



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council
Meeting
on
Tuesday 28th January 2020 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

Present: Chair Gordon Smith (GS), Pamela Barnes (PB) Martin Crook (MC), Joyce Hartley (JH), John Kelly (JK), Ron Smith (RS), Mike Vickers (MV), Liam Maguire (BID) and 4 members of the public.

Apologies:, Fraser Falconer (FF) Sue Friel (SF), Ian Kelly (IK), Scott Oliver (SO), Maire McCormack (MMcC), Des Martin (DM), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Provost Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), 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 26th November 2019. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting; proposed by MC and seconded by GS.

2. Matters arising.

Advent Fayre. JK outlined his discussion with IK and email exchange with Lorraine McGrorty about the Advent Fayre being more formally a Community Council event run by a committee and with LCDT as co-producers. The implications are:

- The Advent Fayre bank account would become a Community Council bank account with IK as treasurer requiring, a change of treasurer and treasurer's address notification to the bank.
- The Advent Fayre accounts would be examined at the same time as the Community Council accounts and in accordance with the Community Council Scheme rules.
- The Advent Fayre account signatories should be Community Council members, IK, MC and FF were suggested and approved.
- The Advent Fayre committee should establish a budget to be presented to and approved by the Community Council. The Advent Fayre committee would have delegated authority to order goods and services as necessary within budget – all invoices to IK for payment.
- Advent Fayre income to be paid into the Advent Fayre bank account and paying in receipt to IK.
- The Advent Fayre added to the list of Community Council events for insurance purposes.

- The Community Council to receive a minute of the resolution proposed by the Advent Fayre committee agreeing to the above including the transfer of the balance of the Advent Fayre bank account to the Community Council.

The above was agreed by the meeting and MC considered that it is highly likely to be agreed by the Advent Fayre committee.

Town Centre Fund: GS outlined the distribution of funds for tree planting and other works. A planning application has been lodged for the erection of six mosaic display panels, an interpretive board, landscaping and associated works at the Vennel (Planning Ref: 0067/FUL/20). The mosaics are currently being made by primary school children.

3. Scotland's Towns Partnership. Scotland's Towns Partnership is seeking a host location in a town, a small city or large city district for the 2020 conference on Wednesday, 25 November. MV circulated an email proposing that the Community Council submit a bid for the conference. It was announced that the One Linlithgow BID is also considering whether to become involved although bearing in mind the closing date for submissions this seemed unlikely. It was suggested that the Community Council send delegates to the conference to get a better idea of what is expected. GS and MV volunteered to attend.

4. Participatory Budgeting West Lothian Council Executive agreed in November 2019 that following the development and design of the Community Choices approach, a report will be presented to the relevant PDSP to provide scrutiny and feedback on the proposed approach. An updated report should be presented to the Partnership and Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (PDSP) in April 2020. As a base for the calculation of the 1% target for West Lothian, the 2019/20 local government finance settlement has been used. Based on the calculation shown above, the West Lothian 1% target is: 1% target = £389.703m – £63.745m *1% =£3.260 million. It is therefore assumed that the target to be achieved is £3.3 million. Courses are being arranged for Community Council members interested in Participatory Budgeting in Glasgow (full), Edinburgh (18th February) and Stirling (9th March). To book go to: <https://pbscotland.scot/blog/2020/1/8/31w9ldp9l5nwzngp3x7gi2hpp5ab1a> . MV asked "what projects could we sensibly lead?" The Joint Forum of West Lothian Community Councils executive is currently debating participatory budgeting. It was agreed that projects should not be controlled from the centre and the money should be distributed to the community although how West Lothian Council were proposing to do that is, as yet, unknown.

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

- GS gave the Toast to the Town at the Burns Supper hosted by the Deacons Court.
- The chair will be representing the Community Council at the official unveiling of the Black Bitch sculpture on Friday 31st January.
- GS has received an invitation to the Guides Thinking Day service.
- Between 23rd of January and 4th February INEOS will be moving large modules of plant which will contribute to the addition of a 10th furnace to their ethylene plant.

- Following an approach by Laura Kearney of HcL Transport, GS suggested that we receive a presentation on the Dial a Ride and Dial a Bus services in West Lothian. This was agreed. **Action GS.**
- GS listed several meetings that he will be attending during February including a presentation on Police Contact Assessment Models, and meetings to progress the Linlithgow Visitor Information Office.

6. Secretary's Report – JK referred the meeting to the written report circulated prior to the meeting and asked for questions. There were no questions.

7. Treasurer's Report – IK referred the meeting to the previously circulated treasurers report. There has been significant movement over the past month due to the Scottish Government rail passenger and local bus grant and the Linlithgow Tourist Information funding. The free funds available were reported as £2185.33 and restricted funds available as £3500.

8. Planning Report – JK referred the meeting to the written report circulated prior to the meeting.

8a Wilcoxholm JH as chair of the Planning Forum, reported progress on the Wilcoxholm project. With the recommendation for refusal by delegated powers, the applicant has asked for an extension until the end of the month to resolve roads and flood prevention issues. If the layout is substantially changed then this would lead to a resubmission of the application. MV asked for an explanation of what was covered by delegated powers.

8b SYSTRA Report. JK referred to the note circulated with the agenda which referred to a West Lothian Council estimate of £473,000 for work to the High Street/Blackness Road/High Port junction and the junction of St Ninians Rd with the High Street. It was noted that the report concluded that these measures mitigate the problems of more development but overall can traffic congestion on the Linlithgow road network will get worse. In the ensuing discussions the following points were made:

- the meeting considered that expenditure of nearly £1/2 million on a solution which will not resolve the problem was a waste.
- The SYSTRA report was one of a number of reports on traffic flow in the High Street, the other reports being the Halcrow report, the Air Quality Action Plan, the draft Active Travel Local Travel Action Plan, and the Plan for the Future 2020-35. There was a question of why the solutions in these various reports were also not being considered as potential solutions to the traffic congestion in the High Street.
- The SYSTRA report is the result of an interrogation of a mathematical model and takes no account of illegal parking, the mistiming of traffic lights and the impact of bus stops and unloading. A day spent in the High Street would demonstrate the impact of these issues.

- MV asked for the cost of the report.
- A question was also raised as to why the Community Council was not involved in the discussion on the resolution of these problems.

9. Bus Group Report - MC reported that he has the cheques for the payments to be made to Transition Linlithgow and Tracsis. **Action MC**

10 AOB - A member of the public asked that considering the recent power cuts in Linlithgow that Scottish Power Networks be asked to make a statement on the resilience of power supply in the town. **Action JK**

The question was asked on whether the Community Council was to absorb the cost of compiling a Local Place Plan or whether funding was to be available.

Liam Maguire made a brief statement on behalf of One Linlithgow BID:

- the hard wiring problems of the current CCTV installation will be resolved by the end of February. A second phase of CCTV installation will be wireless and therefore not prone to hard wiring problems.
- Retailers reported that the pre-Christmas late-night shopping events were a success and plans are currently being evolved to repeat in 2020.
- Delays in the passing on of levy payments by West Lothian Council are soon to be resolved.

With regards to recent statements made on the pollution levels of Linlithgow Loch PB informed the meeting that a fund is available from Visit Scotland as a part of their “plunge in” campaign. The report of six or seven years ago outlining the problems of combined drainage overflows, the drainage from septic tanks in property on the Edinburgh Road and the absence of field boundary collection were highlighted.

11. There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.44

12. Next Meeting - The next meeting of the Community Council is Tuesday, 25 February 2020

John Kelly, Secretary,
2nd February 2020 (amended 24/2/20)