



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on Tuesday 28th March 2017 in the Burgh Halls at 7.30pm.**

(1) Present: John Kelly (JK) (in the Chair), Pamela Barnes (PB), Ian Kelly (IK), Maire McCormack (MM), Des Martin (DM), Scott Oliver (SO), Ron Smith (RS), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor David Tait (DT), Police Scotland – Andrew Murray (AM) and Neil Drummond (ND), Craig Turnbull – *Linlithgow Gazette* and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Martin Crook (MC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Fiona Low (FL), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Conn (TC).

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted.

(2) Minutes of previous meeting on Tuesday 28th February 2017.

These were approved; proposed by SO and seconded by DM.

(3) Actions from March meeting not covered elsewhere in Agenda.

PB and RS reported on the Pedal for Scotland meeting held in the Burgh Halls on 1 March 2017 – it was considered that the meeting had been generally positive. In response to concerns which had been expressed, Pedal for Scotland was looking at allowing right turns into and from Blackness Road at the Low Port roundabout, two-way traffic over Linlithgow Bridge and in High Port, and possibly one-way traffic along Edinburgh Road as far as the Philpstoun turn-off. TK reported that letters were to be sent to affected residents along Edinburgh Road.

With regard to the West Lothian Association of Community Councils, JK reported that Lorraine McGrorty of West Lothian Council has circulated an email to all community councils to establish whether there is support for re-establishing the WLACC, albeit in a different format. It is suggested that rather than holding monthly meetings in the evening, it could be re-formed as an annual or bi-annual conference on a Saturday. Current topics of common interest could be discussed at the conferences and community councils would be given the opportunity to share their ideas and experiences. If parallel workshops were offered, it would allow community council members to participate in a variety of different subjects at each event. Views are requested by Friday 28th April 2017.

Action JK

(4) Spotlight Sessions

4a. Membership of Groups – Information on membership of sub-groups and affiliated groups was tabled and had been previously circulated. It was agreed that MM would join the Development & Planning Group and both PB and MM would join the Communications Group. There was some discussion of the difficulties experienced in sustaining a level of interest from school pupils and staff; TK suggested a formal link between the Academy and the Community Council whereby, every session, a pupil in a particular year could formally represent the Academy on the Community Council. PB agreed to raise this possibility.

Action PB

4b. Planning – (a) General Update. JK reported, having tabled and previously circulated. his Planning Report.

Planning application for conversion of office to 3 flats at Stuart House, 181-201 High Street, Linlithgow – It was agreed that the Community Council would object to this application on the grounds that partial conversion of the office accommodation to residential use was unacceptable (as opposed to a more satisfactory complete conversion) and that the roof windows were too large and out of character with the surrounding buildings in the Conservation Area. **Action JK**

Templars Court – JK reported that he had received no reply from the Council’s planning staff to his enquiry about progress towards the construction of the High Street frontage of the McCarthy & Stone development – he would follow this up. **Action JK**

Parkhead Holdings – Two members of the public expressed strong concerns about alleged breaches of the terms of planning permission and unauthorised development in connection with the development of a large house at Parkhead Holdings which had originally received planning permission contrary to officer’s recommendation. TK informed the meeting that a retrospective application for greatly increasing the height of an outbuilding (on the ‘delegated list’) was likely to be considered by the next meeting of the Planning Committee in April. It was agreed that the Community Council would write to West Lothian Council to express its concerns about the situation. **Action JK**

Places, People & Planning – JK reported that the Community Council’s response to this Scottish Government consultation had been sent.

Planning Forum – There had been no meeting of the Planning Forum since the last Community Council meeting.

4b. Planning – (b) Community Engagement – Deferred to next meeting.

4c. Event to Receive the New Town Coat of Arms – JK reported that MC had arrangements well in hand for this event, as per information which was tabled and had been previously circulated. The event would take place at 7.30pm on 18th April in the Burgh Halls and would be attended by the Lord Lyon King of Arms and other honoured guests. **Action MC**

4d. Local Election Hustings – TK reported that the customary election hustings meeting, organised by Linlithgow churches, would be held in St Michael’s Kirk Hall on 30 April 2017.

4e. Edinburgh Airport Flightpath Consultation – JK reported on the public meeting held in Livingston on 20th March 2017. The main points were that the Airport had produced no statement of need and that the true effects of over-flying would not be known until the new routes were in use (ie no trials were intended). Fiona Hyslop MSP had asked questions, supplied by JK, at a meeting at Edinburgh Airport, but the Airport was still unwilling to address the question of ‘need’.

(5) Reports

5a. There were no reports from the Chairman, Secretary or from the councillors present. The Treasurer confirmed that there had been no change in the finances since the previous meeting.

5b. Police Scotland Update – AM and ND reported that there had been a serious assault in the Crown public house – the alleged perpetrator was to appear in Court. Two properties had been raided for drugs and enquiries were continuing into some housebreakings. An eviction from a house in The Vennel was imminent. Off-road motorcycles and quad-bikes were proving to be a problem on the recently upgraded canal tow path eastwards to, and on, the Philpstoun bings; closure of a car park was being considered as a possible remedy and discussions were under way with Hopetoun Estates and Scottish Canals. A monthly ‘Community Policing Surgery’ was planned on Saturday mornings in the Council’s small office at Guyancourt Vennel.

(6) Any Other Business and Questions from the Floor – MM raised the problem of pigeon droppings under railway bridges. DT stated that neither Network Rail or West Lothian Council would take responsibility for preventing this nuisance.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Ron Smith
29th March 2017