



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council
on
Tuesday 28th September 2021 in Linlithgow Burgh Halls**

Present: Chair Graeme Grant (GG), Fraser Falconer (FF), Joyce Hartley (JH), John Kelly (JK), John Ralph (JR), Ron Smith (RS), Mike Vickers (MV). Councillor David Tait (DT), Thomas Byrne (TB) and 6 members of the public.

Apologies: Pamela Barnes (PB), Martin Crook (MC), Liam Fraser (LF), Ian Kelly (IK), Des Martin (DM), Scott Oliver (SO), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Provost Tom Kerr (TK).

Membership and Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest

Welcome GG welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 24th August 2021. Proposed FF, seconded JK.

2. Matters arising from the August minutes.

- a) Smoke detector replacement – TC advised by email that replaced smoke detectors can be disposed of safely in the small mixed WEEE containers at West Lothian’s Recycling Centres. JK reported advice that anyone who have Careline linked smoke alarms in their property should retain them in addition to the new interlinked smoke alarms. This item is now closed.
- b) Springfield Trees – a paper setting out the position of West Lothian Council about trees, and tree shelter belts, will be presented to the Environment PDSP on 9th November.
- c) Low Port Centre – The new closing date for bids is 28th September 2021. Heather Begarnie advised by email that the St John’s application for asset transfer was hand delivered to the Civic Centre on 27th September. MV highlighted the phrase in the August minutes “West Lothian Council have a legal obligation to secure the best terms reasonably obtainable” and queried whether this was strictly accurate and in compliance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010.
- d) Templars Court Gap site – JK reported that TC is to arrange a meeting with officers to discuss the proposal agreed at the August meeting. **Action TC**

- e) Linlithgow High St and Public Realm – JK referred to the note attached to the agenda which includes the agreed response to Chris Alcorn. Item Closed
- f) LLBCC website – a meeting to discuss to be agreed.

3. Proposal for a new pharmacy in Linlithgow

Tom Byrne referred to his previous presentation to LLBCC as recorded in the minutes of 20th February 2020 which affirmed that the Community Council will be approached to participate in the joint consultation regarding a proposal to open a new pharmacy in Linlithgow, in addition LLBC should expect to be invited to attend the NHS Lothian Pharmacy Practice hearing to consider any application. Suspended during Covid, the NHS Lothian process to examine the application has begun again and the Community Council should expect to be contacted by NHS Lothian. TB introduced himself as a resident of Linlithgow of 25 years who with his wife, who is also a pharmacist, is keen to open a pharmacy in Linlithgow. There will be a notice in the Linlithgow Gazette, April/May 2022, followed by a public consultation of 90 working days. TB said that the aim was to offer a service more focussed on the delivery of professional services with 2 pharmacists in situ and independent prescribing services available. The opening hours would include Sundays. In making their judgement the Pharmacy Practice Committee determine whether the current provision is inadequate for the defined community. TB was reminded that the Linlithgow Ward also includes the villages of Newton, Philpstoun, Bridgend and Three Mile Town. It is likely that the two existing pharmacies will object to the application. If the application is approved TB has six months to open and begin trading. The intention is to work in collaboration with Martin Green. In responding to a question on any approximation of per capita provision of pharmacies for a community the answer was in the order of 1 to 5000 population.

4. St Michael's Hospital

JK introduced the note in the agenda. It was noted that the issue of closure will be revisited by the West Lothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) at the end of November but there will be no permanent closure without consultation. JK was asked to reaffirm that the Community Council will be consulted. JK to write to IJB. **Action JK**

5. Linlithgow Loch

PRS confirmed by email that by the November meeting, which is still to be arranged, the Loch Users Committee are hoping to have the results from the loch water testing.

6. Result of the Community Council election & handover arrangements

JK reported that new Community Council would comprise 8 members. 6 members of the current Community Council did not stand for re-election. 3 new potential members did not complete their forms on time and are considering co-option.

7. Standing Reports.

Chair – GG stated that in the absence of DM there was no chair's report .

Secretary - JK referred to the written report, circulated prior to the meeting, highlighting the unusual absence of TTROs but observing that Linlithgow High Street resurfacing is coming soon. The Linlithgow Advent Fayre is taking place on Saturday, 27 November but without the traditional torchlight procession and the large gathering at the Cross. JK also drew attention to the revision to the list of common good properties. FF suggested that any queries about common good property could be addressed to Robin Priestley or Andy Wightman. RS will compile a list for comment.

Action RS

Health GG referred to the health report circulated prior to the meeting and recognised the fastidious and inclusive report which forms the basis of the health report, compiled by Ian Buchanan, a member of Craigshill Community Council. Ian decided not to stand for re-election and therefore we will no longer receive the health report. It was suggested that any successor report should be broken down by ward.

Planning –

- 0328/P/21 the previously circulated objection letter in respect of the Clarendon farm planning application has been sent.
- The planning appeal for the proposed Wilcoxholm development 0340/P/19 has been heard and the appeal dismissed by DPEA. The matter has been forwarded to the Court of Session for final resolution.
- JH stated that 0597/FUL/20, the police station development application, has been revised and will be decided at the next Development Management Committee.
- 0898/FUL/21 Erection of a 60-bed care home with associated access, parking and landscaping works at G M Flooring Falkirk Road. A very recent application has been forwarded to the Planning Forum for their deliberation.

Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian JK referred to the written notes circulated prior to the meeting. Community councils which failed to be re-established are Uphall Station, Philpstoun, Bridgend, Westfield and Longridge. Kirknewton is the only community council to hold an election. Attention was drawn to the consultation which closes on 2 November 2021 which proposes new Community Health and Social Care Boards.

Other reports - there were no other standing reports.

9. AOB & Public Participation Questions:

Questions from the members of the public attending had been dealt with by the Chair during the meeting. There were no further questions.

GG observed with sadness that six long-standing members of the Community Council decided not to stand for re-election. GG thanked for their past service; Pamela Barnes, Joyce Hartley, John Kelly, Ian Kelly, Des Martin and Ron Smith. It was also noted that the term of associate members, Martin Crook, Liam Fraser, and Scott Oliver has also come to an end. One of the tasks of the new Community Council which has its inaugural meeting on 26th October, is the consideration of people for co-option and those with special skills or areas of contribution as associate members.

10. Meeting Close & Next Meeting GG thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at exactly 21.00. The next and inaugural meeting of the new Community Council will take place on Tuesday 26th October.

John Kelly, Secretary,
1st October 2021

For information: Dates of future meetings

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022*</u>	<u>2022*</u>	<u>2022*</u>
26th October	25 th January	24 th May	27 th September
23rd November*	22 nd February	28 th June	25 th October
14th December**	22 nd March	No meeting in July	22 nd November
	26 th April - AGM	23 rd August	20 th December**

* Meeting dates will be confirmed at inaugural CC meeting.

** Meeting date reserved but meeting may not be held if insufficient business