**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-19 on 07 NOVEMBER 2019**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS: Brian Johnstone - Chair, Dean Swift – Minute Secretary, Carole Robertson - Treasurer, Jodi Conner

GUESTS: Elizabeth Scott, Helen Lamont, Richard Lever, Georgie Hume, Carol Drummond, Robert Drummond, Jacqueline Conway, Violet McGregor, Councillor Alison Adamson (part). Note: Jacqueline Conway is in the process of becoming a member.

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from: Catherine Brown, Councillor Moria Shemilt, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Shona McKenzie, Margaret McQueen, Nelu Balaj

**ITEMS:**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1 Corrections: item 5.10 previous minutes should read that all political leaders at COSLA unanimously voted for motion on Scottish Government Grant and, item 5.13 should state that it is a firm Council commitment of no compulsory redundancies.

1.2 With the inclusion of the above correction the minute for 3rd October 2019 was approved by Richard Lever and seconded by Georgie Hume.

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTE**

2.1 Item 2.3 previous minute – Councillor Shemilt not present to clarify.

2.2 Item 8.1 previous minute – Response to consultation papers on signs for conservation area, heritage cottages, relocating Cedar Bank School, nature planning and developers’ obligations; all five were submitted by BJ.

2.3 Item 9.1 previous minute - Bus and Transport; still no feedback after initial acknowledgement.

2.4 Item 9.3 previous minute - plant containers in the “square” have been cleaned out.

2.5Although not in the minutes, the subject of flooding on the footpath connecting Kirkfield View to post office sorting building area was raised (between Buchanan Gardens and BT). This is a complicated issue as it is bounded by two different landowners. Councillor Alison Adamson stated that she has just been informed that WLC Highways Department are currently looking a possible drainage solution but have warned this could be problematic depending on the location of existing drainage apparatus.

3.0 **GALA DAY COMMITTEE:**

3.1 Jackie Conway, the new Gala Day Committee Chairman, gave a brief update of the Committee’s progress.

3.1.1 JC thought that there should be a stronger link between the Gala Day Committee and the LVCC as they are both community group and therefore have an interest in, and support, each other’s activities.

3.1.2 They are looking at how better to get the community involved; one suggestion was to use “sign up” where people can sign up through Facebook and state when they may be available to help.

3.1.3 To generate interest from the community.  There are various activities planned, these are; Christmas tree light switch on 6 December 2019, a Ladies night 8 February 2020  and an Easter egg extravaganza 4 April 2020.

3.1.4 It is hoped to get school children, especially secondary school, involved in community work and events planning. It was noted that a high school band may be at the Christmas tree light switch on event.

4.0 **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

4.1 Woodland group - a summary of the October meeting of the Kaims woodland group is as follows: Plot 1 - still awaiting submission of a planning application by Robertson Homes, Plot 2 - nothing new since dead trees removed, Plot 3- new owners have started clearing and will start felling poplars this month, Plot 4 - still no success contacting owner, JC and neighbour will do some clearing. Still trying to get action from WLC regarding pavement damage, Plot 5a 7a – Factors have selected contractor to fell 8 trees and carry out clearing works, start date unknown, Plot 5b 7- Unable to contact owner.

4.2 Randolf Hill Nursing Home – start has been made this week with fencing. Muir Construction is the appointed builder. They will start site clearance and levelling soon, major start week commencing 9th December. A letter has been distributed to nearby neighbours by the contractor. Provisional opening date late 2021.

4.3 Health – 1) The NHS has now appointed a chairman for the combined NHS/CC meetings, meeting dates will not be decided until they review topics for discussion. 2) There is still no positive news regarding the Paediatric service extending to 24/7 working. All Councillors are pushing for this. 3) The Scottish Health Council has rebranded itself as Healthcare Improvement Scotland. They are now focusing on community engagement and will be appealing for our help with various issues. 4) Ian Buchanan has submitted his monthly health report to the Community Council Health Forum. Contact BJ for copies.

4.4 Livingston Village Community Education Centre Association (LVCECA) – with the reorganization of the committee it has been decided to focus on existing clubs and groups using the school. They will therefore not be organizing the annual pensioners’ Christmas party and have suggested that perhaps the LVCC could organize it as it is more of a community event. The CC is to think about this for next year. It was reluctantly agreed that it was too late this year although there was the suggestion that perhaps a trip to the Howden park Panto could be organized. It was also suggested that a new year activity might be arranged such as a Burns night supper.

4.5 Livingston North Local Area Committee – held on the 8th of October and discussed the usual subjects. It was to discuss the granting of two town centre grant applications but was postponed due to conflict of interests involving elected Councillors. The applications were for the mill wheel at the Heritage Centre and local area refurbishment. (see item 8.1)

4.6 Joint Forum of Community Councils – it is now fully established and doing useful work. The next meeting is 21 November. DS to attend. **DS**

5.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

5.1 Weekly Planning Lists: Since the June meeting there have been 82 applications, 3 in the LVCC area: House extensions in Kirkfield View and Maukeshill plus 1 Simpson Parkway. Comments were submitted at the preplanning stage so these will be edited as necessary in view of the new application and passed to WLC Planning. **BJ**

5.2 4 Simpson Parkway, Former Ethicon (Johnson & Johnson) Site – No planning application received as yet by WLC, site currently being marketed for employment use.

5.3 Hunter Road – The developer has stated that a final planning submission will be submitted next week.

5.4 Charlesfield and Livingston West (Gavieside- Both applications still show “awaiting decision”.

6.0 **POLICE REPORT:** No report available.

7.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Adamson

8.1 Ref item 4.5 – AA could not vote on the allocation of town centre grants as there was a conflict of interest. All the grants went through unopposed.

8.2 WLC was voted 2nd best in Scotland for waste recycling.

8.3 Some new/altered bus services start in November. The 287 will now go through the village terminating at the centre.

8.4 Lowport will no longer have residential courses and will provide day only facilities. There is a wide range of Christmas programmes although it is closed for Christmas and New year.

8.5 ref item 2.5 – WLC is working with landowners to alleviate flood conditions on path between Buchanan Gardens and BT

9.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

9.1 For some reason CR has received no bank statements since July, she will investigate. **CR**

9.2 The current balance is £164.52

9.3 It was agreed that various letters sent to BJ from the bank, such as interest rate changes can be destroyed.

10.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

10.1 No report from MM

10.2 BJ has messages from a firm called “Robin Hood” regarding Community Council communications which he will pass on to MM. **BJ**

11.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

11.1 The most relevant messages received in LVCC email inbox since we last met;

An information meeting on the “Shale Trail’ was held on 23rd October. (DS attended and gave a brief description of presentation – the formulation of a path, virtually all on existing footpaths and trails, between Winchburgh and West Calder via the River Almond through Livingston and includes the Almond Valley Heritage Centre. The team will link up with schools and are trying to get stories related to the shale industry from the community).

Final strategic plan for 2019-22 issued by the Fire & Rescue Service. BJ has yet to read,

Scotrail Station Grants – now closed

The Almondvale Boulevard will be closed between 2:30 and 4:00pm on 9th November for True Blues parade.

The Almondvale Boulevard will be closed between 10:00 and 11:45am on 21st November for Violence Against Women parade.

First Edinburgh Airport Newsletter received. Subjects include 14 new routes, shops, fastpark (new car parking facility), community funding and Q&A.

Community Council engagement events – Housing for 2040 at Edinburgh on 11 & 12 December.

Book week – library, coffee and chat, see posters in the area.

Local Outcomes Improvement Plans, consultation by 22nd November.

Winter bulletin from Spokes (the cycling organization) received.

12 **AOCB**

12.1 JC stated that she carried out some cleaning of the “square” and was concerned that if the moss between the concrete blocks is not removed the blocks will start to uplift.

12..2 CR brought up the deteriorating condition of the Christmas decorations on the Boulevard. No one seemed to know who is responsible for them

12.3 The possibility of providing a pavement from the entrance to Kirkfield along Kirkton North Road connecting to Village Lane was discussed. This has been brought to the attention of WLC in the past and rejected. BJ to renew the request**. BJ**

10.0 **NEXT MEETING**

10.1 Next meeting Community Council will be on **Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7:00pm** in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

10.2 Next Kaims Woodlands sub group meeting will be Thursday 21st November 2019 at 7:00pm in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

Dean Swift

09 November 2019