

## **Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in the Burgh Halls.**

**Present:** Chair: Bruce McCallum (BM), Lyn Aitken (LA) Aileen Boyle (AB) Martin Crook (MC) Brenda Galloway (BG) John Kelly (JK) Ron Smith (RS) David Tait (DT) Verena Throp (VT) Mike Vickers (MV) Councillor Tom Conn (TC) Councillor Tom Kerr (TK) Constable Alan Murray (AM)

**Apologies:** Gill Fawcitt (GF) Fiona Low (FL) Ian Kelly (IK) Lesley Malone (LM) Councillor Martyn Day (MD)

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 previously circulated, were corrected, as follows, i) LA was not at the meeting, ii) DT did not make the comments regarding water and drainage attributed to him under item 5 'Planning and Development'. Once corrected the minutes were approved.

- 1. Review and updates:** Everything is covered in the agenda.
- 2. Formal approval of Lesley Malone as a co-opted member.** AB confirmed that final confirmation has been received from West Lothian Council. AB has started to draft the annual report to circulate to members. The AGM will be held in the Education Room at the Burgh Halls, Linlithgow on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015. **Action AB.**
- 3. Updates from Working Groups**
  - a) **Planning and Development.** JK provided a written report. A discussion was held on the objections to be made to the retail development application at the Edinburgh Road. The area in question is designated for housing in the Main Issues Report, but the group consider that a better use would be for parking for commuters. TC suggested that LLBCC write to Network Rail highlighting issues with regard to car parking. Previously it was suggested that 174 spaces should be provided, and the applicant stated that the railway operators accepted that there was insufficient car parking at the station. **Action JK.**

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of access of service delivery vehicles to the site and relevant size of vehicles (eg 14 feet). This may be a key question at committee stage.

JK stated that there was no movement regarding Burghmuir or Clarendon. TK stated that at the Cala site for 49 housing units it was proposed to form a new T junction. This has been subject to stage 1 audit and approved, no roundabout will be provided. It was commented that the current west roundabout into Springfield doesn't slow traffic and any east roundabout would need to be better designed in order to achieve this. There was further discussion regarding the need to slow the speed of vehicles entering the town from the east, this included BM's comment that people's safety takes precedence over expense, and MV's comment that the developers had a problem, as there would be two access roads to the main road to the motorway if the application goes ahead as it is.

**JK** raised the issue of the contents of an e-mail he had received regarding the size of the gantry being used for electrification of the railway line on the Avon viaduct. The person considered it to be too intrusive and heavy. RS commented that the size of the gantries could be reduced. TC stated that the railway operators as statutory undertaker can decide on the size. **Action JK to send a letter.**

Finally the Local Development Plan new scheme is out. The draft is due in the autumn/winter of 2015, with implementation in 2017. LA mentioned that the Star & Garter Hotel had put in an application for 3 eco-pods (3 small rooms). JK mentioned the application for Greig's the bakers to have external seating at the Regent Centre.

TK informed the meeting that of all the planning applications which had been called in by government ministers, one in East Lothian and one in Dalkeith Road have been approved (ie. 2 of the 8 called in.)

BM raised the issue of one of the local Barber's desire for larger premises, and the problem of the stance for a travelling fish-van. TK and TC gave input on both issues.

**3.b. Health and Social Provision.** LA stated that she and VT had met Ruth McCabe the representative of Alzheimers Scotland. Ruth wants to raise Alzheimers' profile locally in various ways. They are already involved in one Dementia Café, and would like to start another. The one they have is well received and attended. Alzheimers are looking for help with their local initiatives. AB commented that the subject would be a relevant article for the Black Bitch magazine as we want to link in with the issue of dementia based on the Public Consultation hosted in September 2014. VT commented that they're trying to integrate people with mild to moderate dementia in the community as this is a friendly town. AB asked for an addition from LLBCC to the article. VT stated that there were links with more activities for these people, she also drew LLBCC's attention to the changes in Linlithgow Health Centre's catchment boundaries. There will be just the one practice from the end of April. VT has had a meeting with the health chiefs CHCP. There is a letter summarising this. She hopes to have a further meeting with them. There will be a Smart Recovery Café on 8<sup>th</sup> April for people with drug and alcohol problems. They have to be free of substances on the day. VT raised the issue of her proposed public talk on eating disorders and the other elements from the public consultation.. She hopes to provide costings for this and hold it in June. The topics covered will include eating disorders, self-harm, addictions and overeating. If approved, something about it could go in the Black Bitch magazine. AB will give some idea of cost to IK..

**c) Housing and Social Housing.** BG provided an outline proposal of intent and draft budget requirements. She drew attention to the welcome provision of 15 new Council houses to be built at Mill Road, Linlithgow Bridge. TC stated that the limited number was due to the fact that it was on a flood plain. RS commented that the ground level could be raised.

In the proposal JK had provided census figures for Linlithgow housing which stated that 551 Council houses remained in the town. There were 5573 households in 2011. TK asked if the breakdown of numbers given in the outline proposal for the households in the town from five person to one person households was only for Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge. JK confirmed that they were, adding that the census relies on accurate filling of the forms by the individuals taking part. He commented that the Council figures are only slightly different. DT added that the Black Bitch distribution numbers are 5,600. JK commented that the big challenge is finding West Lothian's housing policy for Linlithgow. TC explained that the policy covers West Lothian in its entirety. TK confirmed that West Lothian Council's allocations policy is the same for every area and that the Scottish Government sets out the legislation. Under the present allocation policy priority could be given to homelessness or individuals with severe medical reasons. There can be a 10 year waiting list. The new housing to be built in West Lothian depends on the availability of land and the councillors. The suggested Housing and Social Housing group budget will be discussed as part of the 2015 budget discussions. However JK is to apply for a special project funding of £750 and some of this could be used to fund the group in its research. **Action JK.**

**d) Youth facilities, youth groups and education.** No report.

**e) Events.** BM raised the question as to who will attend the Marches and Gala Day on behalf of LLBCC as he is not available this year. There will be a meeting in the Bowling Club on 14<sup>th</sup> April. RS stated that the Perambulation of the Marches is on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Permission is required to hold it. Stewards are also needed. Please contact RS if you can help. It mainly requires supervising crossing roads. There's also distribution of leaflets which have been funded by LLBCC. Leaflets will be left in the West Port Hotel function room, and LLBCC can set up a publicity table there. AB stated that IK may struggle to be involved in the Deacon's evening on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June and that others are needed to support. It is still possible to have a deacon and my Lord and not participate in the evening. TK asked if the person attended as Chair of LLBCC. BM stated that he and IK were my Lord and deacon in their own right and would require to nominate someone. It is believed that the Scout Hall was booked. BM said to leave it until the AGM. Ross McIntosh is aware of the situation. JK is to circulate info about what is involved. LLBCC can choose one of the 2 Saturdays before the Marches, it doesn't need to be the one immediately before the Marches. JK will check with the Scouts. **Action JK & BM** will sort something.

JK commented that Remembrance Sunday and the Advent Fair will need to be thought about. BM stated that the Rugby Club was booked.

**f) Communications.** The proposed application for a grant for special purposes was discussed. This is £750 maximum from West Lothian Council. **Action JK.**

**g) LLBCC governance sub-group.** Discussed a clause in the Constitution of the Community Council and that the various groups needed an outline of their structure. JK MV and MC had drawn up suggestions and JK will pass them by Lorraine McGroarty via AB. **Action AB.**

#### **4. Reports**

**Police Report.** Constable Alan Murray introduced himself, and explained that the Chief Inspector had split the response teams. Now half are community officers, and half are response officers. They have to do high visibility foot and cycle patrols. When response officers are out at an incident, the community officers will be called on as back up. A lot of tickets have been issued for parking on zig zags. AB asked who the police contact person is for LLBCC. She was informed that they were Sergeant Darren Cook and Inspector Miles Marshall. JK enquired regarding the result of the investigation into the break-ins at the businesses at Mill Road Linlithgow Bridge. He was informed that there is a dedicated housebreaking team. They don't pass on the outcome to the local officers. Constable Murray added that all places are being hit just now, including Murieston and Corstorphine. BG raised the question of the CCTV cameras which no longer function. TK replied that the Council paid for them to go up. Maintenance was the issue. Constable Murray stated that he considered CCTV cameras to be overrated. BG replied that LLBCC had been informed by the police that the Old Post Office cameras had helped to catch lead thieves, whereas the back of Tesco had lost the lead without any leads. MV asked how much cameras cost. TK replied several thousand pounds. He added that the work to get them up and running, as well as the question of who was going to monitor them, and look after them, had to be answered.

**Secretary:** AB apologised for having no report ready, but stated that most information has been circulated. Regarding the final scheme for the establishment of Community Councils in West Lothian: how Community Councils should be run, this has been issued and she will see if anything

else is needed. She raised the question of someone joining the Ineos group in place of Jack Thompson. The next meeting of the group will be in June. **Action AB.**

**Treasurer:** IK has sent in a report and draft budget. There is not too much surplus. The charge of £25 for anti-virus software was not required as the software is free. The Deacon's Court expenses are down. JK commented that the draft budget is based on historic costs i.e. last year's figures. The £240 Planning Committee costs were for the Main Issues report consultation and meetings of the committee in the Canal tea room. 12 meetings at £10 = £120, and the hire of the Burgh Halls for the public consultation. In the event there was no charge for the consultation as it was held on the same evening as the LLBCC meeting. Future meetings will be in MV's house. AB asked if we need to give views to IK regarding the draft budget. The final budget can be signed off at the next meeting. **Action IK.**

Both **Councillors** stated that they had already given their input to the meeting.

**Chair:** BM informed the meeting that he had moved jobs and was giving notice that he was standing down as Chair and as a Community Council member after 13 years' service. He would still be available to help with Remembrance and the Advent Fair. Next meeting will be his last one.

**AOB.** MV commented that the new scheme for establishing Community Councils has been in effect since 24<sup>th</sup> February. There has not been much variation. But JK, AB and MV made contributions most of which weren't implemented. LLBCC should note that proposers and seconders can't make more than one nomination.

He raised concerns about the inclusion of The West Lothian Association of Community Councils in the new scheme which is now defunct. It has been left in the scheme in case it is resurrected. There is concern about the option for Community Council to attend Council meetings but not to be heard. JK said that Community Councils can make representations to any number of bodies. If you had a representative of the Association they could attend and speak at Council meetings. The challenges of operating the WLACC were discussed and noted – recognising the different challenges across the 40 Community Councils in West Lothian. .

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Brenda Galloway

Minute Secretary

1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.