



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council
on
Tuesday 24th November 2020 at 19.30, online.**

Present: Chair Gordon Smith (GS), Fraser Falconer (FF), Graeme Grant (GG) John Kelly (JK), Ian Kelly (IK), Mike Vickers (MV), Provost Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor David Tait (DT), Helen Hassel (HH) LCDT, and 2 members of the public.

Apologies Pamela Barnes (PB), Martin Crook (MC), Liam Fraser (LF), Joyce Hartley (JH), Des Martin (DM), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Scott Oliver (SO), Ron Smith (RS,) Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Police Scotland - Andrew Murray (AM) and Peter Robertson (PR).

Welcome GS welcomed all to the meeting

Membership and Declarations of interest: GS advised that Maire McCormack has resigned from the Community Council. Maire has taken a new post in Scottish Government in the Covid response team which is taking more of her time. Gordon thanked Maire on behalf of the Community Council for her contribution over several years.

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 27th October 2020. Proposed by MV and seconded by IK

2. Matters arising.

- a) Vennel redevelopment JK gave a brief update on the further stages of the proposed Vennel redevelopment and requested Community Council approval to make a participation request. The community Council agreed that JK should proceed to make such a request. **Action JK**
- b) Smoke detector replacement in accordance with the agreed action at the last meeting JK contacted the Scottish Government for advice on smoke detector disposal and available funds for those unable to afford an upgrade to interconnected smoke alarms. The Scottish government advised that smoke detectors should be taken to a civic amenity site to be recycled under small mixed WEEE. JK to contact Councillor Tom Conn to confirm. **Action JK**
- c) Town centre funding. GS gave a brief report of the town centre funding meeting attended by several community groups who agreed to submit applications.
- d) Springfield trees and open space. The Sheriffs Park flooding situation arising from the lack of ditch maintenance in the adjacent tree belt is still not resolved although further inspections have been made. A statement was expected from West Lothian Council during the week prior to the Community Council meeting. DT will provide an update following his meeting with Graham Struthers. **Action DT**

3. Participatory budgeting. GS introduced the topic by stating that The Scottish Government and Cosla have agreed that at least 1% of local authority budgets should be spent using a Participatory Budgeting approach by the end of 2021. JK stated that Communities and

service users in West Lothian will soon have the chance to influence spending through a process called Community Choices. JK stated that West Lothian has not notified community councils of the budget for participatory budgeting nor of their intended approach. JK advised that the Joint Forum is aware of the commitment from many Scottish councils and Cosla to a system known as “consul” which is worthy of further investigation. FF stated that we need to prepare for a “wedge action” going forward, starting small and gaining momentum, and for this communities must reorganise themselves. JK suggested that there was a limit to the amount that community organisations can do on a voluntary basis and that funding for a paid community secretariat would quickly become essential.

4. LCDT AGM report. FF reported on another successful year for LCDT citing the following:

- a) £618,000 has been committed/raised in support of the cycle circuit including grants from West Lothian Council, SportScotland, Cycle Clubs and Trusts. The SportScotland Cycling Facilities Fund has just been launched and an application will be made to this Fund. Hopefully, if this application is successful, tender enquiries could be going out sometime in February / March with the anticipation that work will be completed in 2021.
- b) Linlith-Go-Solar project successfully raised £17k in Community Bonds to install a Solar PV panel system at Linlithgow Rugby Club. Following a grant from Scottish Power Energy Networks Green Economy Fund and another successful Community Bond Offer of £25k, this made it possible to install additional panels at the Rugby Club and further panels at Linlithgow Golf Club and Linlithgow Sports Club. As a result of the feed-in-tariff and the sale of surplus power the project is estimated to yield approximately on current use £3000 for community organisations which is close to the original project prediction.
- c) My Linlithgow website has had 53,000 hits. Most of the enquiries relate to tourism i.e. pubs and restaurants.
- d) The Community connections initiative has resulted in cooperation with 30 voluntary groups in the town taking part in learning and information sharing events.
- e) The coronavirus grant allowed LCDT to liaise with 6 organisations in the distribution of £8000 and the assistance of 200 vulnerable people.
- f) It was agreed by LCDT and Transition Linlithgow that the latter will wind up its current organisation in order to merge with LCDT as a project within LCDT. The merger has been assisted by the similarity in the constitution of the two groups. Initiatives such as the tool library will be reactivated shortly.
- g) Looking forward LCDT is examining the ‘20 minute neighbourhoods’ initiative as a means of reducing Linlithgow’s carbon footprint. Discussions are also taking place with West Lothian Council in the context of short-term use of the Old Library and increasing the use of the Low Port Centre. However, these activities are taking place with core funding under pressure; which is impacting LCDT and all other similar organisations across Scotland. Further actions will be reported in the newsletter.

5. Standing Reports

- a) Chairman’s report GS referred to his written report highlighting the outcome of the Loch Users Committee and the initiative with Councillor Tom Conn to survey street clutter in the High Street.
- b) Secretary’s report JK referred to the written report included with the meeting papers on which there were no questions.

- c) Treasurer's report IK referred to the written report circulated by email on which there were no questions. JK confirmed that the application for the annual grant has been made.
- d) Police report. There was no police report. FF queried the absence of a police contribution. It was acknowledged that there had been no Local Area Committee since March and members were referred to the summary in the Black Bitch.
- e) Planning report JK referred to his written report and invited JH to summarise the issues discussed at the Planning Forum. JH reported:
 - a. 1101/PAC/20 Proposal of application notice from Gladman Developments Ltd for a 9.55ha residential development Clarendon Farm Manse Road. The public event will be held between 3pm and 7pm on 19 January 2021 but that from that date, the consultation web site will provide information on the proposed development. No further details.
 - b. 0821/P/20 6 houses Clark Avenue. Planning permission refused.
 - c. 0801/FUL/20 Cala Preston Farm 60 houses off Deanburn Road ongoing.
 - d. PPA-400-2113 Appeal Wilcoxholm ongoing.
- f) JFCCWL report. JK referred to the written report highlighting:
 - a. A page for each Community Council is to be added to the Joint Forum website. Needed photos depicting Community initiatives in Linlithgow and text for a one-page descriptor. JK to liaise with PRS. **Action JK**
 - b. Revisions to Scheme of Delegation - objections to be advised at PDSP.
 - c. Health – Covid focused; questions on capital budget for Primary Care and Health & Social Care facilities to be investigated.
 - d. Winchburgh Partnership Centre email from Craig McCorriston requesting clarification of statements made in the Joint Forum Newsletter. JK mentioned the issues surrounding the Section 75 agreement appended to planning applications which are also being discussed by the Linlithgow Planning Forum.

7. AOB & Public Participation Questions.

- a) IK asked for the time of the Christmas lights switch on. GS to inquire at TMG and advise.
- b) IK highlighted the increasing number of potholes in Springfield Road and the High St which are a danger to cyclists. TK advised that the repair programme should be discussed at the Local Area Committee and will discuss with TC at TMG. **Action TK**
- c) MV asked whether the pavement widening was to be permanent mentioning the significant improvement to the High St near Oliphants. TK confirmed that it was a temporary measure paid for from the Spaces for People Programme.
- d) Helen Hassel was thanked once again for her behind the scenes organisation of the online meeting. JK to discuss with HH how we obtain feedback and continuance of this initiative. **Action JK.**

8. Meeting Close & Next Meeting GS thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at 20.28. It was decided not to meet on 15th December 2020. The next meeting of the Community Council is Tuesday, 26th January 2021. GS wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

John Kelly, Secretary,
4th December 2020