



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council  
Meeting  
on  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

**Present:** Chair Martin Crook (MC), Pamela Barnes (PB), Fraser Falconer (FF), Sue Friel (SF), John Kelly (JK), Des Martin (DM) Gordon Smith (GS), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Ron Smith (RS), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor David Tait (DT) and 8 members of the public.

**Apologies),** Joyce Hartley (JH), Ian Kelly (IK), Tony Harry (AH), Maire McCormack (MM), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Scott Oliver (SO), Mike Vickers (MV), Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) and Neil Hunter (NH)

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

**Membership:** Scott Oliver resigned as a full member of the Community Council. It was agreed that in view of Scott's continuing commitment to the Community Council's multimedia platform it was proposed by PRS and seconded by GS that Scott Oliver be elected an Associate Member until the end of the current term of the Community Council. This was unanimously agreed.

**1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019.** The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting proposed by DM and seconded by RS.

**2. Matters arising.**

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|-----------|--------------------|---|
| Item 3 bf | Youth Members      | PB will 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 bf | Pedal for Scotland | Alternative route for 2020. JK has written to Scottish Ambulance Service NHQ at the Gyle and has received an acknowledgement. A reply is expected. <b>Action JK</b>             |

**3. Standing Reports**

- a. Chairman - a meeting was held between representatives of the Community Council and Linlithgow Community Development Trust on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March to discuss an approach that would maximise the benefit of cooperation to both organisations. It was agreed that there would be:
  - i. Cross representation. FF agreed to be co-opted onto the Community Council and a member of the Community Council is to be encouraged to join the Linlithgow Community Development Trust board.
  - ii. Each organisation will regularly update the other about ongoing projects.

- iii. Each organisation will invite the other to join in relevant interest groups for example mylinlithgow.com at which PRS will represent the Community Council.
- b. Secretary - the secretary referred to a report previously circulated and highlighted the following:
  - i. Participation request: See Vennel Project below.
  - ii. Alan Robertson has made a request for help in stewarding the Perambulation of the Marches on Wednesday, 12 June.
  - iii. It was agreed that the Community Council would continue its policy of not commenting on renewal of licence applications by licensed premises in Linlithgow.
  - iv. The next Joint Forum of West Lothian Community Councils will be held on Friday, 3 May 2019. Further details and the agenda will be circulated shortly.
  - v. Several TTRO's were listed for information only.
- c. Treasurer - the treasurer was unable to attend the meeting but sent a verbal message intimating that the likely end of session surplus would be in the order of £1300.
- d. Police - there was no police report.
- e. Planning – JK referred to the previously circulated report and highlighted the following:
  - a. 0007/FUL/13 – Post Office Ramp. (withdrawn) in addition to the action taken by DT and TK, TC advised that he had exchanged correspondence with the post office outlining the need for the disabled to have access to the post office without having to ring a bell or seek special assistance. Reference was made to the paper previously circulated by MM. MC volunteered to follow up. **Action MC**
  - b. It was reported that a barber in the High Street had erected poles and additionally an advert had appeared on a wall outside a travel agent in the High Street.
  - c. There were no comments on the other matters listed in the planning report.

#### 4. Topics under Review

- a. Bus Group: MC stated that the funding from the Local Rail Development Fund of up to £27,000 is based upon completing agreed work and then claiming back. The focus of the work of the Linlithgow Community Transport Group is to be on the L1 bus service which, it is considered, could be more commercially viable if it were used by commuters. To determine whether commuters will use the bus service in its current or a revised format, a considerable amount of survey work needs to take place. MC referred to the paper dated 18 December 2018 which considered such matters as; the awareness of timetables and routes and communication. The group has identified three distinct pieces of work which requires funding namely:
  - Public awareness - JK proposed and GS seconded a proposal to invite Transition Linlithgow to bid for this work. Transition Linlithgow have people employed who could undertake the work almost immediately. This proposal was unanimously agreed.

- Detailed survey work. PB proposed and FF seconded a proposal to undertake the detailed survey work and invite bids. This was unanimously approved.
- The five pieces of work outlined in Derek Halden's quotation of £4750 was proposed by MC and seconded by DM. This was also unanimously approved.

It was also agreed to apply for a West Lothian Council special projects grant to assist with costs and cash flow funding of the project. The paper by Nicola Gill, Head of Public Transport, West Lothian Council published on 25 March 2019 was referred to.

It was noted that the £100,000 underspend on winter maintenance will be used to extend the L1 service for four months until July. Nicola Gill will look at gaps in the service where these have been legally withdrawn and at changes in the bus network. TC advised that First Bus had bought the now redundant Deans recycling centre for £700,000 which could be interpreted as a statement of intent to remain a primary provider within West Lothian. MC will contact Nicola Gill regarding a further meeting of representatives from West Lothian community councils, several of whom were unaware of the change of date of the previous meeting.

- b. Housing: JK referred to the discussion paper dated February 2019 presented to the February meeting of the Community Council at which it was decided to request that the paper be included for discussion at the Linlithgow Local Area Committee meeting of 5 March 2019. Following the submission of the paper it was agreed that a meeting be held between West Lothian Council officers, three councillors and representatives of the Community Council. TC has arranged this meeting for 25 April 2019. Community Council representatives will be JK, MV and DM.
- c. Recycling: DM reported that the Transition Linlithgow bid to Awards for All will involve David Goodenough, Waste Services Manager, West Lothian Council. Background information has been supplied and the bid will cover comprehensively the study of waste within Linlithgow. DM also announced that the new opening hours for the Linlithgow Recycling Centre have been announced. TC advised that he was aware of the leaflet that the GMB union are handing out at the recycling centre.
- d. Peace Garden: GS stated that the committee were working hard to resolve problems to the satisfaction of all concerned. The necessary cooperation with West Lothian Council needs to be resolved as does the need to consider all options. Public consultation will be happening once final agreement has been achieved. There has to be a realisation within the community that this is a long-term commitment and it will require an input from the community at large.
- e. Proposed Vennel Redevelopment: JK and RS represented the Community Council at a meeting on 26 March with Craig McCorrison in Livingston to discuss the participation of the Community Council in the Vennel project. Craig McCorrison made several points namely:
  - The Vennel property has been declared surplus to requirements.
  - A group of four officers have been tasked with investigating options ranging from "a lick of paint" to some form of redevelopment.
  - There is no project at present and therefore no project group.
  - The four officers will report the viable options to the Corporate Management Team with a recommendation for a way forward.
  - There may be no briefing activity and no further consultation.
 TC advised that once the council had bought the funeral directors office in the Vennel the whole of the Vennel was now in the ownership of West Lothian Council. Options were being

considered from the very minimal to wholesale demolition and rebuilding – the maxi scheme. For compulsory purchase of the flats in private ownership a very detailed and compelling plan would have to be developed.

- f. Templars Court: JK advised that the most up-to-date statement of the position regarding the unfinished Templars Court development was published in the Linlithgow Gazette on Friday, 15 March. In summary West Lothian Council are awaiting details from McCarthy and Stone on the nature of the unsuitability of the site for future building. Jonathan Fair, Regional Managing Director for McCarthy and Stone, stated that a specialist contractor has been appointed to carry out permanent stabilisation works on the exposed gable and that once this work is complete McCarthy and Stone will be able to finalise further work. McCarthy and Stone have undertaken to keep customers, neighbours and community representatives informed. During the ensuing discussion it was decided to commit more information to the website and involve the community in bringing pressure to bear on McCarthy and Stone to satisfactorily conclude the project.
- g. Victoria Hall. JK confirmed that the Community Council has written to councillors and West Lothian Council complaining about the unsatisfactory nature of the fencing surrounding the Victoria Hall site. Community Council were advised that the Victoria Hall Trust needs to decide if it is to be wound up.
- h. Pedal for Scotland. Once a reply has been received from the Scottish Ambulance Service then depending on the nature of that reply further discussions can take place with councillors, West Lothian Council and Keith Irving of Pedal for Scotland.
- i. High Street parking, double yellow lines and decriminalisation. High Street parking has been discussed several times recently and MC has had an email exchange with West Lothian Council regarding double yellow lines in the High Street which are periodically reviewed. TC advised that currently Police Scotland are the legal authority for enforcement of parking regulations but the decriminalisation of parking is on the West Lothian Council agenda. However, before decriminalisation can be enacted it will be necessary to inspect all areas where parking regulations are in force, a project which could take two years. TC commented that East Lothian Council took seven years to undertake this exercise. The presumption is that parking charges will cover the cost of wardens but there needs to be a scheme in place which, for example, transfers any surplus funds to improve bus services. Further information should be available within the next three months.

## **7. Questions from the floor and AOB:**

A member of the public asked a question from the floor regarding the path widening at the west end of the loch within Lady Park. All present were advised that the Development Management Committee of West Lothian Council in considering this matter had decided to revert the decision for two months whilst further information was gathered.

## **8. Next meeting.**

The next meeting follows the AGM which commences at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed at 21.12

John Kelly, Secretary, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019