**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-10 on 1st November 2018**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS; Brian Johnstone - Chair, Carole Robertson – Treasurer, Dean Swift, Planning Secretary/Minute Secretary,

GUESTS: Councillor Moira Shemilt, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (part), Alan Strachan, Femke de Boer, Julius Blomme, Nelu Balaj, Brian Ritchie, PC Ryan McCartney & PC Paul Conner (Police Scotland), Garry Gardner, Morag Gardner, Violet McGregor, Vera Turnbull, Ryan Polia, Paul Polia, Elizabeth Scott, Alice Baily, Helen Lamont, Flo Shapiro, David MacQueen

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from Shona Mackenzie, Jodi Conner, Catherine Brown

**ITEMS: Action**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1 Carol Robertson proposed approval of the October minute and Alan Strachan seconded.

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 (item 2.1 previous minutes): Knowledge Hub Network was passed to McQ to register,

McQ has not had time to deal with this as yet. **McQ**

2.2 (item 2.2 previous minutes): GDPR – the Council now has the two required documents, which have been independently checked. BJ will issue both the Private Information Notice and the full GDPR Guidance to Privacy Handling Document to everyone in due course, hopefully before Christmas. **BJ**

2.3 (item 3.2 previous minutes): Defibrillator – The Livingston Inn is happy to locate the defibrillator within the building. It was assumed that through staff and customers word of mouth it would get around as to its location. There would also be a notice on the door. Some of the staff are actually trained in its use. Maintenance requirements are listed in the box that it is housed in. LVCEA (Livingston Village Community Education Association) has intimated they would provide funding. This is still subject to formal approval from their committee. Requests for a contribution from WLC will be pursued if the LVCECA funding does not materialise.

2.4 (item 9.1 previous minutes) Next NHS/CC meting is Monday 3 December, which BJ will attend, anyone else are also free to attend. **BJ, ALL**

3.0 **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

3.1 Kaims Woodland Sub-Group: the second meeting of the group was held on 25th October. Some progress has been made in contacting private landowners. It has been established that the 62 properties in Kaims Gardens are the only part which is covered by a Factor for maintenance. A walkabout with WLC tree experts has been arranged. Good progress has been made but more is needed. Notes are circulated to 41 houses at the moment since these either attended our meeting or independently expressed a wish to be informed. The next meeting is on 22 November and anyone can attend. Other Community Councils and West Lothian Council are monitoring progress, as similar problems exist elsewhere in the district.

3.2 West Lothian Council/Community Council Forum: The biannual conference takes place on Friday 7th December from noon to 4:30pm. BJ to attend but all are

welcome. **BJ, All**

3.3 Presentation by Bus Company: will now be at the next meeting (January 10). BJ now has a copy of the minutes from the meeting held by the Dedridge Community Council with similar issues that have been discussed here, such as limited access to the hospital, lack of timetables, etc.

3.4 Local Area Committees (LAC): In November both Livingston North and Livingston South hold LACs, Thursday 8th in the North and Friday 28th in the South. BJ will attend both but all are welcome. **BJ, All**

3.5 Oak Tree by Village Shop: The tree has now been removed following BJ’s approach to Persimmon Homes.

4.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

4.1 Weekly Planning Lists: up to 21st October there have been 82 applications but only one of importance (although it is outside our area), which is the application to build 146 affordable homes on the site of the old police station in back of M&S. Apparently 1/3 of these will be for over 55s.

4.2 Persimmon Homes planning application for northern half of the Kirkton Business

Centre site: Apparently the only thing holding up approval is WLC legal section’s workload. The developer is keen to get on site before Christmas or early New Year.

4.3 Gregory Road Housing: our representation has been acknowledged and we await WLC decision.

4.4 Hunter Road: Montague Evans is taking a long time to choose a preferred builder. WLC becoming impatient with delay and have threatened to have ME withdraw their application. ME may accelerate the submission now.

4.5 Livingston West (Gavieside): nothing new since last meeting, we are awaiting an updated letter from the Developers (Springfield).

4.6 Savills, Charlesfield Road : BJ & DS attended the public exhibition October 10th. There was very little in the way of detail. Comments are required by next week and will by necessity be general and cover the usual concerns over traffic, education and health provision. **BJ**

4.7 General: It has been observed that gradually areas which were planned for employment, to the south of the River Almond (Kirkton South area), are slowly being earmarked for housing. One guest stated that the Johnston & Johnston land, when sold two years ago, was for housing – this has not appeared through as a planning application. – but will be checked. The meeting was unclear as to the ownership of the “park” just west of Charlesfield Cottage.

5.0 **POLICE REPORT**

5.1 Things have been very quiet lately with only 11 phone calls from the Village. One anti-social driving behavioural order was issued.

5.2 We were reminded that with the dark nights now we should be more vigilant as thieves use the cover of darkness. It was suggested that we also keep our blue bins secure prior to bonfire night.

6.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

6.1 Councillor Moira Shemilt:

6.1.1 A whole level of social care has been removed from the Third Sector budget such as home care. Other general cuts may include charging for brown bin removal and providing an additional blue bin.

6.1.2 The airport flight path proposals have been rejected by the CAA – but an appeal has been lodged by the airport.

6.1.3 WLC are discussing changes to the wheelie bins- items on the table are £25 charge for brown bins; combining food and brown bins on a 2 weekly lift – debate continuing.

6.1.4 WLC are also considering reducing the 5 recycling sites to 2. The meeting gave this a unanimous rejection since it would again lead to an increase in fly tipping which is already becoming rampant.

6.1.5 St Johns is to have a new elective surgery unit – construction to start 2020.

6.2 Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick:

6.2.1 There are a lot of programmes within the District related to Remembrance Day, including many highlighting women’s involvement.

6.2.2 There is new WLC Planning guidance concerning development in the countryside. Brian added that the LVCC input to this had been acknowledged.

6.2.3 The next budget will be confirmed when WLC are told how much they are getting from the Scottish Government.

6.2.4 There are some changes to care homes; amongst these is that first time occupants will be financially assessed to determine the level of funding that will be provided for by WLC. As always, personal care will not be charged for.

7.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

7.1The balance in the bank account is now £196.17.

8.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

8.1 MMQ has still not had the time to work on this. It was agreed that for the time being

CC would wait until MMQ eventually has time.

9.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

9.1 The LVCC email inbox received 13 messages since we last met. The most relevant were:

* + NHS integration consultation is extended to this Monday.
  + Two items were received regarding WW1 centenary: invitation to Linlithgow service and for contributions to next spring’s exhibition.
  + An invitation to join the Remembrance Day service and parade in the Village on 11th November. Proceedings start at 9:45am in the Church with laying of wreath at the memorial at 10:45am. The meeting agreed that Brian should attend and lay a wreath on behalf of LVCC. Parade starts at 3:00pm and continues on to the Livingston Centre. **ALL**
  + Invitation to Community Empowerment Act Seminars. These are held on Wednesday 20 November and Wednesday 27 November. BJ cannot attend, if anyone wishes to attend contact BJ for details. **ALL**
  + Invitation to Gender group conference in London.
  + Letter from Mark Russell MSP thanking all CC’s for input into airport flight path consultation.
  + Another invitation to submit views of Fracking. In October the Scottish Government voted not to support fracking and it apparently requires some finalization of procedures that have already been gone through.
  + Note of one night-time closure to a slip road on Cousland Road.
  + WLC acknowledged our input to earlier consultation on developments in the countryside that has now moved forward to the Council.

10.0 **AOCB**

10.1 The subject of a possible shop in the Persimmon development was brought up again. This was considered not possible now as the granting of planning consent was so close now (see item 4.2) that neither the developer the WLC would want further delay.

10.2 It was mentioned that there was a planning submission for 19 chalet houses for traveling people in the area-thought to be in Kirknewton It was confirmed that the area in question was not within the CC’s zone.

10.3 There was a request that grit bins be topped up more often. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted this but he also stated that as soon as they are topped up residents often empty them quickly.

10.4 It was noted that leaf removal along Charlesfield Road was not carried out last year nor this year (so far). As this road is the *safe route to school*, and has yellow lines, which are now concealed, it was suggested that action be taken this year. **WLC**

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

11.1 Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 10 January 2019 at 7:00pm** in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

11.2 The next Kaims woodlands meeting will be held on Thursday 22 November 2018 at 7:00pm in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

Dean Swift

05 November 2018