also have their back gardens facing on to Mill Road. Entrance is by the cul de sac at Avalon Gardens. The plan being used is out of date as one of the houses at the end of the cul de sac has an extension. He would like to see a master plan for the whole site to show its use effectively with access from Mill Road. He intends to put comments in a letter to the Council. The planning forum meets on Thursday.

MC invited comments. Paul Gavin, a resident in one of the cul de sacs, spoke on behalf of the other residents attending the meeting. TK enquired asking when the neighbour notification letter was received. It was received on the 16<sup>th</sup> April and expires on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The residents object to access to the new houses through the Avalon Gardens cul de sac. MC asked TK to comment about the process. Tk advised that as he is on WLC Planning Committee he could discuss the planning application but could provide procedural information to the community. A discussion ensued with input from JK RS and TC. TK informed the residents that because it's a Council application any decision made will go to the Scottish ministers. MC asked if there were any more questions from the floor. There were none. JK will take the matter to the Planning Forum on Thursday.

**b. Health and Social Provision.** LA attended the PPF meeting. VT stated that since then both the PPF and Community Health Partnership have been dissolved and it's not known what will be put in their place. VT asked for approval of a small sum of money to enable

a public presentation together with Smart Recovery. IK will review the budget to assess if this will be possible..

**c. Housing and Social Housing** BG commended West Lothian Council for building new Council housing in the town at Mill Road.

**d. Youth facilities, youth groups and education.** FL has prepared a full report, including school forecasts, which will be put on the LLBCC website. There was some discussion regarding school capacity and the developments at Winchburgh, and Westfield and how that impacts housing applications in Linlithgow.

**e. Communications** DT reminded everyone of the opportunity to keep on writing relevant articles for the Black Bitch magazine. The next one will highlight the Perambulation of Linlithgow Marches to be held on 10 June.

**f. Events** JK stated that former Chair, Bruce McCallum, would continue as an associate of LLBCC and maintain his support of events. The planning for the Advent Fayre is already underway.

**3. Reports.** None from the Chair. AB mentioned that she will circulate emails about training.. IK hopes to have a draft budget for approval for the May meeting. If anyone has funding requirements, please tell him as soon as possible.

MV mentioned that most of the comments submitted to West Lothian Council regarding the Review of the Community Council Scheme by LLBCC were rejected. AB clarified the situation regarding election of members of the Community Council and nominees.

Nick Davies from the floor stated that members of the public have three methods of access to West Lothian Council to raise issues prior to a decision by the Council: 1) the voluntary sector PDSPs 2) the Senior People's forum and 3) our elected representatives, the Councillors.

The Councillors had nothing to add. No police representative attended the meeting.

**AOB.** Deacon's night. It was agreed not to provide hospitality this year. MC will be the Deacon and AB My Lord.

MV mentioned the possibility of sending a letter to the Gazette to support efforts to transform the Victoria Hall. This is to be sent in the terms agreed.

RS and JK informed the meeting about the result of their meeting with the Lord Lyon regarding the town seal for use by LLBCC. This is now underway. It is to cost approximately £1,800. JK will attend the Bid meeting to discuss the offer of £1,000 funding from them and apply for a special project grant to West Lothian Council of £750.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Brenda Galloway

Minute Secretary 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015.