



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council  
Meeting  
on  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 19.30, online.**

**Present:** Chair Gordon Smith (GS), Pamela Barnes (PB), Martin Crook (MC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Joyce Hartley (JH), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Maire McCormack (MMcC), Des Martin (DM), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Mike Vickers (MV), Provost Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor David Tait (DT).

**Apologies** Scott Oliver (SO), Liam Fraser (LF), Ron Smith (RS,) Police Scotland - Andrew Murray (AM) and Peter Robertson (PR).

**Welcome** GS welcomed Liam Fraser, in his absence, as an associate member of the Community Council. Liam's Kirk Session meeting coincided with the Community Council meeting.

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

**1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.** The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**2. Matters arising.** All matters arising are included in the agenda.

**3. Procedures for conducting online Community Council meetings and the postponement of the AGM.** The following procedures were agreed:

- a) The 2020 AGM due to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 is cancelled. The office bearers are to remain in post until an AGM in public is possible.
- b) Future online Community Council meetings will be held on the dates noted in the agenda.
- c) Agenda topics for future meetings will be notified to residents using the Linlithgow Gazette's community clipboard and online media with a request that residents send comments to the secretary. Any comments will be forwarded to members of the Community Council prior to the meeting and discussed at the meeting and any action recorded in the minutes. A summary of the minutes will be posted using online media.
- d) Minutes will be available on the Community Council website in the normal manner.

**4. Linlithgow Coronavirus Support and West Lothian Council Care Services.** A summary of the work of the Linlithgow coronavirus support team was noted. To 24 April it was noted that there had been 87 calls to the team for help. It was noted that West Lothian Council

had awarded a new Care at Home contract on 1 October 2019. Because of the previous difficulties in Linlithgow when the preceding contract was awarded JK asked whether anybody was aware of any problems. No problems were reported.

In the context of the current lockdown and Covid 19 restrictions MM reported regular sightings of a group of people congregating to drink beer in the upper Vennel car park at around 9pm. It is unclear if they were applying social distancing rules, but they were definitely drinking alcohol outside in a public place and have been observed there most evenings. It was noted that our community policing team has been redeployed. TK volunteered to contact the police to report this matter. **Action TK**

*(Note: This was reported by TK on 29<sup>th</sup> April; Iain Wells responded).*

**5. Linlithgow after Covid 19.** JK summarised the preceding email exchange regarding the long-term impact of the way in which the Linlithgow community will work after the Covid 19 emergency is ended. The common themes within the discussion were:

- a) the importance of Internet access for all
- b) tourism before and after social distancing has been discontinued
- c) facilitating homeworking and home studying
- d) the future of High Street retailing.

It was noted that issues relating to the establishment of a business centre and home business accommodation were addressed in the latest edition of Linlithgow: a Plan for the Future 2020 – 35 (January 2020 edition). There is a suggestion of a research project to investigate:

- running a business from home
- working from home during Covid 19 for a small business
- working from home during Covid 19 for a large business.

FF reported the receipt by LCDT of a grant of £30,000 to investigate digital inclusion specifically about the young, the old, and those on benefit and/or with very low incomes. It was acknowledged that after Covid 19 life will be different. The issues for children are complicated. Some research has already identified the fact that the myth that children are permanently connected to the Internet is false. The grant money should be received in the coming week, the guidelines for its use are straightforward. There was a brief discussion on whether the above research project could be accommodated within the remit of the grant. This was to be taken on board by LCDT. **Action FF/PB**

TK, as chair of Linlithgow Link, asked whether the grant might cover support and PPE. This too was to be taken on board by LCDT. **Action FF/PB**

**6. Remembrance Sunday Parade and Advent Fayre.** Prompted by the Community Council insurance renewal request it was agreed that it is unlikely that the Remembrance Sunday parade and Advent Fayre would be held this year. However, if either event is to be held then JK will contact Zürich our insurers before 22 September 2020.

**7. Progress reports on Local Place Plans, National Planning Framework4, New Parking Study, Vennel Development, Templars Court Front Building and Community Councils**

**Scheme Review.** GS referred to the notes attached to the agenda and asked for comments. Regarding the request for electronic copies of the building warrant foundation drawings both TK and TC agreed that it was unreasonable for the Community Council not to receive these. TC agreed to contact James McGinley. **Action TC**

**8. Chairman's Report** - GS had nothing further to add to the preceding discussion.

**9. Secretary's Report** – JK had nothing further to add to the notes.

**10. Treasurer's Report** – IK stated that he would circulate the accounts for approval by Community Council members prior to submission for examination. IK indicated that the accountant who will examine the accounts on a pro bono basis, is particularly busy presently with furloughed staff claims, small business loans, etc arising from the Covid 19 situation. **Action IK**

**11. Planning Report** – JH had submitted a planning report prior to the meeting. No action was required. JH had left the meeting earlier due to IT problems.

**12. Police Report** - there being no police representatives present there was no police report.

**13. Bus Group** – MC had attended a West Lothian bus users group meeting prior to the lockdown.

**13 AOB** - the following were raised under any other business:

- a) JK reported an occurrence of fly tipping on Cow Lane and MC reported a further incidence near the West Lothian Golf Club. TC stated that the Cow Lane incident had been inspected and was found to be on land owned by the farmer and therefore nothing could be done by West Lothian Council.
- b) MM stated that there had been a significant increase in dog poo bags being left in the rose garden. Others reported almost random abandonment of dog poo bags particularly along the canal towpath. TK reported that HES are emptying the bins north of the loch.
- c) GS reported an increase in the number of adults riding bikes on the pavement. GS to write a post regarding bike riding and poo bags on the Real Linlithgow Page. (*Note GS has completed this action*). **Action GS**
- d) GS reported the death of David Sinclair, a previous member of Linlithgow Community Council. Condolences were extended to the family.

**14.** There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.26

**15. Next Meeting** - The next meeting of the Community Council is Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

John Kelly, Secretary,  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

