



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

**Present:** Chair Gordon Smith (GS), Martin Crook (MC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Sue Friel (SF), Joyce Hartley (JH), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Maire McCormack (MMcC), Des Martin (DM), Ron Smith (RS), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Provost Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor David Tait (DT), and 3 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Pamela Barnes (PB), Scott Oliver (SO), Mike Vickers (MV), 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019.** The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting; proposed by FF and seconded by GS.

**2. Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

**3. Town Centre Bids Report.** GS gave a brief report on a meeting with Leslie Brown of the Burgh Halls, Stuart Ness of Visit West Lothian and Neil Christison who is Visit Scotland's regional director for West Lothian. GS stated that eight people had volunteered to take part in the Visitor Information Centre project and a meeting was proposed between the prospective volunteers and SN, LB, GS. It is anticipated that the prospective volunteers take part in a training programme which will include tours and talks with the managers at Linlithgow Palace and Linlithgow Museum. It is proposed that the volunteers will have access to handheld iPads or similar, to access information. Visit Scotland is proposing to discontinue the use of troublesome touch screens. The paperwork regarding the information centre is complete. A further £10,000 has been awarded from the town centre fund to enable further projects to encourage tourism.

**3. Low Port Centre.** FF presented a report on the second public meeting which took place in October. At this meeting answers provided by West Lothian Leisure were circulated, these in part derived from the first meeting, Staff from Low Port Centre were on hand to answer factual questions. Several key documents had been obtained and a further meeting was to be arranged to discuss the documents in more detail. LCDT is willing to be a contact but currently no action is planned. West Lothian Leisure have a plan for the north side of the building, but no bookings will be taken for the residential wing. All discussions with West Lothian Leisure have been open and helpful. There is frustration at the state of the water quality of Linlithgow Loch which is seen to be a deterrent to water activities. There is the potential for significant leisure use of Linlithgow Loch but

liaison with Historic and Environment Scotland has been difficult. GS stated that he was a member of the Loch users committee and would be contacting Rosie Black. **Action GS**

SF stated that PB has further information regarding the water quality issue. Several public bodies have been involved and Scottish Water have been commissioned to sample inflows into the Loch every four weeks for over a year. To date there has been no output. TC stated that Historic Environment Scotland have tried to get someone to take the lease but without success. Investment must be made. Drainage from the properties on the Edinburgh Road, currently using septic tanks, flows into the Loch. It may be that there is an opportunity to link mains drainage to properties on the Edinburgh Road within the proposed Wilcoxholm development. FF advised that he will be attending a further meeting within the next two weeks.

**4. Remembrance Sunday Report** - JK reported that Remembrance Sunday parade, service and post parade hospitality all passed off smoothly. There were several veterans in the parade this year and the likelihood is that more veterans will be attending in 2020, a move which was welcomed. JK thanked DM and his family for overseeing the hospitality.

**5. Advent Fayre Report** - MC reported that the preparations for the Advent Fayre were complete and the Advent Fayre would take place as advertised on Saturday, 30 November. JK gave a brief report on the insurance situation and confirmed that the Community Council had paid for liability insurance for the event. West Lothian Council, at a very late stage, declined to insure the event as the Advent Fayre was no longer considered a West Lothian Council community event. TK asked when the status of the Advent Fayre had been changed, by whom and when. In the opinion of TK the Advent Fayre has been a West Lothian Council community event established by Rena Gray in 1996 and run every year from that date. JK to send the policy details to TC. **Action JK**

In answer to the question on the future management structure it was decided that the Advent Fayre would remain a Community Council event run by a committee including representatives from several organisations but principally relying on the administrative capabilities of LCDT. This structure to be confirmed after the 2019 Advent Fayre. **Action MC**

**6. Chairman's Report** - GS gave a brief report including the following:

- the children's ward at St John's hospital will operate on a 24-hour basis Monday to Thursday to be reviewed over a five-year timescale.
- MC queried the status of the Linlithgow and District Daycare Centre.
- MM asked GS for information on the street tree project. Roger Livermore referred the meeting to the article in the Black Bitch co-authored by himself and Averil Stewart. In the Linlithgow Gazette it was reported that Linlithgow Burgh Trust is to be given £33,000 for the installation of street trees along five different sites, with £40,000 for phase two of the street trees project. In the ensuing discussion a question was raised as to whether any part of the phase two money was to be spent on hard landscaping and/or a mosaic. GS to investigate.

**Action GS**

**7. Secretary's Report** – JK referred the meeting to the written report circulated prior to the meeting and asked for questions. SF informed the meeting that the planning guidance: Planning for Nature: Development Management and Wildlife Consultation is closed. There was a short discussion on the notice given by West Lothian Council for current consultations and the very short timescale within which to comment. On the subject of roadworks in the High Street, it was pointed out that there were five sets of scaffolds currently in the High Street. It is difficult to determine who is responsible for the scaffolding. It is the responsibility of the builder or scaffolding company to get a licence for any scaffolding they put up on the highway including the pavement but who is checking whether a licence has been obtained from West Lothian Council? This item was not resolved.

**8. Planning Report** – JK referred the meeting to the written report circulated prior to the meeting and asked for questions. In the context of Capstan Walk it was suggested that an approach be made to Sustrans.

**9. Bus Group Report** - MC reported that the Transition Linlithgow contribution on community activities has been completed with 400 responses. The final report will be put on the Community Council website. The final invoice has been passed for payment. Tracsis were commissioned to undertake the survey at Linlithgow station. Tracsis will produce the survey data and appraisal document. The Transport Scotland quarterly report is due. **Action MC**

**10 AOB** - progress report for the Linlithgow Facebook page was briefly discussed.

**11. Next Meeting** - it was decided that in the absence of urgent business the December meeting due to be held on 17 December 2019 would be cancelled. The next meeting of the Community Council is Tuesday, 28 January 2020

John Kelly, Secretary,  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2020