



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on
Tuesday 22nd May 2018 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), Pamela Barnes (PB), Fraser Falconer (FF), Sue Friel (SF), John Kelly (JK), CJ Lambe (CJL), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Gordon Smith (GS), Ron Smith (RS), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK) Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor David Tait (DT), Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) & Neil Hunter (NH) and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Ian Kelly (IK), Tony Harry (AH), Des Martin (DM), Maire McCormack (MM), Katherine Orr (KO), Scott Oliver (SO), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS),

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 24th April 2018. The minutes were proposed by MV and seconded by SF and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting with the following corrections:

- Item 4 bullet 1 line 1: delete “written to” and insert “contacted”. Line 3 delete “The letter had been referred to in detail in the meeting”.
- Item 5 paragraph 2 add “PB asked TK to invite CJL to the meetings”.
- CJL indicated as present but she had offered her apologies.

2. Matters arising.

Item 2 - 3 d Coat of Arms As it is the year of young people it would be appropriate to give a copy of the coat of arms to each school. MC to arrange printing and CJL to investigate framing. Expenditure approved at up to £20 per frame.

3. Reports:

- a. **Police:** AM introduced NH. NH has spent 25 years in the police force in West Lothian latterly as the school link officer. He will still have a role in linking with schools but will be taking over as Community Police Officer from Neill Drummond who has been moved to Livingston. AM reported that the police counter at the partnership centre is now open weekdays 9am to 5pm. There have been several house break-ins in Linlithgow targeting cash and jewellery. This is one type of theft crime in Linlithgow the other being cars. A dedicated team has been set up to investigate the latest break-ins. AM highlighted the dangers of advertising being away on holiday on social media. In response to questions asked AM confirmed that it is not helpful to be informed that a car has been seen/heard racing through the High Street. A description or preferably the number plate is required. MC was concerned about a specific van parking on the pedestrian crossing near Oliphants. AM drew attention to the Neighbourhood Alert Scheme and encouraged members to sign up to weekly postings. AM stated that a presentation could be made to the Community Council of the Scheme.

- b. **Secretary:** JK stated that no notice of relevant consultations has been received. He also indicated that he would appreciate help in the search for open consultations. PB stated that Lorraine McGroarty may have access to a list of current open consultations. JK to contact. **Action JK**

The inaugural conference of the Joint Forum of West Lothian Community Councils took place on Friday, 27 April 2018. Council officers presented informative sessions which allowed plenty of time for discussion. The time taken by officers was highly appreciated. There was also a good opportunity to network with members of other community councils. Interim terms of reference were agreed, officers

appointed, and the committee established (nine in total). The date of the next conference to which all community councillors are invited is likely to be in October. It was noted that Bathgate Community Council had a permanent place on the Local Area Committee for a representative of the Community Council. TC stated that LLBCC should ask if they wished the same for Linlithgow. Several TTROs were listed.

c. **Planning:**

(i) Kettlistoun Leisure – 0275/FUL/18 the Community Council being in full support of this project no objection was raised.

(ii) Peace Garden – 0292/FUL/18 application withdrawn. It is understood that a new planning application is to be submitted for the peace garden which will be commented upon once its details are known. **Action JK**

(iii) Templars Court – 0303/FUL/18 a letter was sent regarding the removal of the current timber shoring and installation of an external steel bracing to the gable adjacent to Templars Court. Unfortunately, the letter arrived after the closing date for public comment. The question was once again raised regarding the position of the Community Council as a statutory consultation. It was agreed that the position be clarified with Craig McCorriston. **Action JK**

d. **Treasurer:** No report. Assumed no movement from last month. 2 cheques to be signed for previously agreed expenditure. MC signed the accounts approved at the AGM. **Action IK**

e. **Chairman:** MC referred to the TTRO re: scaffolding for the demolition of the Victoria Hall being extended to 29 July and its obvious impact on the Marches and the Gala Day. RS queried whether a building warrant had been issued for the new construction work. TK suggested contacting Jim Prentice the building control officer. **Action MC**

4. Bus Group Report. MC advised of a public meeting at 7pm in the Low Port Lounge on Thursday, 7 June. It is intended to obtain the view of the public on the scale of the subsidy, feedback on routes, fares, timetable, etc it is important to gain input from bus users. Nicola Gill to be contacted before the meeting to establish the current usage and whether usage has increased since that last reported. One important question is whether we can take on the funding of the L1 which has not been a commercial service for some time. Since the timetable change with the first bus leaving the Cross at 9.15 and the last bus at 17.45 means that the usage is skewed towards concession holders. Earlier and later buses would facilitate use by commuters who would pay a full fare. There is an opportunity to apply to a railway fund for research to determine how buses and trains interact. It is judged that the Community Council has the capacity to undertake this survey. Currently the bus group comprises MC, PB, SF and MM. MV volunteered to join the group. It was noted that Derek Halden is a member of the group. It was agreed to fund the printing of posters for the public event. **Action PB**

6. Instrumental Music: JK referred to the proposed letter to Graham hope. MV suggested that the section referring to the inconsistencies in the report to the Education Executive in April should be an appendix. A member of the public (Yvonne Hall - YH) introduced several concerns regarding the report. It was noted that the formation of a charitable trust, suggested by the parents group, had not been carried forward into the report. YH stated that it had been impossible to put forward a parent orientated view to the survey group. PB requested that other community councils be encouraged to engage. SF asked what would happen to children who are being examined on a specific instrument. PB stated that the survey was symptomatic of poorly constructed surveys and consultations. It was agreed that JK revise the letter to include comments made and concerns regarding the April report. **Action JK**

7. Housing: MC referred to the previously circulated report stating that time was not available to discuss this topic which was deferred to the June meeting. TC stated that the site of the recycling centre in Braehead had been withdrawn immediately from the list of available sites included in the call for sites and has never been considered for housing.

6. AOB.

a. MC noted that this year was the year of young people and that we should invite Alice Ferguson to the next meeting. **Action MC**

- b. PB referred to the invitation to the event for volunteers on Monday, 11 June at Linlithgow Academy which is a celebration event and a volunteer roadshow. The Community Council agreed to take a stall. Katherine Orr to be contacted. **Action JK**
- c. A member of the public (Ken Macdonald) commented further on the theme of the standard of consultations and highlighted the issue of the consultation issued to the residents of the Cross flats. The consultation showed an option between three varieties of forest trees or a planter to take the place of the previous two trees removed recently. The Community Council was ignored. No proposals have been made available.

7. Next meeting. Tuesday 26th June at 7.30pm in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed 21.03

John Kelly
Secretary
25th May 2018