

Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 24th June 2014 held in the Burgh Halls.

Present: Chair Bruce McCallum (BM) Lyn Aitken (LA) Brenda Galloway (BG) Ian Kelly (IK) John Kelly (JK) Ron Smith (RS) David Tait (DT) Jack Thompson (JT) Verena Throp (VT) Police Scotland – Peter Robertson (PT) Councillor Tom Kerr (TK) and two members of the public.

Apologies: Aileen Boyle (AB) Debbie Day (DD) Fiona Low (FL) Mike Vickers (MV) Councillor Tom Conn, Councillor Martyn Day

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council for Tuesday 27th May 2014.

The minutes were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by LA and seconded by JK.

2. Police Report. PR reported that the policing of the Marches and Gala Day both passed without incident. There had been 4- break ins to shops in Linlithgow High Street in the last month, 2 at the beginning of the month and 2 last week. As all happened at night, there were few witnesses around. Currently the CCTV needs to be repaired as only part of the system works and there is no money budgeted for repairs. Questions were raised regarding reports on social media re local thefts. No reports of this had been received by the police. There was a request to review road closures for the Gala Day procession. There have been no developments in the housebreakings in April. The community was reminded to involve neighbours at holiday times to avoid homes looking empty.

3. Reports from working Groups.

- i) **Planning and Development.** A letter had been sent on behalf of the CC objecting to the Cala application. The Main Issues Report has now come out. The land that Cala are interested in is to be designated for housing and not light industrial use. There are also proposals for John Kerr's farm; Clarendon farm and Preston farm are to be designated for housing, and the Council ground at Mill Road for Council Housing. The Council does not see large housing developments going ahead while infrastructure problems remain. The Consultation is not due to start until August. The Planning Committee are to be pro-active in the consultation and try to have a joint meeting with the CCs affected by the Linlithgow Academy catchment area as all issues centre on this. JK attended the Kettilstoun presentation where the plans showed development to the north and south of Brookfield Metals. Comments made were that this is near the site of the Battle of Linlithgow Bridge, and a flood plain, and near former sand and gravel excavations. Several hundred houses would be built, but this is not included in the Main Issues Report or a designated site for housing. The Burghmuir appeal is to be held in the Burgh Halls on 16th July starting at 10am. JK has submitted a statement on behalf of the CC, and said he will attend and submit papers. Burghmuir has not been included in the Main Issues Report. Gladman have lodged an appeal against refusal of the Clarendon application. A member of the public asked about housing approvals in the town. He was told that there were only the Miller homes currently being built near Sainsbury, and the provision for 30 Council Houses in Mill Road. There is not yet a planning application for the Council Houses, but Councillor Tom Conn has reportedly said that the

scheme is within the current tender going out in September. The member of the public queried the problems of infrastructure restraints and this was clarified.

- ii) **Health and Social Provision.** Nothing further has been heard regarding Linlithgow Health Centre. The CC's Public Consultation regarding issues of Mental Health is going ahead on 11th September. Everything is in hand, including the flyers, and an official invitation for specific health care professionals. Some will be speaking. VT is giving a talk on eating disorders on Thursday 26th June at LYPP with LA attending from the CC, and another speaker.
- iii) **Housing and Social Housing.** An article appeared in the Black Bitch magazine awaiting feedback. None to date. The Mill Road situation is changing the position.
- iv) **Youth Facilities.** In Fiona's absence DT reported that the further education places had increased. JK commented that this related to work placements for more vulnerable students and had resulted in some taking further education places and one taking part-time work. The development of Interact was progressing. £1,000 had been raised at the Gala Day BBQ.
- v) **Communications.** DT is trying to get a regular article from the CC in the Black Bitch Magazine. The last issue had one from Police Scotland and the Housing article. The flyer re the Health consultation was next with possibly an accompanying article. He hopes to have a spotlight session to review communications, particularly as the CC is tasked to gather opinions from the public and relay it. There has been no feedback on the Housing article to date. The Black Bitch is setting up a website to enable better feedback.
- vi) **Events.** BM reported on the Marches and Gala day. IK and his wife represented the CC at the Gala day. Shortly preparations will need to begin for Remembrance (9th November) and the Advent Fayre (29th November) specifically road closure permissions, and permission to take a voluntary donation for the Fayre. The Rugby Club have offered their facilities free of charge for the starting and end points for the Remembrance parade as the Longcroft Hall is no longer adequate for the sizeable parade which now takes place. The question of charging for the torches at the Advent Fayre was raised in view of the greater numbers of people attending. Bands were also discussed with TK recommending the West Lothian Schools Pipe band. He is to provide contact details. He stated that there had only been one complaint of noise at the end of the Marches Dance.
- vii) **Christmas Lights** TK stated that there will be information regarding this for the next CC monthly meeting.

4. **Chairman's report.** BM and IK represented the CC at the Deacon's night and the Riding of the Marches. The total cost for the hall hire and hospitality for this year's Marches was £227.28. IK represented the CC at the Gala Day with his wife. It was held outside for the first time in some years.

Secretary's report. The review of CCs by West Lothian Council and comments and feedback. The secretary suggested a possible meeting for this for 29th July 2014. Feedback on noise under the Anti- social Behaviour Act 2005 for Linlithgow wards shows Linlithgow tied bottom for complaints with Broxburn and Winchburgh making them the most peaceful places to live. DT raised the issue of review of CCs by West Lothian Council. MV can't attend the WLC Association meeting on Thursday. The meeting is unrepresentative with not many CCs attending

Treasurer's Report. IK reported that the Bank Balance is currently £1,806.97. He has received the CC grant from West Lothian Council of £1,197 including £35 for registration with the information Commissioner. He asked to be refunded the cost of the Deacon's night. BM proposed this and DT seconded. After this is paid there will be £1,679.19 in the bank. The CC received £675 special project grant from West Lothian Council towards the tourist leaflet describing and illustrating the perambulation route and the CC is due to pay £750 for this. The Council require an invoice.

Discussion re proposed budget. There is still a refund due of £700 for bands at the Advent Fayre. IK proposed the draft budget RS seconded.

The arranging of the new Coat of Arms with the Lord Lyon's office is still in progress. The Old Town Council had two, and a decision has to be taken as to how best to use these. The TMG is giving £1,000 towards the cost of this.

JT raised the issue of the detailed accounts showing more information and stated that the minutes should record the approval of accounts. JT highlighted specifically the items relating to the Deacon's night in 2013. IK replied that he became Treasurer in September 2013 and recording of the costs of last year's Deacon's night happened under the previous Treasurer. JT stated that the accounts should be displayed publicly and he hadn't seen this. JT stated that the CC Constitution stated that accounts should be audited by two people not members of the CC approved by the CC. The previous auditor was Philip Bald of the A9 partnership. IK stated that Philip Bald had left the A9 Partnership to set up in business on his own but had been willing to continue auditing the CC accounts on a pro bono basis. IK informed CC that he had recently left the A9 Partnership to join Philip Bald but that this had occurred after the preparation of the 2013/4 accounts.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Brenda Galloway
Minute Secretary
26th June 2014.