



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on
Tuesday 25th June 2019 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

Present: Chair Gordon Smith (GS), Pamela Barnes (PB), Martin Crook (MC), Sue Friel (SF), John Kelly (JK), Maire McCormack (MMcC), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Ron Smith (RS), Provost Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor David Tait (DT), Police Scotland Neil Hunter (NH) and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Fraser Falconer (FF), Ian Kelly (IK), Des Martin (DM), Mike Vickers (MV), Joyce Hartley (JH), Scott Oliver (SO), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Councillor Tom Conn (TC),

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

Tribute: GS opened the meeting by paying tribute to Allan Old a stalwart of Linlithgow who died 21 June aged 91.

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 28th May 2019. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting proposed by RS and seconded by SF.

2. Matters arising.

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| 3a | Decriminalisation of parking & yellow lines | An agenda item on next Local Area Committee in respect of this matter is not possible as the subject is under active consideration of the appropriate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel. It was suggested that Linlithgow be a pilot for the decriminalisation of parking. In answer to a query NH confirmed that those parking on zigzags are being charged which results in a fine and points on their licence. These charges can be made without corroboration. However, there needs to be continuity in action on parking in Linlithgow. PB confirmed that the air quality action plan suggests the decriminalisation of parking as a means of improving air quality in Linlithgow High Street. |
| 3b | Beebraigs | JK confirmed that an invitation would be sent to the Beebraigs Ranger to make a presentation at either the August or September meeting |
| 5 | Linlithgow and District Day Care Centre. | GS confirmed that several the issues described at the last Community Council meeting have been resolved. GS attended the official opening and confirmed his impression of a well-resourced and comfortable centre run by happy staff. |

3. Low Port Centre

After a report of discontent amongst the staff of the Low Port Centre and the Facebook petition, GS & DT advised the meeting that discussions are continuing considering methods to resolve the current loss-making situation. The chief executive of West Lothian Leisure, Robin Strang, is to retire at the end of September 2019 but will continue to lead the charity until a new chief executive is appointed. The meeting heard concerns from a member of the public that West Lothian Leisure was an opaque organisation whose meetings are held in private. A representative of West Lothian Leisure is to be invited to attend the October meeting. **Action JK**

4. Out-of-School Care (OSC)

JK referred to the notes accompanying the agenda highlighting the statement by Donna Adam who said "Although there is no legislative requirement to provide out of school care (OSC), Education Services have always supported OSC providers where suitable accommodation is available (which is not the case in every school building)... most OSCs run on a business model where they do not pay rent etc". The organisation Simply Play have ascertained that there is enough demand within Linlithgow for OSC and they are looking to provide this in the New Year. PB reported that OSC at Springfield is currently expanding into the school building as demand for the service increases.

5 Town Centre Fund

JK referred to the notes accompanying the agenda which describe the purpose of the fund. £111,592 is available for Linlithgow. It was agreed that members of the Community Council would make suggestions to the secretary who would collate the ideas and circulate. The application form would be circulated with the minutes **Action All**

6. Standing Reports.

- a. **Chair:** GS recorded the Community Council's congratulations to the Deacons Court for an excellent marches which was mentioned on the British Army Facebook page. GS also congratulated the Gala Day committee for their efforts in providing a brilliant gala day. The Community Council coat of arms is now displayed in an alcove on the staircase in the Burgh Halls. The brass plaque previously displayed on the Burgh Halls at the Cross has been presented to the museum curator who will refurbish and display. Finally at the Marches a piece of music entitled Fiddler's Rally – March for Linlithgow has been presented to the town. GS will forward to the Reed Band.
- b. **Secretary:** JK referred to the written secretary's report circulated prior to the meeting. There were several consultations on which members of the Community Council were invited to comment to the secretary. **Action All**
- c. **Treasurer:** IK reported by email that the bank balance was £1558.96.

- d. **Police:** NH stated that regular reports to individual community councils were no longer possible and that community councils were referred to the reports given at the Local Area Committee meetings. The last police report can be accessed at <https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dh%8Enz%8E> Reporting on the Marches and Gala Day NH stated that they were both good-natured events with no real concerns from a policing perspective. Police continue to be proactive in an effort to tackle domestic disorder and violence and deal with offenders through Council partners principally the Safer Neighbourhood Team and housing officers. NH and AM are regularly the subject of abstraction to other parts of West Lothian and therefore currently, open day surgeries are not possible. In answer to a question regarding the Linlithgow Orange Lodge parade on 29 June, NH confirmed that there was no police input to the decision-making regarding marches. The marches are generally heavily stewarded otherwise there would be a demand for an even larger police presence. At this time of year gala day events throughout West Lothian absorb a significant amount of police time. In summary NH and AM do what they can when they can as community officers. In answer to a question NH confirmed that the station assistant is available in the partnership centre from 9am to 5pm.
- e. **Planning:** JK referred to the written planning report circulated prior to the meeting.
- I. 1110/FUL/18 Boghall East. This planning application was granted at the Development Management meeting on 12th June. TK confirmed that the lit traffic islands and 30 mile-per-hour speed limit would be included. There was a brief discussion on the design of the town gateway; the conclusion of which was that a letter would be sent to Chris Nicholl requesting that the Community Council be involved in the design of the gateway. **Action JK.**
 - II. 0007/FUL/13 post office ramp. Following an approach by GS to Gordon Mungall of the West Lothian Disability Access Panel it was decided to confirm the Community Councils desire for an access ramp. **Action JK**
 - III. Notwithstanding the agreement at the Planning Forum meeting that the Civic Trust would send a letter to Planning regarding the signs currently displayed by several retail outlets on the High Street it was decided that the Community Council would also send such a letter. **Action JK.**
- f. **Bus Group:** MC reported that a meeting of the bus group was held on 24th of June attended by David Christie, Active Travel Assistant, Transition Linlithgow. The focus of the group was on engaging with the community regarding transport. The bus group does not have its own funds as its costs are refunded by Transport Scotland. This leads to cash flow issues which have been discussed with IK. The local bus services review report by the head of operational services was released ahead of the West Lothian Council Executive meeting on 25th June and therefore had not been considered in detail. However there appeared to be no risk to the L1 and 31 services. GS stated that there may be some negative implications on the travel zones for school buses.

7. AOB & Questions from the Floor.

There was no other business.

A question from the floor raised concerns with regard to the westerly railway bridge boundary wall at Preston Road which appeared to be bulging. Concern was also raised regarding the hoarding at Templars Court. TK stated that he would enquire further. **Action TK**

8. Next meeting.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27th August 2019 in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed at 21.09

John Kelly, Secretary,
2nd July 2019