

**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
Tuesday, 24th September 2013 held in the Burgh Halls**

Present: Chair – Bruce McCallum (BM), Lyn Aitken (LA), Eddy Cornock (EC), Clive Dyson (CD), Nick Davis (ND), Debbie Dow (DD), Brenda Galloway (BG), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Fiona Low (FL), David Tait (DT), Ron Smith (RS),

Apologies: Mike Vickers (MV), Aileen Boyle (AB), Jack Thompson (JT), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor Martyn Day (MD), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK).

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Previously circulated - approved as a true record of the meeting of Tuesday 27th August 2013. Proposed FL, Seconded CD.

1. Matters arising not on the agenda

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda.

2. Report from Working Groups – Development and Planning

The Miller Homes development of 14 houses on East Mill Road, Linlithgow Bridge is at an advanced stage within the planning process. The contribution to support affordable housing will be paid to the Housing Department of West Lothian Council.

The application for a development at Burghmuir is likely to be heard by the whole council, meeting as a planning committee. No date has yet been set. A presentation by Gladman Developments with regard to a proposed development at Clarendon Farm is to be made to the Planning Forum on 26th September. No planning application has been made.

A planning application for two wind turbines at Knock Farm, Bathgate (0599/FUL/13) was discussed. Although not in the LLBCC area it does border the LLBCC area and would have a significant environmental impact on parts of the LLBCC area. It was decided to oppose this application on the grounds that the current Local Plan does not include the Bathgate Hills as a suitable site for industrial scale wind turbines and to approve this application would set a precedent.

Action JK

A proposal to accept and abide by the Constitution of the Linlithgow Planning Forum (previously circulated) was proposed by CD and seconded by DT. The Community Council unanimously accepted the proposal.

A second meeting of the Linlithgow Planning Forum and Craig McCorriston (CM), Planning Services Manager has been scheduled for 26th September.

3. Report from Working Groups – Health & Social Provision

CD reported that an article was submitted for publication in the Black Bitch. CD stated that the group practice accommodated in Peel House felt that their accommodation compromised the full support which could be given to the community. It was reported that the single doctor practice felt that his accommodation was adequate. NHS Lothian is responsible for assessing all buildings in the Lothian area.

Members attending the public meeting to discuss St John's Hospital held in Burgh Halls on 28th August 2013 reported on assurances given by Dr David Farquharson, NHS Lothian Medical Director, that NHS Lothian were currently dealing with a number of challenges resulting from changes in doctor training protocols and the availability of junior doctors for out-of-hours cover. Emergency medicine in particular faced difficulties in common with other Health Board areas in recruitment to middle grade posts. However, a new A&E model was being trialled at St John's and activity overnight was being monitored. Clinical fellows have been recruited from abroad and all rotas at St John's are secure. Transport problems were raised and discussed.

CD stated that the Health and social provision group had got off to a good start with 4 members of the group.

4. Report from Working Groups – Housing & Social Housing

Housing was the main topic of debate for this Community Council meeting. IK reported on a meeting of the Housing Group on 23rd August. The group considered statistics obtained from Jim McEwan, Development Manager Housing, WLC which showed 533 council house sales in L&LB since 1980. A query was made concerning the 28 properties sold in Linlithgow Bridge which appeared to show an underreporting. It appeared that there were no current plans by WLC for any council house construction or encouragement of other social housing in L&LB. It was unanimously agreed that this situation was unsustainable with examples of people working in low paid occupations in L&LB having to live elsewhere, commonly towns in the Falkirk Council area. Many young people leave L&LB because they are unable to buy or rent in L&LB. A number of actions were requested of the group.

1. To confirm the current housing policy of WLC with regard to L&LB.
2. To confirm the age profile of those on the WLC waiting list with L&LB as their first choice.
3. To ascertain potential sites for social housing for 10 – 20 units.
4. To obtain from WLC their current asset holding in L&LB particularly land.
5. To investigate the potential of establishing a Housing Association or joining with a Housing Association to provide Social Housing.
6. To ascertain the total sum of money raised by WLC in asset sales in L&LB since 1996 including "inherited income" from previous asset sales. To determine the extent of planned asset sales in L&LB.
7. To ascertain the total sum of money received from "developer contributions" since 1996.

8. To establish whether funds/land is available for social housing

Action Housing & Social Housing Group

5. Report from Working Groups – Youth & Education

FL reported a meeting at the Academy at the beginning of October to discuss pupil involvement in Community matters. It was recognised that pupils in the 4th year have a potential involvement of not exceeding two years and therefore it was suggested that year 3 be targeted. There are two places on the Community Council for those aged between 14 and 16.

The current situation with regard to the proposed developments at Westfield is that the smaller development (Nursery site) is unlikely to proceed until an acceptable sewerage disposal scheme is approved by SEPA. The developer Baywater (Isle of Man) Ltd, the organisation given planning permission for the development of the larger scheme on land at the former Westfield Mill, was dissolved in 2010. There is uncertainty therefore on the implications for Academy numbers.

6. Report from Working Groups – Communication

DT made the suggestion that the November edition of the Black Bitch has a photo of Community Council members elected to serve from November 2013 with a very brief bio. The Black Bitch has an agreement with the photography department at Napier University. It was agreed that a photographer be invited to the next Community Council meeting (29th October). The next article for the Black Bitch was suggested to be Planning.

Action DT

7. Report from Working Groups – Events

1. Remembrance Day Parade. ND reported that all permissions had been obtained. The permission was conditional on 8 stewards being present. Still to confirm were the Reed Band, Deacons Court (stewards), and those schools laying a wreath. ND is liaising with St Michaels Church.

Action ND

2. Advent Fayre. Advent Fayre meeting was scheduled for 26th September. Full report at the October meeting.

Action JK

8. Reports – Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Councillors

EC reported that funds amounted to £1527.82. EC did not stand for re-election and this is his last meeting. EC was previously on Linlithgow Bridge Community Council for many years. BM warmly thanked EC on behalf of the Community Council for his service to the Community over many years and wished him well with his new granddaughter in Ibiza.

Ian Kelly was proposed as Treasurer by CD and seconded by BM. The proposal was unanimously approved. Forms need to be completed.

Action JK

BM notified members of the Senior Peoples Forum on 10th October (1 – 4pm Howden Park Centre Livingston).

The Secretary's report was circulated prior to the meeting. The three main items are summarised as:

1. Members have received a letter from Lorraine McGrorty notifying them that they have been duly elected a member of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council for the four-year period to September/October 2017. The Community Council will number 13 elected members following the inaugural meeting on 26th November.
2. The Common Good Fund is held by WLC for the benefit of Linlithgow. Further information is to be sort.

Action JK

3. Information arrives on a regular basis for the attention of the Secretary. Information relates to for example: the voluntary sector, health, Scottish Government consultations, WLC consultations, road closure notices, West Lothian Association of Community Council notices. A means has to be found to satisfactorily deal with or respond to this information.

There were no other reports.

9. AOB

1. CD expressed concern over the stabbing incident at the Old Hole in the Wall. A report to be requested from the Police.

Action JK

2. ND made the Community Council aware of a number of events next year in which Linlithgow has a part to play:
 - a. Bannockburn Live 28/30th June one of the main events of the Year of Homecoming Scotland 2014
 - b. A key event of the John Muir Festival (14 to 22 April 2014) is the opening of the John Muir Trail, a new recreational route running between John Muir's birthplace in Dunbar and Helensburgh. (the main route by-passes Linlithgow going along the foreshore of the Forth but an alternative easier route does branch off to go through Linlithgow).
 - c. The Ryder Cup – Gleneagles September 2014.
3. RS advised members regarding the proposed pavement mosaic portraying both sides of the ancient burgh seal of Linlithgow (St Michael and the Black Bitch) to be installed outside County Buildings. The Lord Lyon's permission is required. The Community Council wishes to pursue the Grant of Arms with regard to both the 'Black Bitch' and 'St Michael' Coats of Arms formerly borne by Linlithgow

Town Council, either separately or in combination. Confirmation of who currently “owns” the right to reproduce the burgh seal is still awaited from the Lord Lyon. The Town Management Group is minded to make a contribution towards the cost of registration.

Action RS

4. CD stated that other projects, for example, the marches stones were being funded by the Town Management Group Special Projects Fund.
5. As some members were finding it difficult to make a 7pm start it was decided that all future Community Council meetings would commence at 7.30pm with a 9pm finish.

Action JK

10. Close

The meeting closed at 20.55

John Kelly

Secretary.

E-Mail: secretary@lbcc.org.uk

Diary Dates:

Dates for Community Council meetings are:

2013

29th October

26th November – inaugural meeting

17th December

2014

28th January

25th February

25th March

29th April – AGM

27th May

24th June

26th August

23rd September

28th October

25th November

16th December