



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council  
Meeting  
on  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

**Present:** Chair Martin Crook (MC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Joyce Hartley (JH), John Kelly (JK), Gordon Smith (GS), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Ron Smith (RS), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), and 5 members of the public.

**Apologies** Pamela Barnes (PB), Tony Harry (AH), Ian Kelly (IK), Maire McCormack (MM), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Des Martin (DM), Scott Oliver (SO), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor David Tait (DT), Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) and Neil Hunter (NH)

**Declarations of interest:** No new declarations of interest noted

**1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018.** With the correction noted in the December minutes, the November minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting proposed GS and seconded PRS.

**2. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.** TC wished to make a correction to item 7b(i). TC stated that if Community Council members could not participate in its own business then how would that look to the Local Area Committee. With this correction the minutes were proposed by GS and seconded by MV.

**3. Matters arising.**

Item 2	Youth Members	PB will in the New Year contact Alice Ferguson, supply pupil council dates to FF and help to distribute the poster, compiled by SF, and approved at the October CC meeting. <b>Action PB/SF</b>
Item 3	Recycling Centre	DM to investigate options to enhance efficiency of the Linlithgow Recycling Centre. <b>Action DM</b>
Item 5	Housing	JK to collate housing data and address with small group <b>Action JK</b>
Item 6	Pedal for Scotland	Alternative route for 2020. JK to contact Scottish Ambulance Service NHQ at the Gyle. <b>Action JK</b>

**4. New Train Timetable.** Under the new ScotRail timetable (running until 18 May 2019) trains to Stirling and Dunblane no longer stop at Linlithgow. In discussion the following points were made:

- It is believed that this change was undertaken in order to improve the scheduling of the Edinburgh to Glasgow line.
- It is uncertain as to whether this change was undertaken with community consultation. It has been stated that West Lothian Council was consulted however TC's survey of council officers has ascertained that no one has been contacted.
- Our approach going forward should be to ensure that we are consulted on the next draft timetable.
- We must be very clear regarding the need for any service we require.
- It is considered that the scale of the current change will have a significant impact on tourism specifically visitor numbers to Linlithgow.
- ScotRail stated that the impact was only 300 single passenger journeys (per annum?). However, it was stated that this number only includes Linlithgow to Stirling journeys and does not include Linlithgow journeys to/from intermediate stations on the Stirling route or to journeys beyond Stirling.
- Another reason stated for trains not stopping at Linlithgow and Polmont was that rush hour trains leaving Edinburgh were overcrowded until reaching Linlithgow and Polmont when many of the passengers leave. The change makes the service for passengers to Falkirk Grahamston and beyond much more comfortable.
- Travel time on the Stirling train has not improved despite the faster electric trains. There is a perception of slack in the timetable resulting in long waits at Camelon and Larbert stations.
- An online campaign is required to determine the level of inconvenience following which a petition/deputation needs to be presented to Transport Scotland. We need to understand how to make our views known.
- The facts are indisputable, our MSP should know unless the changes were made without due process.
- It is suggested that community councils on the line through to Bridge of Allan be contacted.
- *Note – not discussed but relevant is the formation of a Community Rail Partnership <https://www.transport.gov.scot/public-transport/rail/rail-policy-and-strategy/#37376>*

It was decided to form a task group to discuss the next steps. GS, RS, PRS, MV and Martyn Wade to meet Tuesday evening MV to advise venue and time. **Action MC**

##### **5. Community Council Committees, structure and administration.**

JK introduced the Group Compliance and Governance document agreed in 2015. JK stated at the time of the preparation of the document it was anticipated that there would be six permanent groups of the Community Council. Reporting to the groups would be subgroups which would be task orientated temporary groups undertaking a project which has a commencement and completion date. Over the past four years there has been one permanent group, the Planning Forum, and a number of task orientated groups which have disbanded on completion of their task. It was proposed that reference to subgroups be deleted which was unanimously agreed. It was further agreed that all other statements in the Compliance and Governance document would remain unaltered. Of specific importance is the statement that groups will determine their own meeting regime.

It was recognised that the Planning Forum constituted a special case in that its role was the continuous monitoring of planning applications (which must be dealt with within a prescribed time) and the Local Development Plan. Plan for the Future edition 2 is linked to the forthcoming Local Development Plan. TC suggested that the cycle time of group meetings should be considered to enable the involvement of all those who wished to be a member of the group.

JK to circulate a revised Compliance and Governance statement.

**Action JK**

**6. Agenda Topic for the March Linlithgow Local Area Committee.** It was agreed to propose a topic for the next Linlithgow Local Area Committee and based on the discussion at the October, November and December 2018 meetings it was agreed that that topic be housing in Linlithgow. JK suggested a small group be formed to take this further. This was agreed.

**Action JK**

## 7. Reports:

a. **Chair:** There was no Chair's report

b. **Secretary:** JK introduced the written report:

(i) Participation requests.

i. Vennel Project Group. JK read a statement from Joanna Anderson, Community Planning Development Officer. A response letter is expected shortly and will be circulated upon receipt.

**Action JK**

(ii) Details of the 2018 NHS Annual Review and the Customer Service Strategy Roadshow were highlighted.

(iii) Several TTRO's were listed in the Secretary's report.

c. **Planning:** JK referred to the Planning Report included with the papers:

(i) 1110/FUL/18 Boghall East – Cala Homes. A letter of objection has been sent. It was stated that Cala were in the process of revising their application.

(ii) 0007/FUL/13 Post Offices Ramp. Still need a resolution to this problem.

(iii) 0303/FUL/18 McCarthy and Stone. Templars Court. The appeal by McCarthy and Stone has been rejected.

(iv) 1228/PO/18 Application to modify section 75 agreement. 1 key document is not available from the website. (tabled by MV).

(v) 1221/FUL/18 Lady Park Footpath. Following a brief discussion regarding the width of the footpath/cycleway it was decided not to object.

(vi) 0913/FUL/17. This project described as the "formation of a car park and associated works" was notified in the planning list 13/11/17 to 19/11/17 received on 21/11/17. The meeting of the Community Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> November was the inaugural meeting of the new Community Council. Although the application was noted the meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> December was taken up with the potential closure of the Linlithgow Recycling Centre and the suspension of the subsidy to the 31 and L1 bus. The project was considered as minor and no objection was sent. Planning permission was given by delegated powers on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018. During the following discussion the following concerns were raised:

i. How much is the project costing and what is it for. Was there a business case?

ii. There was no active consultation.

iii. Should the planning permission include a change of use?

iv. What sort of events will take place?

v. We do not wish to be put in this situation again.

It was decided to:

1. Ask for boundary tree screening.

2. Ask for a copy of the business case.

d. **Treasurer:** There was no treasurers report.

e. **Police:** There was no police report.

f. **Bus Group:** There was no bus group report.

**8. AOB and questions from the floor.** There was a brief discussion of the cause of the large puddle opposite the chip shop.

**9. Next meeting.** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.30pm in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed 21.10

John Kelly, Secretary  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2019