**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-17 on 05 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS: Brian Johnstone - Chair, Catherine Brown, Shona Mackenzie. (3)

GUESTS: Alan Strachan, Gillian Gibson, Nelu Balaj, Carol and Robert Drummond (5)

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from: Jodi Conner, Dean Swift, Margaret McEwan, Carole Robertson, Violet MacGregor, Vera Turnbull, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Community Police Officer (8)

**ITEMS:**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1 Minute 3.16 for 6th June 2019 was approved by Catherine Brown and seconded by Alan Strachan

2.0 **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

2.1 Joint Forum of West Lothian Community Councils– This organisation gives individual CCs more power when dealing with common problems or topics This is growing strongly since founding 2 years ago with regular Newsletters and active sub forums on Health, Police, Transport, Planning. All of these are regularly on all CC agendas. The next Forum conference will be on Thursday 21st November at 18:30 in the Civic Centre and LVCC will be represented.

2.2 Our Meeting Format and Attendance. Attendance varies from 8 to 20 over each normal meeting but since we represent a population of nearly 3000 it should be more. How do we get more people interested? Suggestions from this meeting are:- Fliers generally but in particular to all the new build houses. Make more use of social media. Nelu recommended a site. Get interesting guest speakers. This to be discussed more between the 7 elected members of LVCC

2.3 Town Centre Fund. Livingston Village was awarded a pot of £17,446. This is a total from the 2 wards we straddle and is for projects qualifying under the criteria for regeneration. As LVCC we failed to generate a suitable business plan so missed out on this - apathy seemed to be the culprit. The Heritage Centre and another applicant have lodged claims for a share of the fund. If not exhausted by these the balance of the fund could be reallocated to other areas.

2.4 Health There is still no news of when the joint NHS/CC meetings will restart. Our Forum is actively chasing this. St Johns has confirmed it will be getting a new short stay centre for elective procedures. An application for a car park extension of 65 spaces has been submitted. Many feel this falls short and a multi storey car park would be more realistic.

2.5 Kaims Woodland Sub-Group: No recent update available since their meetings start later this month.

2.6 Local Area Committees - Brian attended the Livingston South LAC this morning with its usual reports revealing nothing of huge importance or interest. Report copies available from Brian on request.

2.7 Transport. Improvements noted to bus services. Brian reported an increased input now from WLC’s transport liaison officer and more frequent joint meetings to discuss services. The floor of this meeting generated a number of points from several individuals which Brian would relay to the Transport Administrator, but he emphasised the benefit of individuals also directly feeding their points to Pauline Collings at WLC. Brian will relay bus reliability, buses leaving several minutes ahead of published times, bus shelter cleaning, updated timetables at each bus stop, unreliabilty of timetable information at the bus station.

2.7 Randolf Hill Nursing Home. Brian spoke with the agents earlier this week and was informed that a contractor has been appointed and site work should start by late October

3.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

3.1 Weekly Planning Lists: Since the June meeting there have been 280 plus applications. In the village, Livingston Inn requesting 5 trees to be felled and the flats in main street to become a single dwelling with a fence to align with neighbouring properties.

3.2 Increase in Houses in the former industrial areas off Kirkton Road South

Brian explained that as the industry and business premises use is dying the increase in housing application on the south of the river will impact on the Kaims area residents more and more. The numbers are growing with each application. Gavieside 502 units (growing ultimately to 2000) Gregory Rd 220 units. Charlesfield Rd 140 units. Hunter Road 190 units. and most recently Simpson Parkway 140. A total proposed of 1192 in the pipeline and no doubt more to come. Our concerns relate to inadequate infrastructure to support this growth.

3.3 Hunter Road: Brian spoke with both the architects and Robertson Homes. There has been protracted discussion with WLC and the further revised target for detailed planning submission is early November.

3.4 Charlesfield and Livingston West (Gavieside): Both applications still show a “awaiting decision” status and we have lodged comments on both proposals.

3.5 Gregory Road. This has been granted planning approval and is being marketed for sale to a builder. So we will drop this from our planning monitoring process.

3.6 1 Simpson Parkway The newest one with its PAN public exhibition on 29th August. We will be submitting our representation by the closing date of 19th September.

3.7 Former Ethicon (Johnson & Johnson) Site This has been added here since concerns were raised by Robert and Carol Drummond who had some early information about development proposals here. We are aware that this is currently being demolished. Brian intimated there was no applications as yet in the public domain as either a pre planning notification nor a detailed planning application so we could not yet make official comment. Brian assured Carol and Robert that any formal application would be picked up since he and Dean read all the weekly lists from WLC and react to all those in our area. Brian would separately explain the planning process to Robert and Carol by e mail within a week

4.0 **POLICE REPORT** No report available.

5.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS** No report available.

6.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT** No report available.

7.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS** No report available.

8.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

8.1 The LVCC email inbox received over 70 messages since we last met - the usual mix of requests, advert, intimations and consultations. Most are out of date or have been dealt with Those still requiring mention or action are:-

* Invitation to contribute to Consultation on Land Reform by 19th Sept – Brian to assess if we should contribute and do so if appropriate
* Invitation to contribute to survey for the Land Commission - Brian to asses if we should contribute and do so if appropriate.
* Annual conference on tackling inequalities - Catherine took this to deal with
* Another appeal from Cyrenians for volunteers

9.0 **AOCB**

9.1 Alan commented on the apparent narrowness of the road into Persimmon houses

9.2 The concerted efforts of many residents and LVCC led to a reversal of WLC grass cutting policy for our parks. It will now be cut as per previous timetable.

9.3 Shona mentioned her successes with the childrens’ litter pick and the help she could now get with equipment etc. Shona to elaborate at next meeting.

9.4 Why can there not be litter bins at every bus stop? Brian to add to his bus submission

9.5 Nelu mentioned that Forth Rivers Trust had approached him to use the church for a workshop on 28th September. Nelu to pass details to Brian once confirmed

10.0 **NEXT MEETING**

10.1 Next meeting Community Council will be on **Thursday 3rd October 2019 at 7:00pm** in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

10.2 Next Kaims Woodlands sub group meeting will be Thursday 19th September 2019 at 7:00pm in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

Brian Johnstone

09 September 2019