



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on
Tuesday 23rd April 2019 in the Burgh Halls at 20.05.**

Present: Chair Gordon Smith (GS), Pamela Barnes (PB), Martin Crook (MC), Sue Friel (SF), Joyce Hartley (JH), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Maire McCormack (MMcC), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Ron Smith (RS), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor David Tait (DT), Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) and 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Des Martin (DM), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Provost Tom Kerr (TK), Fraser Falconer (FF), Scott Oliver (SO), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), & Neil Hunter (NH).

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 26th March 2019. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting proposed by MM and seconded by RS.

2. Matters arising. There were no matters arising raised.

3. Standing Reports

- a. Chairman - GS thanked the Community Council for electing him to the Chair. GS gave a vote of thanks to Martin Crook acknowledging his term as Chair and proposing that once Martin has moved 200m beyond the boundary of the Linlithgow Ward that his necessary resignation as a full member of the Community Council be substituted by the position of Associate. This proposal was seconded by SF and unanimously endorsed.
- b. Secretary - the secretary referred to a report previously circulated and highlighted the following:
 - i. Participation request - Vennel Project: notes of meeting awaited.
 - ii. 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. **Action JK**
 - iii. Several TTRO's were listed for information only.
- c. Treasurer - the treasurer asked for details of the new cheque signatories. It was agreed that GS become a cheque signatory in place of MC. IK stated that it would be useful to have a further cheque signatory in case one or other of the two existing cheque signatories was unavailable.
- d. Police - AM gave a very full report stating that neighbour disputes had been prominent over the month. There had been two break-in and a series of scans; bank scams, romance scams and rogue trader scams. Travellers were causing problems within West Lothian but not yet in Linlithgow. PB asked whether there were designated sites for travellers. AM said

there were no current designated sites in West Lothian, a previous site at Redding was closed following family feuds within the traveller community. AM said that he would be involved in several parades and gala days during the coming months. There had been a serious drugs incident in St Ninian's Road. A 17-year-old had been apprehended with a dealer quantity of cannabis.

Parking - AM issued 40 tickets worth £900 in fines in the High Street in one hour which indicated the scale of the parking problem in Linlithgow. He has booked the same car on 14 occasions. Incidents of illegal parking (leading to points on licence) can only be enforced with collaboration. SF asked whether photo collaboration was acceptable, she has taken photos of cars parked illegally outside schools on Preston Road. The answer was that photographic evidence does not count as collaboration. AM stated that the pinch points in the High Street were well known and that double yellow lining of the road and decriminalisation was urgently required. It was stated that there is a BID report on decriminalisation. DT stated that it is the intention of West Lothian Council to decriminalise across West Lothian in one operation however other councils have decriminalised area by area which means it could be done in sections. This needs to be on the agenda of the next Local Area Committee. **Action DT**

- e. Planning – JK referred to the previously circulated report and highlighted the following:
- a. 1110/FUL/18 Boghall East – Cala Homes. Notes of the Development Management meeting 17th April 2019 were circulated with the report. A decision on planning permission has been postponed for two cycles of the Development Management committee (12 June). Officers have been requested to investigate the impact of the development on Linlithgow Academy numbers and the traffic situation on the A803. Despite the word “objection” appearing in the header to the letter and the first sentence of the letter the planning officer recorded the Community Council correspondence as a public comment. DT stated that it is important that our objection is clarified. In future careful study is required of the planning officers report. A letter is to be sent to the planning officer. **Action JK.**
 - b. 0201/FUL/18 48 flats at Edinburgh Road. The reporter has decided that planning permission will be granted provided a section 75 agreement is made between West Lothian Council and Mctaggart & Mickel. Planning permission will not be issued until that agreement is reached and registered.
 - c. 0007/FUL/13 – Post Office Ramp. (Carried forward from last month) DT, TK, and TC have 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**
 - d. 0303/FUL/18 - McCarthy and Stone, Templars Court. FOI received. Section 75 agreement obtained from Registers of Scotland.
 - e. 0340/P/19 Wilcoxholm Farm, Application in principle for a residential development. The community council will object to this development.

Action Planning Forum

- f. 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.
 - g. SF queried whether Section 75 money was spent in the town which led to a brief discussion on the purpose and legal status of monies raised through a Section 75 agreement.
 - h. There was brief discussion on how details of planning applications may be more effectively publicised. This topic requires further consideration and discussion.
- Action JK/PRS

4, Lady Park Path

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. A lengthy discussion addressed the following points:

- There has been little consultation on this project.
- West Lothian Council is planning to compulsorily purchase land which is currently owned by the community and managed by a trust. The question is how much is the community/trust to receive from West Lothian Council.
- Those neighbouring Lady Park have found it difficult having their opinions represented by the trust.
- The fishermen on the loch have installed a grating on the stream to prevent fish escaping. It is their responsibility to remove the reeds from the grating which they are failing to do. This raises water levels and contributes to the erosion of the bank which threatens the existing path.
- One neighbour has lived adjacent to lady Park for 54 years and stated that in this time the erosion of the bank has been minimal. Why then is it necessary to create a new footpath rather than refurbishing the existing footpath.
- Another neighbour asked why it was necessary to create a 3 m wide footpath.
- PB asked whether the proposed new cycle path is within the West Lothian Council active travel plan, is the upgrade related to the travel plan.
- There is general support for improvement to the footpath around the loch.

It was agreed that the community council should send a letter outlining these points. **Action JK**

5. Forestry Activities at Beecraigs.

In view of the over running of the Community Council meeting it was agreed to postpone this topic until the May meeting.

6. Questions from the floor and AOB:

- a. Strengthening Community Councils MV asked for a discussion of the document Strengthening Community Councils. It was agreed to defer this topic until the next meeting

7. Next meeting.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th May 2019 in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed at 21.15

John Kelly, Secretary,
29th April 2019