



Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council AGM on Tuesday 25th April 2017 in the Burgh Halls.

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), Pamela Barnes (PB), Fraser Falconer (FF), John Kelly (JK), Maire McCormack (MM), Scott Oliver (SO), Ron Smith (RS) Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor David Tait (DT), Craig Turnbull - Gazette and 13 members of the public.

Apologies: Ian Kelly (IK), Fiona Low (FL), Des Martin (DM), Police Scotland – Andrew Murray (AM) and Neill Drummond (ND),

Declarations of interest: JK stated that IK is an employee of Philip Bald, the confirmed examiner of the LLBCC accounts. JK advised that West Lothian Council was aware of the position and accepted that IK is a qualified accountant and are comfortable that, although he is employed by Philip Bald, the accounts are examined by a suitably qualified person who is not connected to the Community Council.

Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Annual General Meeting Tuesday 26th April 2016. MV proposed acceptance and RS seconded the proposal.

Chairman's Report. MC summarised the past year by first addressing the events the Community Council has taken part in and also those events it has organised. The Community Council has taken part in the Marches represented by Pamela Barnes and Aileen Boyle (one of her final duties as a member of the Community Council), the Gala Day and the Perambulation of the Marches. The Community Council has organised the Remembrance Sunday parade and with the assistance of Fiona Low, Des Martin and the Second West Lothian Scouts who provided the hospitality. MV advised that the Community Council was slowly transitioning from being the primary organiser of the Advent Fayre to a position where it supported Linlithgow Bid and the Town Management Group. The evening torchlight procession attracted a large crowd and almost 700 torches were handed out by the 1st West Lothian Explorer Scouts, lit by Linlithgow Grange Rotary, and marshalled by the Deacons Court.

The community Council was involved in the number of local and national consultations and debated at its meetings on such issues as local bus transport, housing specifically social housing, Pedal for Scotland, the use of glyphosate, air quality and air quality management, and education provision specifically the constraints which are imposed upon developments in Linlithgow by the absence of a non-denominational Academy at Winchburgh.

On 18 April 2017 the community Council hosted an event in the Burgh Halls to formally receive the Linlithgow coat of arms from Dr Joseph J Morrow QC Lord Lyon King of Arms. The evening was a great success commencing with the entrance of the Lord Lyon to a trumpet fanfare played by the Reed Band. Provost Tom Kerr gave a short introduction which was followed by a very entertaining speech from the Lord Lyon. The evening was well attended with many representatives from various Linlithgow organisations and the head boy and head girl from Linlithgow Academy.

During the year three new members were welcomed, Pamela Barnes Maire McCormack and Des Martin and three members resigned Aileen Boyle, Lyn Aitken and Verena Throp. Lyn and Verena informed and led discussions on various health matters and will be sadly missed. Aileen Boyle as secretary had completely overhauled the administration and governance of the Community Council to the point where it is running smoothly and properly.

In the coming year the topics which are sure to be addressed are; Pedal for Scotland, social housing, the Plan for the Future and the local development plan, community engagement, the redevelopment of the Vennel, and pesticide use.

MC handed over to JK for a summary of activity in planning which included the current position with regard to the local development plan, a short report on the independent review of the Scottish planning system entitled "Places, People and Planning", the 4 Edinburgh Airport consultations, the planning applications addressed during the year and the impact of the failure to begin construction of Winchburgh Academy on developments in Linlithgow particularly affordable housing.

Treasurer's Report - in the absence of IK, JK gave a brief summary of the financial position of the Community Council as described in the two documents, statement of financial position of 31 March 2017 and the detailed statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2017. The documents were circulated at the meeting. There being no questions the motion to submit the accounts for examination was unanimously supported.

Election of Office Bearers - at this point all office bearers resigned and Provost Tom Kerr took the chair. The following election of office bearers took place:

Chair; JK nominated Martin Crook, seconded by MM.

Vice Chair; there were no nominations. The position of vice chair will be addressed at a future Community Council meeting.

Secretary; MC nominated John Kelly, seconded by PB.

Treasurer; SO nominated Ian Kelly, seconded by MC

Planning Secretary; MC nominated John Kelly, seconded by RS

There being no other nominations those nominated were duly elected. Provost Tom Kerr handed over the chair to MC.

Date of next AGM and meeting dates. The date of the next AGM was confirmed as 24th of April 2018 and the meeting dates for the remainder of 2017 and the whole of 2018 were confirmed as those listed on the agenda notice. Dates of all meetings are on the website.

The AGM closed at 20.15

John Kelly
Secretary
27th April 2017