



## Minutes of the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Present:** Graeme Whitehall (GW) -(?) - WLC Officer, Graeme Grant (GG), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Cameron Wright (CW), Gillian Pattle (GP), Sally Pattle (SP), Hans Edgington (HG), There were no members of the public.

**Apologies:** Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS)

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**The Meeting was the inaugural meeting of the new community council and was initially Chaired by the WLC Returning Officer representative.**

### Introduction and Summary of Process:

**GW** – Referred those present to the Report submitted by the Returning Officer following the recent election of the new Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council.

**GW**- Listed the nominees and outlined that as there were 18 places available on the LLBCC and only 8 had applied, all 8 were accepted onto the Council.

**GW**- Outlined the opportunities for additional members to be Co-Opted onto the council and referred to the rules surrounding that process.

**GW** – Outlined the opportunities for bringing youth members onto the Council and the restrictions that are required in terms of the positions they can fill.

**GW** – Outlined the option for bringing Associate Members on board with specialist skills.

**GW** – Outlined that it is a requirement that the WL Councillors for the local area are invited to attend each meeting.

### **Election of the Office Bearers**

**GW** - Conducted the process around the filling of the Office Bearer roles. The following Councillors were elected to each role as detailed:

**Chair:** GG volunteered. **MV** nominated, **FF** Seconded and **Graeme Grant** was duly appointed.

**Vice Chair:** **SP** volunteered, **GP** Nominated, **HG** Seconded and **Sally Pattle** was duly appointed.

**Secretary:** **CW** volunteered, **GG** nominated, **FF** Seconded and **Cameron Wright** was duly appointed.

**Treasurer:** No appointed was made at this meeting and the process will be carried forward to the November meeting.

**Planning Secretary:** No appointed was made at this meeting and the process will be carried forward to the November meeting.

**Associate Members:** **GG** detailed that **John Kelly** (JK) and **Ron Smith** (RS) had submitted a written requires to become Associate Members of the Council. This was unanimously agreed by the Councillors.

**GW** – Presented the Constitution for the LLBCC and this was duly signed by three members of the committee. GW accepted the signed Constitution on behalf of the WLC.

**GW** left the meeting at this point and the new Council moved to some of the current matters, although it was agreed that as substantial change had taken place in the council membership, the November will be the first to follow the full normal process for reviewing Minutes etc.

**Welcome** G welcomed the new Councillors.

#### AOB-

**Low Port Center** – MV referred to the previous Minutes and the point regarding doubt over whether Asset Transfer 'bids' took precedence over purely commercially based bids. TC and FF confirmed that they did take precedence.

**St Johns Hospital** – MV (?) raised a query regarding comments made at the last meeting whereby some feedback was expected in the days following that meeting regarding the future plans for the hospital. For perspective it has been noted that the hospital might close.

GG said he would speak with JK regarding JK to see if he had had any further feedback since the September meeting, and circulate the response. TC stated that the situation regarding Asset Transfer would need resolved if the property were to become vacant, ahead of any sale process. It was agreed that there was substantial complexity about the situation. It was further suggested that the condition of the fabric of the building was a concern. It was agreed that the general topic of St Johns Hospital will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the November meeting.

**The Academy Theatre** - SP raised a concern that had been put to her by members of the community regarding the changes that had been made to the structure of the Theatre in recent times. Discussion was had between TC and SP regarding the feedback from the Community Arts Association. MV also contributed input that had come to him regarding the issues the changes would cause for some of the users going forward and that the Arts Guild were concerned. TC commented that the primary function of the Academy is to educate children. SP flagged that the facility had been funded externally with a view to providing performance space and that the changes affected the viability of that function.

**Templars Court**– Some vigorous debate was held around the ongoing issues related to this site. It was agreed that there was a significant level of passion from across the CC area and also from residents of the development. MV voiced a concern that the issue was dragging on with no visible end. Following further discussion GG suggested he draft and circulate a working document will form the basis for input to be provided in an objective manner to allow the CC to first identify the extent of the issue and then agree a way forward on each of the aspects that will hopefully ultimately lead to a satisfactory resolution for all parties. This was agreed as a reasonable next step. SP offered to do follow up work regarding some unknowns around ownership of the site (post meeting note is that this information has been provided).

**Advent Fair**– The Fair is to go ahead this year and the Council was unanimously pleased that this will be the case. Discussion was had around the input from the CC regarding the organisation of the Fair. In recent times the Fair has been organised by a sub-group to be referred to as 'Advent Fair Committee' (AFC). SP volunteered to sit on that committee on behalf of the LLBCC and TC also showed significant interest. This was agreed. TC and SP along with contributions from various others, discussed some of the finer points including that the torchlit parade will go ahead.

GG raised the issue of insurance cover, which historically is organised via the CC and reimbursed by WLC. Given current issues around Covid, it has been indicated that the premium will have risen. GG to speak with JK regarding the latest discussions with the insurers, and feedback to the CC and local WL Councillors.

**Remembrance Day**- St Michaels Church has invited three representatives from the CC to attend the service of Remembrance on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. GG, SP and GP have offered to attend as the representatives. GG has the Wreath. GG to RSVP with our details. The letter from St Michaels will be circulated to Council Members.

#### Reports –

N/A

**Meeting close – next meeting is on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.**