**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 0N 7 FEBRUARY 2019**

**PRESENT**:

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

GUESTS: Councillor Alison Adamson, Alan Strachan, Garry Carder, Morag Carder, Violet McGregor

APOLOGIES: Apologies received from Councillor Moira Shemilt, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Jodi Conner, Margaret McQueen

**ITEMS: Action**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1Approval of last meetings minutes was proposed by Alan Strachan and seconded by Shona Mackenzie

2.0 **ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:**

2.1 Brian Johnstone presented a report (see appendix) covering a brief description of the varied activities over the past year. He ended the report thanking the rest of the elected team for their efforts during the year – both our new members and the returning stalwarts from our previous team; Carole, Catherine, Jodi, Shona, Margaret, Dean and Angela, and thanks to everybody else here present.

2.2 Brian Johnston formally intimated that he would resign at the end of this term (February 2020). The Council should therefore consider who might take up the post in the future. **ALL**

3.0 **TREASURERS REPORT:**

3.1 Carole Robertson presented a verbal Treasurer’s report stating that the accounts have been completed, audited and signed. The balance at the end of March was £414.60.

3.2 The report was agreed by those present at the meeting, countersigned by BJ as Chair and will be submitted to West Lothian Council in due course.

4.0 **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

4.1 Brian Johnston relinquished the post of Chairman and Councillor Alison Adams opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Brian Johnston was re-elected as Chairman with a nomination by Carol Robertson and seconded by Alan Strachan,

4.2 Other office bearers are: Dean Swift – Minute and Planning Secretary (nominated by Brian Johnston and seconded by Alan Strachan), Carole Robertson – Treasurer (nominated by Brian Johnston and seconded by Shona Mackenzie),

4.3 Post of Deputy Chairman and Secretary: Although Dean Swift is Minute Secretary; the Council still requires a Deputy Chairman and Administration Secretary.

**5.0 MEETING DATES FOR NEXT SESSION**

5.1 The meeting will continue to be on the first Thursday of each month in the same venue of Livingston Inn. A list of the dates is provided below:

March 07 March 2019

April 04 April 2019

May 02 May 2019

June 06 June 2019

July No meeting

August No meeting

September 05 September 2019

October 03 October 2019

November 07 November 2019

December No meeting

January 09 January 2020

February AGM 6 February 2020

Dean Swift

Minute Secretary

08 February 2019

**Appendix**

**Livingston Village Community Council**

**Report from the chair at AGM on Thursday 7th February 2019**

**Brian D Johnstone**

Well good evening everyone and welcome to this -- the 8th AGM of the Livingston Village Community Council.

I will give you a quick review of what our community council got up to over the past 12 months.

A wee bit of background first. We are a relatively young council and uniquely straddle 2 electoral wards so have 8 elected councillors to call on. We have within our area a good spread of houses, a primary school, acres of parkland, a share of the Almond River and diverse spread of industrial premises so our chats and activities can have very varied content.

This CC represents a population of around 2,700residents – small in comparison to Murieston at 5,800 or the largest in West Lothian Bathgate at nearly 21,000

Our meetings this year have been well attended - an average attendance of over 20 per meeting compared to 13, 15 and 11 for the previous years. The average is swollen because of the 52 attending the September meeting where we had an open meeting on the lack of maintenance of the 7 plots of woodlands in private ownership in the Kaims area of our council area. Looking back since the last AGM I noted attendances as 18, 15, 18, 13, 12, 52, 15, 23, 18. A healthy attendance but more participation is vital our survival. After all we are a statutory body with rights to be consulted on any topic and able by rite to table our views at any forum or to any authority.

Because of the widespread concern over the condition of the Kaims Woodlands a Sub Group was formed with 8 volunteer residents chaired by myself to pursue remedial actions. This sub group has met 4 times now and has made some progress.

We hosted only 1 guest speaker during this session namely Ian Bieniowski, the Network Manager for the Lothian Buses Group.

During the year we lodged representations on non-planning issues such as cuts to support for musical services in schools, climate change, fracking and countryside development.

On planning we attended exhibitions and preplanning sessions on Gavieside major proposals, Bangour Hospital redevelopment, Charlesfield Road Housing, Gregory Road Housing, Hunter Road Housing. We submitted written representations on all of these except the Bangour Hospital site.

We do check every planning application that is published in the weekly WLC list and are always hot on the trail of any remotely affecting our area or our area infrastructure as well as neighbouring areas.

The newest planning matters information is:-

* Persimmon finally got an agreed approval for the houses on the former KBC site and construction is well under way to deliver the first houses late this year.
* On the same site the Randolf Hill Nursing home is about to be granted its final amended approval and will start construction in July for completion September 202.
* We are awaiting the detailed planning submission from Robertson Homes for Hunter Road- once this is lodged we will be formally making a representation to WLC.
* Hot off the press 2 days ago we have noted the Gavieside proposals have been lodged for planning approval in principle. As yet these have not been studied.

Looking after the Village Square was continued with the summer bedding plants in our planters and the spring Flowers are just beginning to emerge from winter hibernation. I will record here our thanks to the volunteer planters – Dean and Shona.

At Christmas we again sponsored the Gala Day Committee by paying for the switch on of the Christmas tree lights for their carol evening.

We procured and I laid a wreath on behalf of our CC at the war memorial in November.

We have a close link with our neighbouring Community Council in Eliburn and regularly exchange minutes, ideas and common problems. The North Ward was bereft of its quota of Community Councils but 2 new ones have been started in the past year for Carmondean and Knightsridge – we wish them well.

We have own web site and participate in the social networks thanks to Margaret.

We maintain contact with local elected councillors regularly - some do take a keen interest in us but some do not bother us very much

We also keep in touch with the police - community policing is most welcome and seems to be getting results with errant youths. It has an excellent enthusiastic champion in Sergeant Iain Wells who tries very hard despite reductions due to WLC limiting its contributions to this area of police work

We attend the Local Area Committee for both North and South wards – these are every 2 months, and also we go to the quarterly NHS/CC meetings – although these are poorly attended and NHS have cancelled 2 of the last 4

It is fair to say again that we get more invitations to meetings and to participate in events and consultations than we can cope with or on subjects of little or no concern to our residents.

I will close with an appeal for more to become community council members and for all of you to speak about us and get the message around of our activities and actions. Apathy is easy if there are no problems on your own doorstep but if we are to succeed we need help.

A very big thank you to the rest of the elected team – both our new members and the returning stalwarts from our previous team.

Carole, Catherine, Jodi, Shona, Margaret, Dean and Angela – thanks to you all

And thanks to everybody else here present

Brian D Johnstone

Chair Livingston Village Community Council 05/02/19