



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on
Tuesday 27th November 2018 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Sue Friel (SF), John Kelly (JK), Des Martin (DM), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Ron Smith (RS), Councillor David Tait (DT), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) and 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Pamela Barnes (PB), Ian Kelly (IK), Tony Harry (AH), Maire McCormack (MM), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Scott Oliver (SO), Gordon Smith (GS), Mike Vickers (MV), Police Scotland – Neil Hunter (NH)

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 23rd October 2018. The minutes were proposed by PRS and seconded by RS and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. Co-option of Joyce Hartley. It was unanimously agreed that Joyce Hartley be co-opted as a member of the Community Council. Papers to be forwarded to Lorraine McGroarty. **Action JK.**

3. Matters arising.

Item 2a Peace Garden JK attended a meeting of the Peace Garden Committee on Tuesday 6th November in place of GS. JK confirmed that the scheme was being revisited by the committee and that the consultation procedure would be decided in the New Year. A member of the public asked if it was the future of the Rose Garden which is being reconsidered. JK/TC confirmed that the Peace Garden in some form would occupy the land to the east of the Burgh Halls. It is the form which will be consulted upon.

Item 3b Youth Members PB will be asked to contact Alice Ferguson, supply pupil council dates to FF and help to distribute the poster, compiled by SF, approved at the October CC meeting. **Action PB/SF/FF**

4. Housing. JK referred to the West Lothian Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2019 – 2024 in introducing the questions (previously circulated) arising from the lengthy discussion at October CC meeting. Two further questions were requested namely:

1. Currently homeless single people are being given two bedroom council dwellings in Linlithgow ahead of families wishing to move from a one bedroom dwelling to a two bedroom dwelling. Is it possible for demand for two bedroom dwellings to be satisfied first?
2. Does the Council permit exchanges within Linlithgow? If yes, how is this managed?

It was agreed that with these two further questions the list of questions was complete. TK suggested that the questions be sent to Graeme Struthers. **Action JK**

5. Recycling Centre. JK introduced a paper (previously circulated) which referred to the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 20th October 2018 describing a proposal to deliver savings from service reduction at WLC's household waste recycling centres. The report stated that a budget reduction of £321,000 to be delivered from 1 April 2019 was approved by Council on 13 February 2018. This would result in a 9.0 FTE reduction in staffing at the household waste recycling centres. TC confirmed that the figure of £321,000 was based on closing three centres (including Linlithgow) but that this proposal was declined by Councillors. The saving will be achieved by reducing the operating hours of the centres notwithstanding the fact that the demand for the service is increasing. Several questions and points were made:

1. Waste has value, recyclers are seeking waste for conversion into recoverable materials and energy.
2. There is currently a revolutionary change in the treatment of waste.
3. West Lothian has a new facility near Forth which reprocesses almost all waste into useable product.
4. Combining cooked, uncooked and garden waste seems prone to problems.
5. Fly tipping of predominantly commercial waste is on the increase.
6. How logistically will the increasing demand for service at recycling centres be met during reduced hours?

DM will follow up and address the above.

Action DM

6. Reports:

- a. **Chairman:** MC announced that due to his move to the other side of the Loch he will no longer be able to act as Chair (being in Falkirk Council area). MC is willing to be an associate member. This will be addressed at the AGM.
- b. **Secretary:** JK introduced the written report:
 - (i) The next West Lothian Community Councils Joint Forum will be 12pm to 4pm on Friday 7th December at Livingston Civic Centre. All members of the Community Council are invited. DM, JK, MV and PRS will be attending.
 - (ii) Action Programme on Local Development Plan. (270 pages) Closes 13 December 2018. Comment from LLBCC is not permitted.
 - (iii) Participation requests.
 - i. Local Area Committee. Not all required information has been provided in order to treat this as a valid request. This to be addressed at a meeting 28th November, Livingston.
 - ii. Vennel Project Group. Acknowledged as a valid request. Result before 28th December.
 - (iv) No current TTRO's have been listed.
- c. **Planning:** JK reported on the following:
 - (i) 0881/A/18 and 0904/LBC/18 68 High St, COSTA coffee signage. The signage originally proposed has been withdrawn and a more satisfactory solution proposed. The proposed solution was approved.
 - (ii) 0057/P/18 Planning Permission in Principle for a 6.5ha residential development and associated access, engineering works and landscaping at Clarendon Farm. Appeal to Scottish ministers by Gladman. Our letter will be reviewed by the Reporter. It was decided no further action was necessary.
 - (iii) 1094/LBC/18 New signage and window blinds at the Partnership Centre – Tam Dayell House. Referred to Planning Forum.
 - (iv) Vapourize. Change of colour not undertaken. Internally illuminated sign still present. DT confirmed enforcement is ongoing.
- d. **Treasurer:** There was no verbal report; IK not being in attendance. There has been no change this month.
- e. **Police:** AM reported the following:
 - (i) Counterfeit £50 notes are in circulation. Shopkeepers are encouraged to use the fake notes kit.
 - (ii) There has been a rise in shoplifting locally.
 - (iii) A burglary at Mason Belles resulted in the theft of alcohol.
 - (iv) The banner stolen from the station has been recovered from a house in Bathgate.

- (v) There has been an increase in disorder by intoxicated youths. Parents are encouraged to be alert. Linlithgow Palace has become a venue for youths drinking.
- (vi) There will be publicity on the launch of new CCTV in the town.
- f. **Remembrance Sunday & Advent Fayre** – both events were successful in coordinating the efforts of several groups in the town. A comment was made regarding the ineffectiveness of the sound system at the Advent Fayre. This will be addressed next year.
- g. **Local Area Committee Meeting 9.30am, 27th November at the Partnership Centre.** JK and MV attended as observers. Papers were presented to DT and TC. It was stated that Pedal for Scotland was West Lothian's best run event. An alternative route by-passing Linlithgow was rejected on the basis that the roads around Beecraigs were unsuitable for access by emergency vehicles in the case of an accident.
- h. **Democracy Matters.** A response was made by the Community Council. MV previously circulated a paper encouraging individual CC members to submit a response.
- i. **Bus Group.** MC gave a brief presentation describing the strategy going forward which was to be an exercise in data collection. There is to be a Bus Group meeting in December and a meeting with Scottish Government. There needs to be an understanding with WLC and the bus operator. Focused on L1 but also considering the 31 which does not sign Linlithgow as a destination. It was stated that St John's reception are unaware of the bus to Linlithgow. It was reported that some patients/visitors have sought a taxi based on this advice. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Jim Forest asking that St John's be informed. PRS suggested a meeting with Lothian County Bus Company. Timetables could be included on the Linlithgow App. **Action MC**
RS advised that direct rail services to Stirling end next week.

7. AOB and questions from the floor.

- a. It was stated that Capstan Walk has been confirmed as a right of way awarding some responsibility to WLC for its upkeep. TK asked who owns it? Gunn the developer is now out of business.
- b. The following updates will be addressed at the next meeting:
 - i. Post Office
 - ii. McCarthy & Stone development
 - iii. Victoria Hall – the rumoured proposal to include houses at the rear of the development.

8. Next meeting. Tuesday 18th December at 7.30pm in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed 21.06

John Kelly
Secretary
2nd December 2018