**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-134on 04 APRIL 2019**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS; Brian Johnstone - Chair, Dean Swift, Planning Secretary/Minute Secretary, Catherine Brown,

GUESTS: Councillor Alison Adamson, Councillor Moira Shemilt, Alan Strachan, Jimmy Burns, Christopher Bradley (West Lothian Courier), Violet McGregor, George Morier, Richard Lever, Georgie Hume, Vera Turnbull, PC John McLean (Police Scotland), Dave Sherry (West Lothian Council Community Safety Unit), Sharon Gilchrist (Treasurer) and Nicola Campbell (Chairman) of Livingston Village Gala Committee

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from: Shona Mackenzie, Jodi Conner, Carole Robertson, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

**ITEMS: Action**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1 Alan Strachan proposed approval of March minutes, it was seconded by Jimmy Burns

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 (item 2.1 previous minutes): Bus forum - here has been no reply to BJ’s 2 prompts as yet.

2.2 (item 3.1 previous minutes): Livingston Local Area Committee – main points of interest were 1) Police seeing an increase of fraud locally, 2) there is a new Fire Liaison Officer who LVCC will ask to speak at the June meeting, 3) a debate on the relocation of the Carmondean Library to the Ability Centre, which the Carmondean CC has reservations about. (Councillor Adams stated that whilst the floor space was smaller in the Ability Centre, there was more efficient use of space. Disabled access was also better as well as car parking. Plans have been displayed in public for comment. The next LAC meeting is in May.

2.3 (item 9.1 previous minutes): Tesco grants – grants up to £25,000 pounds are available for community projects related to health and wellbeing. Work to the Kaims woodlands would not qualify.

2.4 (item 9.1 previous minutes); Integrated Joint Board Strategic Plan – Comments are due in next week, as there were no further comments from the floor BJ will submit response. **BJ**

**Note –** At this time in the meeting BJ asked Christopher Bradley (West Lothian Courier) to identify himself. BJ made the point that he should have identified himself at the outset as he was representing the press. DS asked if the meeting was going to be reported in “The Courier” similar to the Bathgate CC meetings. CB stated this was not the case.

**3.0 PRESENTATION FROM GALA COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

3.1 Sharon Gilchrist (Treasurer) and Nicola Campbell (Chairman) of Livingston Village Gala Committee gave a brief update on preparations for this year’s Gala Day. This year’s theme will be the Greatest Show in an attempt to have some features of the traditional gala day along with modern atmosphere. They hope to organize the committee and the funds raised to enable the committee to continue in the future. Various fund raising events have been organized.

3.2 It was pointed out by some Kaims residents that apparently they have been missed in the distribution of Gala Committee newsletters.

3.3 The Livingston Village Community Education Committee Association’s Young Citizen’s award will be presented at the Gala Day. Details are to be finalised between the Gala Committee and LVCECA.

3.4 The Councillors present suggested that the committee approach various councillors for grant assistance. It was also suggested that LVCECA should be approached as they have contributed in the past.

4.0 **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

4.1 NHS/Community Council Meetings – These have been cancelled till the end of 2019. Apparently this is because the person who is the current chair has retired. As CC’s have objected the WLC Community Forum is taking up this subject. It has been rumoured

 that the meetings will resume as soon as the staff position has been filled.

4.2 The LVCECA is running a young citizen of the year award. Information is on a poster placed in the notice board.

4.3 Defibrillator – now installed at the Livingston Inn.

4.4 Livingston Village Community Education Centre, pensioners group – this has now been agreed with OPAL and will start in the community rooms within the primary school. The next meeting will have a speaker from OPAL.

4.5 Kaims Woodland Sub-Group: A summary of current progress is as follows:

 Plot 1, 2, 5, 6 &7 – no change from last meeting

 Plot 3 (between Kaims grove, Walk and Brae) –Draft replanting scheme and felling permit with owners for comment, steady progress being made.

 Plot 4 – WLC refuse to help put a case against owner. University of Edinburgh have provided three options, one of which is for a community takeover. In the meantime

 JC is looking at possible felling. **JC**

5.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

5.1 Weekly Planning Lists: Since the last meeting there have been no new local applications

 out of the 67 filed, but existing active ones are listed below:

5.2 Gregory Road Housing: Legal agreements should be concluded soon and

 planning permission should be issued soon after.

5.3 Hunter Road: Planning application delayed following discussion with WLC Planning regarding education constraints. It will now probably be lodged in June.

5.4 Charlesfield: LVCC comments acknowledged by WLC on 18th March. Developer will meet WLC in a few weeks with the main point for discussion being the footpath routes to school. Generally it looks positive for approval.

5.6 Livingston West (Gavieside): Following submission of the overall masterplan (on which LVCC have made comments) an application is now with WLC Planning for phase one. The development is split into 5 phases spanning 15-20 years. A masterplan and details of phase one were tabled. Comments will be submitted in an updated form to take into

 account the new layout.  **BJ**

6.0 **POLICE REPORT**

6.1 No formal report was tabled but general points of interest were; 1) an increase in fraud has been noticed, 2) travellers are back, this time at the Lloyds building on Simpson Parkway (this is hard to combat as it is on private land), 3) the police have been involved in have a few neighbour disputes, 4) blue bin theft is up again so measures should be taken to secure bins.

6.2 It was noted that staff numbers are down, therefore area to be covered by each officer is larger.

7.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

7.1 Councillor Alison Adamson:

* Following discussion regarding the defibrillator located in the Livingston Inn, AA referred to an incident just outside the Civic Centre recently where a defibrillator was required, she emphasised the importance of training.

7.2 Councillor Moira Shemilt:

* New premises have opened for Alzheimer’s Scotland at Grampian Court. The services and information provided are very useful.
* The Lanthorn management group has been busy recently with Cyrenians in obtaining surplus food from supermarkets to sell.
* The GMB union is concerned at shorter opening times at civic amenity sites and the knock on effect it is having on fly tipping.
* Unison is concerned about the closure of shop mobility at the Centre as it will disadvantage hundreds of people. Angela Constance has asked management if they can provide the service.
* Liaison between NHS and CCs – see item 4.2
* There is now free personal care for everyone over 65 in Scotland
* It was noted that West Lothian schools have 5 of the top scoring schools (based on 5 highers) of the top 50 schools in Scotland. Also, the head teacher of St. Ninian’s is nominated for best head teacher.
* There was a celebration of 100 years since women won the vote held at St Kentigern’s High School.

8.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

8.1 The annual grant from WLC has been received and LVCC has paid the annual fee for data protection insurance.

9.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

9.1 It was agreed that for the time being the CC would wait until MMQ has time to deal

 with this matter. **MMQ**

10.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

10.1 The LVCC email inbox received 26 messages since we last met. The most relevant were:

* Road Closures –between Bubbles and West Lothian College on 29th June
* News from Scottish Community Council web site; on action required.
* Invitation to join BOE citizen’s panel in Scotland; no action proposed.
* Animal Health & Welfare Act consultation; questionnaire is available on line if interested, consultations close on 26th April. AA stated that WLC have forwarded a response.
* Draft revised licensing guidance consultation for 11th June – on action proposed.
* Enquiry into telecoms upgrade, i.e. position of masts on roof of Morrisons at Carmondean. No comment proposed.
* Scottish Government finalizing report on fracking. LVCC to support ban again.
* Celebration of Scottish Community Councils, possible involvement in showcase – no action proposed.
* Revised dates for Local Area Council (North) meetings – BJ cannot attend in May or June.
* Consultation on road networks to be submitted by 24th April, BJ to look at details which only arrived recently. **BJ**
* Consultation on Planning Education – comments required by 15th May. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
* People Powered Planning conference to be held in Glasgow on 11th May. No action proposed.
* Police have issued a notice concerning “Ask for Angela” which is a procedure for mainly women, to inform a member of staff in pubs and clubs, that they are feeling uncomfortable with their partner. Appropriate action will then be initiated.

10.0 **AOCB**

10.1 It was suggested that the new street lighting in some areas seemed dim. One reason was thought to be that as a cost saving measure they are dimmed in the early hours of the morning.

10.2 It was noted that there is flooding again on the footpath just north of Buchanan Gardens. It was thought that it was coming from the BT site. BJ to alert BT **BJ**

10.3 AA mentioned school car parking Eliburn CC wanted to propose formal road markings near schools. BJ had assisted them raising this with the CC Forum.

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

11.1 Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 2 May 2019 at 7:00pm** in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

11.2 The next Kaims woodlands meeting will be held on Thursday 27 April 2019 at 7:00pm in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

Dean Swift

05 April 2019