



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on
Tuesday 25th September 2018 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Des Martin (DM), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Gordon Smith (GS), Ron Smith (RS), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor David Tait (DT) Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) & Neil Hunter (NH) and 8 members of the public.

Apologies: Pamela Barnes (PB), Fraser Falconer (FF), Sue Friel (SF), Tony Harry (AH), Maire McCormack (MM) Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Scott Oliver (SO), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK) Councillor Tom Conn (TC),

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 28th August 2018. The minutes were proposed by MV and seconded by IK and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising.

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| Item 2a | Peace Garden | The date of the next meeting of the Peace Garden Committee is Tuesday 2 nd October. GS will represent the Community Council. The Friends of the Rose Garden will send two representatives. |
| Item 2b | Youth Members | FF has volunteered to attend Pupil Council meetings once a month. SF to write a short brief. PB will also attend Pupil Council and will contact Alice Ferguson. As the three had sent apologies this item carried over to October. |
| Item 2c | Bus Group | The meeting to be held on 15 th October will include those who volunteered to be a member of the bus group at the public meeting. A separate bank account to be set up. |
| Item 2d | Vennel Redevelopment | The Options Appraisal document has incorporated comments made in a final edit and will be discussed by the Planning Forum on 4 th October. The analysis of options was considered to represent the limits of the continuum. A freedom of information request has been made for the Scott Bennet report discussed at the Local Area Committee. DT has had discussions with a housing association on another matter, but the housing association showed interest in the Vennel Redevelopment. |

3. LLBCC position on the use of Glyphosate. MC introduced the discussion on the use of glyphosate by referring to it as a chemical weedkiller which has received an EU licence for five years. There followed a wide-ranging discussion the conclusions of which can be summarised as:

- Many studies have been made of Glyphosate, as a toxin and carcinogen.
- There appears to be no clear and consistent scientific judgement of the consequences of the use of Glyphosate on crops.

- The Community Council cannot make a judgement on the use of glyphosate without expert scientific knowledge.
- The Community Council must rely on the experts who licence the use of such products.
- A position statement has been issued by Burgh Beautiful.
- The testing of alternative methods of weed control is being undertaken by West Lothian Council.
- West Lothian Council operatives should be trained in the proper application of Glyphosate and wear appropriate protective clothing.
- West Lothian Council should advise communities when spraying is to occur. Particular attention should be paid to spraying in and near children's play areas.

Actions:

1. Circulate the Burgh Beautiful position statement with these minutes.
2. Circulate the West Lothian Council paper with these minutes.
3. Clarify the views of Community Council members and arrange a meeting with Tony Fleming.
4. Raise the issue with the Joint Forum of West Lothian Community Councils.

4. Reports:

- a. **Chairman:** MC had no issues to raise
- b. **Secretary:** JK introduced the written report stressing once again how difficult it is to find current open consultations on the West Lothian Council website:
 - (i) All are encouraged to complete the West Lothian Integration Joint Board survey on Adult Health and Social Care Services www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DJ5RPQT which closes on 8th October.
 - (ii) Democracy Matters is a joint venture between the Scottish Government, COSLA and the community sector which runs until November 2018. It was decided to make a Community Council response. A small group (MV, RS, GS, & JK) will compile a response to be presented to the October meeting. **Action MV, RS, GS, JK**
 - (iii) Attention was drawn to the Participatory Budgeting initiative.
 - (iv) During a brief discussion of Asset Transfer it was confirmed that the former British Linen Bank and Annet House would shortly be offered for sale. The question was raised as to whether West Lothian Council owned Annet House. There was unanimous support for the proposal to pay the fee to Registers of Scotland to confirm ownership of Annet House. **Action JK**
 - (v) Several TTROs were listed.
- c. **Planning:** JK reported on the following:
 - (i) West Lothian Council Local Development Plan was formally adopted on 4th September 2018.
 - (ii) 0746/PAC/18 Boghall East – Cala Homes proposal. A Public exhibition was held at Low Port Centre on 30th August 2018. Information can be obtained at <https://www.cala.co.uk/land-and-planning/planning-applications/springfield-linlithgow> It was proposed that a draft of a response to Cala Homes be drafted and circulated. **Action JK**
 - (iii) Nick Davis from the floor gave an overview of the current position about the progress of the proposed Winchburgh schools which would have a significant effect on housing development in Linlithgow.
- d. **Treasurer:** IK reported that the annual grant has been received. IK gave a brief report of the accounts previously circulated. There were no questions on the treasurer's report.
- e. **Police:** AM reported a house break-in at Blackness Road and highlighted the current problem in Linlithgow of bogus workmen particularly in the context of roofing work required after the recent high winds. He reiterated the maxim "when in doubt keep them out". The problem of young people and cannabis continues resulting in drug searches. Two people have been charged with vandalism and the theft of 18 number plates from cars in the Springfield area. There was a burglary at a sports shop in the Mill Road area which is now a CID enquiry.
- f. **Remembrance Sunday and Advent Fayre.** A brief update was given on the arrangements for both events.

5. Housing. Due to time constraints the discussion of the circulated housing paper was postponed until the October meeting.

6. Participation Requests. JK referred to the previously circulated paper and proposed that the Community Council make two participation requests.

- Request to join and participate in the Linlithgow Local Area Committee with rights to suggest items for the agenda, have a place at the table and contribute to the discussion of topics of relevance to Linlithgow.
- Request to participate in the project group currently considering the re-development of the Vennel.

The meeting unanimously agreed to pursue both participation request proposals. Further, considering Bathgate Community Council's experience, it was suggested and agreed that an approach be made to Bathgate Community Council to learn from their experience.

Action JK

7. AOB and questions from the floor. JK proposed a vote of thanks for the work done by Joy and Nick Davis on behalf of the Community Council in maintaining the flower bed at the High Port. This contributed to the tremendous effort made by members of Burgh Beautiful over the summer in making the town so attractive. All members of the Community Council applauded the proposal. The Community Council extended all best wishes to Burgh Beautiful as it awaits the results of the judging to be announced on 19th October in Belfast.

8. Next meeting. Tuesday 23rd October at 7.30pm in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed 21.02

John Kelly
Secretary
1st October 2018