



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on
Tuesday 27th March 2018 in the Burgh Halls at 19.00.**

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), Pamela Barnes (PB), Sue Friel (SF), John Kelly (JK), CJ Lambe (CJL), Des Martin (DM), Maire McCormack (MMcC), Katherine Orr (KO), Gordon Smith (GS), Ron Smith (RS), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor David Tait (DT), and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor Tom Kerr (TK) Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Ian Kelly (IK), Fiona Low (FL), Tony Harry (AH), Scott Oliver (SO), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), and Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) & Neill Drummond (ND).

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 27th February 2018. The minutes were proposed by GS and seconded by DM and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from January meeting.

Item 2 - 3 d Coat of Arms Best storage solution. CJL reported that the original coat of arms should be framed and then kept in a document safe. A £60 budget was approved for framing. A large document safe offers the best storage solution. JK to explore options. *Note from previous minutes – not discussed - it was the year of youth it would be appropriate to give a copy of the coat of arms to each school.*

Item 3 e 2nd Away Day 7 members met on 19th March and discussed the topics recorded in the notes of the meeting circulated.

3. Reports:

a. **Police:** There was no police report

b. **Secretary:** The written secretary's report was circulated prior to the meeting. The only item discussed was the inaugural conference of the Joint Forum of West Lothian Community Councils (JFWLC) which takes place on Friday, 27 April 2018. MV stated that he had regularly attended the monthly meetings of the previous West Lothian Association of Community Councils (WLACC) which gave formal access for the Chair of WLACC to PDSP's and meetings of the Community Planning Partnership. However, there is a general view that the flow of information to communities to and from PDSP's and CPP is poor. JK to forward information on the JFWLC conference. **Action JK**

c. **Planning:**

(i) Disabled Ramp at Linlithgow Post Office: awaiting planning application by the Post Office. MM is of the opinion that WLC has some responsibility and will send the public sector duty details to DT. **Action MM**

(ii) Application by Mactaggart & Mickel Homes Ltd for the construction of 48 houses with access road, parking, landscaping and associated works; land At Edinburgh Road, Linlithgow. Concerns were raised over the previous statement by Craig McCorriston and the discussions taking place between the developer and planning officers regarding the provision of education and the provision of a commuted sum in lieu of the provision of social housing in Linlithgow. JK to write a letter of objection. **Action JK**

- (iii) Local Development Plan: Discussed at Development & Transport Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 21st March 2018. The meeting acknowledged the proposal to accept all Reporter's recommendations. RS voiced concern over the obvious democratic deficit in the Reporter's findings.
- (iv) Following a brief discussion about Templars Court and the Victoria Hall JK agreed to circulate once again the reply from Craig McCorrison. **Action JK**
- (v) All other planning issues were reported in the written planning report.
- d. **Treasurer:** Treasurers report to follow. **Action IK**
- e. **Chairman:** MC referred to the West Lothian Council corporate plan and specifically the statement "Engaging the community in the decision making processes of the council, through a range of open and targeted forums". MC would like to see further information regarding this. The current problems with regard to the Partnership Centre street lighting was mentioned. PB asked the question do other TMG's have the same problem? MV also acknowledged Derek Halden's report and the need to gather the bus group together to discuss this. **Action MC**

4. Draft Air Quality Action Plan consultation: A draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has now been drafted and is the subject of a public consultation running until 4 April 2018. West Lothian Council is seeking views on the draft AQAP and the proposed measures to reduce air pollution. PB referred to the executive summary stating that the authors of the AQAP have listed every idea and indicated a short/medium/long term action which in the main requires an investigation of the idea. The ideas implied by the Plan for the Future have been recorded excepting that idea 4 "investigate southern distributor link road" should refer to a "northern link road" running adjacent to the north side of the M9. PB stated that in her opinion the Linlithgow Air Quality Management Area is likely to be revoked before anything is done since it has been three years since the maximum pollution levels have been breached. Further discussion took place on the proposals to de-criminalise parking. The BID has carried out work on the subject which should be investigated. The meeting was generally in favour of decriminalisation if this results in effective parking wardens. This point of view needs investigating with community. GS raised the point that the current criminalisation of parking may need two officers to be present to satisfy the rules relating to corroboration. However, corroboration may not be required for road traffic offences and this should be checked. PB will contribute a response to the AQAP. **Action PB**

6. Bus Group: MC stated a stay of execution meant that the bus services continued to operate during this financial year. For the community to undertake the responsibility for the L1 there would be a need for a properly constituted organisation to take on the management and the funding of the service. There are methods of making the service financially viable. The big question is gathering together a group who wished to get involved and work with the service provider. A report has been submitted by Derek Halden but the business model is not clear. MV suggested that Derek Halden be invited to the next meeting and to make a presentation. **Action MC**

7. Edinburgh Airport: JK referred to the written paper describing the Edinburgh Airport Noise Action Plan 2018 - 2023. It was agreed that these suggestions for improvement to the plan be submitted to Edinburgh airport. **Action JK**

8. Transition Linlithgow: SF described the recent success of Transition Linlithgow in obtaining just short of £250,000 from the Climate Challenge Fund to support the work of Transition Linlithgow for two years. A business unit at Braehead has been obtained and this will be the base for a first steps bike repair facility, an incubator for the shed, a facility for textile recycling, etc. Transition Linlithgow will also provide energy advice and there will be a travel advisor leading on active travel and car sharing. In addition there will be a waste project. The Community Council congratulates Transition Linlithgow and particularly SF in gaining funds for this important work.

9. Linlithgow Loch Users Advisory Group: GS presented a report of the meeting of the advisory group on 12th March 2018 which is self-explanatory. There was a brief discussion regarding the clearance of reed from the grating which is the responsibility of the fishing club. There was also a plea that dogs should be kept on a lead on the loch side paths. GS will raise these issues. **Action GS**

6. AOB.

- a. MM raised the issue of our representation on the peace garden committee. CJL is our representative but has never received an invitation to the meetings. A planning application is to be submitted.
- b. Concern was raised over the number of empty shops on the high Street. DT said that Linlithgow High Street was in fact healthy, a fact supported by only 1 shop being vacant before Christmas. Stewart Ness presented a report to the Local Area Committee which should be referred to for the true situation.
- c. Due to the difficulty of several members making a seven o'clock start time it was agreed to put the start time for future Community Council meetings back to 7.30pm.
- d. SF requested that the Community Council proceed expeditiously with the housing issue raised earlier. JK will circulate the note previously issued in January. **Action JK**
- e. An invitation to Alice Ferguson, member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for the Linlithgow constituency, should be confirmed. **Action MC**
- f. Chris Long of Linlithgow Civic Trust has requested permission to use the coat of arms in a new Civic Trust book, 'Looking at Linlithgow'. The meeting confirmed permission. **Action MC**
- g. MV raised the question as to whether we submit our minutes to Lorraine McGroarty and was seriously concerned to note that we do not email copies although accepting that they are available on the Community Council website. MV quoted the constitution and standing orders which state "Copies of all minutes of meetings of the community council and of committees thereof shall be approved at the next prescribed meeting of the community council, but the draft minute shall be circulated 7 days before the next scheduled meeting, to community council members, other appropriate parties and the local authority's liaison officer for community councils." MV stated that if we fail to comply with the Scheme Statutory Requirements, West Lothian Council can legitimately state that we have not informed them of concerns that Linlithgow citizens have raised with the Community Council.

7. Next meeting. Tuesday 24th April at 7.30pm in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed 21.09

John Kelly
Secretary
9th April 2018