

**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting  
Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013 held in the Burgh Halls**

**Present:** Chair – Bruce McCallum (BM), Aileen Boyle (AB), Lyn Aitken (LA), Clive Dyson (CD), Nick Davis (ND), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Fiona Low (FL), David Tait (DT), Jack Thompson (JT), Verena Throp (VT), Ron Smith (RS), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK)

**Apologies:** Brenda Galloway (BG), Debbie Dow (DD), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Martyn Day (MD)

**Welcome:** The chair welcomed Aileen Boyle as a new elected member and Verena Throp to their first meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Previously circulated - approved as a true record of the meeting of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013 with a correction to AOB item 3 which should have read:

*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.*

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by IK and seconded by FL.

## **1. Matters Arising**

Minute 9.3 - further to the correction recorded above it was confirmed that the town management group would make a contribution of up to £1000 for the Grant of Arms. RS advised that no reply had been received from the Lord Lyon to his e-mails and it was agreed that a letter be sent.

**Action RS/JK**

## **2. Police Report**

No police report had been received and that there was no police representative at the meeting. JK stated that in response to a request by Inspector Jocelyn O'Connor the meeting dates for 2013 and 2014 had been advised. In response to a comment in the e-mail exchange regarding the police presence at the Partnership Centre Inspector O'Connor replied:

*The Community Officers will work out of the partnership centre and have access to meeting rooms there. Once we are clearer on time scales for opening we will look at what surgeries/reporting mechanisms we can introduce for the community. I am committed to ensuring our community policing team remains*

*accessible to the residents and businesses within Linlithgow. In the meantime please encourage your members to continue to address their concerns to Brian either by email or by phone (101).*

During the ensuing discussion relating to the duties of reception staff at the new partnership centre TC advised the meeting that the matter was currently "fluid". However, it was unlikely that CIS staff would take responsibility for police reception duties.

ND requested information on the relocation of the police instant response telephone which is currently located outside of the present police station and whether the relocated telephone would be monitored by CCTV. It was agreed that JK would write to Inspector O'Connor, regarding the points made.

**Action JK**

### **3. Development and Planning**

- a) The planning application for two wind turbines at Knock Farm Bathgate has been withdrawn.
- b) A planning application by Gladman Developments Ltd (0698/P/13) has been registered. The application is for planning permission in principle for a 6.5 ha residential development and associated engineering works and landscaping at Clarendon Farm, Linlithgow. The number of houses proposed is approximately 120. As previously decided (minute 3 of Community Council meeting 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2013) any application for a housing development before the publication of the Local Development Plan, Main Issues Report will be opposed by the Community Council on the grounds that it is premature in the context of the developing local plan, is contrary to the current local plan and will compromise other development sites potentially advantageous to the local community. In addition and with specific reference to the Clarendon Farm development concern was expressed regarding:
  - i) The proposal made at the consultation for an easterly relief road between Edinburgh Road and the southern part of Manse Road has not been included.
  - ii) The issue regarding congestion at the Manse Road canal bridge remains unresolved.
  - iii) The proposed housing mix appears different to that discussed at the public consultation in Low Port school

The principal objection and the concerns are to be communicated to West Lothian Council Planning Department.

**Action JK**

- c) A meeting of the Linlithgow Planning Forum Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013 was attended by DT, MV, JK, RS and CD. The meeting with Craig McCorrison confirmed:
- i) At the present time, the view of WLC is that the weekly list provides satisfactory compliance for the statutory requirement for a local authority to consult the Community Council.
  - ii) West Lothian has been allocated an additional 2130 houses in the SESPlan.
  - iii) No new infrastructure is currently planned for Linlithgow.

After the meeting with Craig McCorrison the planning forum received a presentation from Gladman Developments Ltd.

JT raised a concern that the responsibility of the Community Council for planning matters was being devolved to the Planning Forum. For the avoidance of doubt it was confirmed that the primary role of the Planning Forum was an opportunity to discuss planning matters of mutual interest with other organisations in the town, for example, Linlithgow Civic Trust, Transition Linlithgow, Linlithgow BID, etc. The Planning Forum as a body will not make a representation. A representation from the Community Council can only be made by the Community Council. It is accepted that organisations attending the planning forum may submit alternative or contradictory representations to West Lothian Planning Department.

JT raised an issue of possible non-compliance with the Government Reporter's decision to reject in part the appeal to enforcement notice EF/286/06 with regard to the disabled access to the Old Post Office bar/restaurant. This was reported in Community Council minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011 item 8. JT wanted to know why the Reporter's decision, that amended plans had to be submitted by August 2011, had not been complied with. It was suggested that the Community Council write to Chris Norman to ascertain the current position.

**Action JK**

#### **4. Health and Social Provision**

CD confirmed no report this month.

#### **5. Housing and Social Housing**

IK confirmed no report this month but advised that a meeting will be held before the November meeting.

**Action IK**

#### **6. Youth Facilities, Youth Groups and Education**

FL gave a report of the Linlithgow Academy Community Link (LACLink) Launch Event which included:

- Current Head, David Mackenzie will be leaving the Academy in 2014

- Work experience was judged (by pupils) too early in year 3 and should be in year 4.
- Pupils would prefer to do work experience in Linlithgow but were not aware of the opportunities. A similar comment regarding work opportunities also applied to those who wished to take a gap year.
- There is a potential opportunity to link with guidance teachers.
- Mention was made of local (volunteering) opportunities for those wishing to follow the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.
- A potential link could be formed with Ken Mackenzie, the Rotary Interact Officer.

CD suggested that the work experience element could be addressed through a Community Development Trust project.

## **7. Communications Group**

It was suggested that each group was represented on the Communications Group.

## **8. Events**

- a) Remembrance Day parade 10<sup>th</sup> November: ND reported that over 200 and possibly as many as 250 will be taking part in the Remembrance Day parade. At least 8 stewards are required. Catering is arranged for Longcroft Hall following the event.
- b) Advent Fayre 30<sup>th</sup> November: TC reported that the arrangements were progressing well. A meeting of the Events Group to deal with Advent Fayre matters is to be arranged. An entry in Linlithgow.com is required.

**Action JK**

## **9. AOB**

- a) CD reported on the activities of the Town Management Group which is becoming more project focused. There is a significant budget for projects in the coming year. CD suggested that a report of the TMG be included as an agenda item.
- b) ND reminded the Community Council that all office bearers' positions cease on 31<sup>st</sup> October. All members will have joint responsibility for office bearer roles until the inaugural meeting in November.
- c) ND introduced the Flodden 1513 Ecomuseum which is a community driven venture that links together attractions to help preserve the heritage and traditions of local communities around a central theme, in this case Flodden 1513. Linlithgow Palace is one of 32 sites which tell the wider Flodden story. More coach parties can be expected in Linlithgow. The necessary infrastructure to support this tourism needs to be assessed and provided particularly coach parking.

## **10. Close and Group Photograph**

The meeting closed at 21.00. The Community Council gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Chris Hamilton, CGH Creative Ltd in organising students from Napier University to undertake individual and group photographs of members of the incoming Community Council.

John Kelly  
Minute Secretary  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2013