



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on
Tuesday 19th December 2017 in the Burgh Halls at 19.00.**

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), Pamela Barnes (PB), Sue Friel (SF), John Kelly (JK), CJ Lambe (CJL), Maire McCormack (MMcC), Des Martin (DM), Scott Oliver (SO), Gordon Smith (GS), Ron Smith (RS), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Mike Vickers (MV), Fraser Falconer (FF), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK) Councillor David Tait (DT), and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Fiona Low (FL), Tony Harry (AH), Ian Kelly (IK), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Katherine Orr (KO), Police Scotland – Andrew Murray (AM) and Neill Drummond (ND) , Councillor Tom Conn (TC),

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Inaugural Community Council Meeting Tuesday 28th November 2017. The minutes were proposed by MV and seconded by SF and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 28th November 2017. The minutes were proposed by SO and seconded by PB accepted as an accurate record of the meeting;

3. Associate Member. Under item 7 of the Community Council Scheme, Fraser Falconer (chair of the Linlithgow Community Development Trust) was proposed as an Associate Member by RS and seconded by SF. Fraser Falconer was unanimously appointed as an Associate Member for the term of the Community Council.

4. Matters arising from November meeting. There were no matters arising from the November meeting not on the agenda.

5. Community Council Scheme, Constitution, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct: MC introduced the Scheme and asked MV to make a short presentation. MV read out the objectives in the Standing Orders emphasising that objective (b) states "to express the views of the community to the local authority for the area, to public authorities and other organisations." MV stated that he would expect a reciprocal response from West Lothian Council but this requirement is not included in any of the documents. There was a short discussion during which TK stated that the Council will always respond to correspondence from the Community Council. PB asked for training on the documents. Further discussion led to the suggestion of a Community Council "away day". This idea was proposed by MC and seconded by PB. In reality it was agreed that it would neither be "away" or a whole day. MC to organise.

Action MC

6. Reports:

- a. There was no police report.
- b. Planning: JK referred to the written report in the meeting papers and highlighted the following:
 - i. Whether the Post Office disabled ramp should be internal or external was discussed and it was concluded that an internal ramp was less practical. In the context of losing two more banks it was also concluded that the Post Office was likely to become busier. FF stated that the existence of a ramp at the Post Office was in reality a social justice question. It was pointed out that the temporary ramp meets the legal responsibility of the Post Office however MMcC believed that the Council may have failed in its statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 and suggested the

Community Council contact and seek advice from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). DT suggested that the Community Council formally write to himself with any relevant photographs and diagrams. MMcC to contact the Equality and Human Rights Commission and JK to formally write to DT.

Action JK & MMcC

- ii. JK introduced a debate on the fact that McCarthy and Stone no longer wish to construct the High Street frontage building at Templars Court as detailed in the planning permission, but instead wish to create an "urban green square" opposite the Cross. TK described a meeting between the Councillors and McCarthy and Stone at which it was suggested that repeated attempts to create vibro-compaction piling with a sufficient bearing capacity had repeatedly failed. Therefore the construction of a building was said to be impractical. The car park area is virtually complete. The preference of residents for either a frontage or no frontage building was not determined as it was reported that some residents preferred one solution and others another. RS stated that the characteristic of a Scottish Royal Burgh is a continuous frontage to the High Street and this has existed on the south side of the High Street until the demolition of the existing frontage building. It was agreed that this is a high-profile part of the centre of the town. PB and MMcC voiced a preference for a landscaped area and SF suggested a walled garden. The question of who would be responsible for the security and maintenance of the space was debated with no conclusion. MV stated that we had produced a substantial report on the Vennel and that the next stage would be a mini master plan which should include the Cross and the McCarthy and Stone site. JK will ascertain from West Lothian Council planning their current view. McCarthy and Stone will be invited to a meeting of the Planning Forum in February.

Action JK

- iii. For all other items JK referred members to the written report. An update is being sought from Craig McCorrison with regard to the Vennel redevelopment and also with regard to Winchburgh Academy. It is understood that West Lothian Council are anticipating that Winchburgh Academy will open in August 2022. The impact of this on future development within Linlithgow requires clarification.

Action JK

- c. Secretary's Report. JK referred to the written report in the meeting papers only highlighting the various traffic management notices, principally the work being undertaken at Preston road railway bridge and the gas works on Main Street, Linlithgow Bridge. It was suggested that the Community Council create a Facebook post with this information.

Action JK, SO, PRS

- d. Treasurer's Report. MC confirmed that the annual grant cheque had been received from West Lothian Council.

7. Proposed withdrawal of the L1 and 31 subsidised bus services: it was noted that the relevant PDSP meeting which included the question of bus subsidies was being held on Thursday, 21 December. MC summarised a meeting that took place with Derek Halden prior to the Community Council meeting and the following actions were agreed:

- 6th January and 13th January between 10am and 1pm a table event at the Cross to collect signatures for a petition and collecting user stories.
- 23rd January an "on the buses" event to collect signatures for a petition and also another opportunity to collect user stories.
- In addition SF reported that Camerons are willing to host a drop-in event.
- Visits to Kinloch view and Templars court are being considered.
- MC has written to other Community Councils on the route of the 31.

Action and Coordination -- bus group

8. Potential closure of the Linlithgow Recycling Centre: JK, MV and SF summarised the environment PDSP meeting held in Livingston earlier in the day at which Jack Orr had stated that there was a potential reduction in

staff of 20 full-time equivalent members with the largest reduction occurring in 2019. He also confirmed that no members of staff have yet been informed and the three centres for closure have not yet been agreed. He compared the service with Falkirk where he said there was only one recycling centre. [There are in fact 2]. There was a brief debate about charging for a Brown Bin collection. There was some concern regarding the accuracy of the information presented by officers to the PDSP. JK to write to Councillors. TK stated that whilst the provision of a recycling centre is not a statutory requirement, there is a statutory requirement for the Council to keep the streets clean.

Action JK

9. West Lothian Council consultation procedures. JK referred to the notes accompanying the agenda which states that unlike other councils in Scotland, West Lothian Council has no consultation policy document. JK referred to the "Transforming Your Council" consultation feedback report and proposed that a letter be written to West Lothian Council including a critique of the consultation and recommending that the Council publish a consultation policy document. This proposal was approved.

Action JK

10. Community Council priorities for the next six months. MC proposed that this item be the subject of the "away day" and suggested that for the January meeting an invitation be extended to Phyllis McFadyen to continue the 2016 discussion of West Lothian Council housing policy which in the context of Linlithgow has not been resolved.

Action JK

11. AOB.

- a. Questions were asked relating to trees, the two trees removed at the Cross to be replaced by either two planters or two semi-mature trees. RS said that he had already communicated with West Lothian Council and would forward the e-mail to JK to action. Other questions relating to the tree to be removed at the Peace Garden and the proposed removal of trees at Braehead were answered at the meeting, the latter referring to a previous Local Area Committee.

Action RS & JK

- b. There was a discussion regarding anti-social behaviour at the Vennel flats. It was decided that the issues discussed were a matter for the Police and/or West Lothian Council. DT to address this matter further.

Action DT

12. Next meeting. Tuesday 23rd January at 7.00pm in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed 21.11

John Kelly
Secretary
27th December 2017