



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on
Tuesday 28th August 2018 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), Pamela Barnes (PB), Sue Friel (SF), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Maire McCormack (MM) Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Gordon Smith (GS), Ron Smith (RS), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK) Councillor David Tait (DT) and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Fraser Falconer (FF), Tony Harry (AH), Des Martin (DM), CJ Lambe (CJL), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), , Katherine Orr (KO), Scott Oliver (SO), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) & Neil Hunter (NH)

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 26th June 2018. The minutes were proposed by SF and seconded by RS and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting with the following corrections:

- DT apologies not recorded.
- MM late correction – Item 4 line 1 Universal Rights should read United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child.

2. Matters arising.

Item 7 Peace Garden The date of the next meeting of the Peace Garden Committee is Tuesday 2nd October.

3. Reports:

a. **Chairman:** MC raised several issues:

- (i) Two members of the committee had indicated their wish to resign from the committee. Katherine Orr is moving to Falkirk and CJ Lambe wishes to leave for personal reasons. MC thanked both for their input to the committee and reminded those present that there were opportunities for new members to be co-opted.
- (ii) MC received a letter from a member of the public, not resident in Linlithgow, complaining that a member of the committee had attended a West Lothian Council meeting and had spoken inaccurately. MC had replied stating that the member had clearly stated that they were speaking as an individual and not on behalf of the Community Council and that the reporting of the issue at the Community Council meeting had been misunderstood by the complainant. MC reminded those present that they should not give the impression of speaking on behalf of the Community Council unless mandated to do so at a Community Council meeting. However, everyone was entitled to express individual views at any meeting.
- (iii) MC stated that we have two members who have attended Community Council meetings only once since the election and rarely sent apologies. The meeting agreed that MC should write to them to enquire as to their intentions. **Action MC**
- (iv) Following on from minute 4 of the last meeting it is MC's intention to encourage up to 4 youth members to join the Community Council. FF has volunteered to attend Pupil Council meetings once a month. Following a discussion, it was decided that SF would write a short brief. SF also stated that we should encourage young people over 18 to join. PB will also attend Pupil Council and will contact Alice Ferguson to find out the dates and times of Pupil Council meetings. **Action SF/PB**

- b. **Secretary:** Following on from the discussion in May JK confirmed that Lorraine McGrorty does not have access to a single list of current open consultations. All open consultations are listed on the West Lothian Council website. These need a bit of “hunting out”. JK made a plea for someone to be responsible for tracking down open consultations. A recent Edinburgh Airport consultation on re-routing flightpaths had been missed. Several TTROs were listed.
- c. **Planning:** JK reported on the following:
- (i) 0057/P/18 Clarendon Farm. Application for Planning permission refused.
 - (ii) 0635/FUL/18 West Port House. Agreed that JK should write to object to this application on the grounds that the proposed finishes and design are out of keeping with both West Port House, a category A listed building, and the category B listed building immediately to the east. The proposed design would be detrimental to the character of the surrounding Conservation Area.
Action JK
 - (iii) 0746/PAC/18 Boghall East. Cala Homes proposal. Public exhibition Low Port Centre 15.30 to 20.00 Thursday 30th August 2018. It is anticipated that the scheme presented will be similar to that previously presented by Cala and that the Community Council are likely to make the same points as last time, notably the requirement for a roundabout at the junction of Springfield Road and Blackness Road with an access to the new site. However, previously the Community Council had no objection to housing on the Boghall East site. TK clarified that any objection to a planning application is an objection.
Action JK
- d. **Treasurer:** Examined accounts submitted to West Lothian Council; grant expected in due course. Bank balance £1638.94. No current liabilities.
- e. **Police:** AM and NH sent their apologies, referred the Community Council to the report given at the Local Area Committee and stated that any issues raised at the Community Council should be forwarded to them by e-mail. JK gave a brief statement of the report given to the LAC. Most of the recent problems in Linlithgow related to calls about youth behaviour and other antisocial behaviour calls. The problems with noisy quad bikes racing through the High Street late in the night has been resolved by speaking to the identified culprits. In terms of more serious crime the primary trend is towards the theft of high-value cars. This is known to be the work of a gang and a police team is on the case. The majority of burglaries in Linlithgow are down to one prolific housebreaker who has been identified through his MO and DNA. This criminal is also being sought by police teams in Edinburgh, Falkirk and Fife. No issues were raised at Community Council.

4. Bus Group Report. MC referred to his previously circulated report in introducing the grant for up to £27,000 for a multi modal transport appraisal research study. This study will be undertaken in line with the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) which will look at transport problems and opportunities in and around Linlithgow. MC emphasised that funding from the local rail development fund will be provided in stages over two financial years ending on 31 March 2020. Further if a rail option is not identified as the potential transport option to address the evidenced transport problem then further funding will not be available from the local rail development fund for the subsequent stages of the project. In responding to a question on whether the grant will allow the running of the bus as a pilot, MC stated that this will be considered by the group. PB stated that this was a research problem and in her view a pilot was feasible and that the theory could be deduced from the results of a pilot. SF asked if the two people at the meeting on 7 June had been invited to join the group, MC will follow up.
Action MC

It was further considered that young people should be represented on the committee. Derek Halden will have a role to play in the study. SF advised that Transition Linlithgow has an active travel map. The connectivity with Bridgend was also discussed. MC stated that there was a need to talk to others, for example Linlithgow Link, the Bo’ness team, and Nicola Gill the responsible officer at West Lothian Council whose plans need to be understood. Lothian Country Buses should also be contacted. MC emphasised the need for people to get involved. In the context of managing finance IK stated that a separate bank account should be set up. MC/IK to discuss.
Action MC/IK

5. Vennel: JK introduced the Vennel project with an overview of its chronology:

- the need for a project was identified at the Development and Transport Policy & Development Scrutiny Panel on 3 April 2017.

- A consultation on the Draft Planning Guidance was announced in the Gazette of 30 June 2017 giving a closing date of 24 August 2017. However, the Community Council was successful in its request for an extension until Friday, 8 September 2017.
- The Community Council undertook a local consultation involving table days at The Cross, a barbecue with residents, an exhibition at Low Port Centre, an online survey and a paper-based questionnaire.
- The Community Council submitted its consultation response on 6 September 2017 and received an acknowledgement from DPGeneral on 7 September informing the Community Council that they would receive further contact after a report was presented to West Lothian Council Executive.
- Before the summer of 2018 the Planning Forum decided to undertake its own option appraisal with three parameters, a developer's option, a community option and a tourist focused option including a hotel. The three options were considered with and without The Cross flats site.
- A preliminary draft of the option appraisal was circulated to the Planning Forum on 17 June for comment. Further to those comments the final draft was circulated to the Planning Forum on 22 August and subsequently to the Community Council for this meeting.
- JK spoke to Councillors Conn and Kerr on 21 August with a view to including the Vennel Redevelopment as an item on the Local Area Committee meeting of 28 August. However, it was too late to include this topic within the agenda.

JK further stated that due to terminology confusion he had included a synopsis of the Scottish Government recommended Construction Procurement method and had included this in the papers for this meeting. JK stated that it was unfortunate that West Lothian Council do not have a similar stated construction procurement method bearing in mind the size of its capital programme. The next stage in the process should be for West Lothian Council to submit its strategic outline business case to the Council Executive based on the Planning Guidance, the consultation and its own option appraisal study. Following a decision to proceed West Lothian Council will compile a draft project brief, the written performance specification of the selected option from the option appraisal. JK stated that it is important for the Community Council to be involved in compiling the project brief.

SF asked whether the 41 respondents to the online survey who indicated their willingness to be involved in the project brief would be involved. JK stated that as soon as the draft project brief is available it would be forwarded to the 41 respondents for their comments. MC stated that those who live and work around the Vennel should also be involved and it is important that the final brief needs to reflect what we want. PB stated that the community should be involved and should be collaborating with the developer. RS clarified the process stating that the next stage is for the Council to compile a development brief which will describe the preferred layout, materials to be used, etc. Following the compilation of the development brief there should be a consultation with the community. It is important that West Lothian Council indicate what they intend to do about a detailed brief and whether the two sites need to be considered together (with or without the demolition of the Cross flats). It is only after all these stages are completed that the procurement process can commence. Liaison with the developer comes after this. JK thanked RS for this clarification.

A member of the public asked to see the Community Council option appraisal. JK informed the meeting that all the papers for the meeting are on the website. <https://lbcc.org.uk/meetings-and-minutes/>. SF stated that there are wording changes and inaccuracies to attend to. SF to forward to JK.

Action SF

On the related question of the structural condition surveys of the Cross flats it was decided to make a freedom of information request to West Lothian Council to obtain this document.

Action JK

6. Pedal for Scotland: will take place on 9 September. There was a brief discussion at the local area committee regarding the lack of influence of West Lothian Council and the local Councillors in particular. There has been no advance notice to all residents relating to the arrangements for access to properties from those roads which are closed. It was also mentioned that the noticeboards giving the times of closure and details of eastbound and westbound access were inconsistent through the town and on the Edinburgh road.

7. Peace Garden. PRS introduced the topic making a request for more consultation. TK inform the Community Council that the steering committee has requested an extension to the consideration of the planning application

for three further cycles which means that it is unlikely to be heard until November. A public consultation group has been formed. A "friends of the rose garden" group has been formed and will be meeting with the Rev Christine Barclay. A member of the public asked "who are the members of the steering committee?". TK stated that there were a number of instances of inaccurate and unhelpful comments on Facebook. The peace garden is intended to be a space for people of faith and no faith, it is not a religious project as being reported on Facebook. PB stated that the Community Council needed to be represented at a meeting of the peace garden planning committee at its meeting on 2 October. GS volunteered to go to that meeting. **Action GS**

TK reported that notwithstanding the future progress of the peace garden the works to enclose the wheelie bins at the Burgh Halls to permit access from the Kirkgate would be complete before Christmas.

MC thanked GS for volunteering to represent the Community Council and also suggested that Des Martin may have a professional contribution to make. MC will contact the chair of the steering group. **Action MC**

A member of the public stated his understanding of the Community Council as a facilitator in the process and one that could enable very useful consultation with the community. SF welcomed the consultation but also stated that the Community Council should endorse the views of the "friends of the rose garden".

8. Glyphosate. There was insufficient time to discuss this item which was postponed until the September meeting. However, MM stated that West Lothian Council would advise when spraying was taking place but that she had heard nothing. Further, considering the USA judgement it is important to take a precautionary approach.

9. AOB and questions from the floor. There were no AOB items nor questions from the floor.

10. Next meeting. Tuesday 25th September at 7.30pm in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed 21.05

John Kelly
Secretary
1st September 2018