**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-19 on 08 JANUARY 2020**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS: Brian Johnstone - Chair, Dean Swift – Minute Secretary, Carole Robertson - Treasurer (part), Catherine Brown, Shona McKenzie, Jacqueline Conway

GUESTS: Nelu Balaj , Kirsta Kane, Alan Strachan, Andy Marshall

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from: Councillor Moria Shemilt, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Alison Adamson , Margaret McQueen,

**ITEMS:**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1 The minute for 07 November 2019 was approved by Jackie Conway and seconded by Nelu Balaj.

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTE**

2.1 Item 4.6 previous minute – DS attended the last Community Council Joint Forum and gave a brief report. Full minutes were issued and can be obtained from DS

2.2 Item 5.1 previous minute – BJ submitted comments on planning application for housing at 1 Simpson Parkway on 14th November.

2.3 Item 9.1 previous minute - CR was to investigate why we have not, apparently, received a bank statement recently. This has now been resolved.

2.4 Item 10.2 previous minute - MM was asked to advise on the merits, or otherwise, of the “Robin Hood” platform. MM was to report at tonight’s meeting if she was able to attend however this was not possible.

3.0 **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

 3.1 Woodland group – as various actions were taken as far as possible it was agreed to disband the group. Some actions are still ongoing; Angela Constance has agreed to meet BJ to discuss plot 4 (between Kaims Grove and Gardens, WLC have agreed that a footpath is being damaged by tree roots and will take remedial action in the spring, and one resident was planning a garden extension into a woodland, however it appears that it will not be approved by WLC.

3.2 Flooded Path between Buchannan Housing and BT – WLC engineers are working on a design for remedial works and will discuss it with both adjacent property owners. BJ will keep updated.

3.3 Health – 1) The NHS has now appointed a chairman for the combined NHS/CC meetings, meeting dates have still not been decided.

3.4 Beech tree at “Village Green” – The tree was removed for safety reasons due to fungus growth in the trunk. A replacement is to be considered, KK to investigate. **KK**

3.5 Livingston North Local Area Committee – will be held on the 23 January and 31 January for Livingston South and North respectively. BJ to attend.  **BJ**

3.6 Joint Forum of Community Councils – it is now fully established and doing useful work. Monthly newsletters are now issued.

4.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

4.1 Weekly Planning Lists: Since the June meeting there have been 126 applications, 2 in the LVCC area of importance listed below: Others were House extensions in Kirkfield View and Thirlstane Gardens

4.2 4 Simpson Parkway, Former Ethicon (Johnson & Johnson) Site – No planning application received as yet by WLC, site currently being marketed for employment use.

4.3 Hunter Road – a planning application has now been submitted for 55 houses and 55 flats, the layout, which was tabled, is quite different from that displayed at the public exhibition. BJ will submit comments at the weekend, anyone wishing to contribute should do so prior to this Saturday. **ALL**

4.4 Charlesfield Road, Livingston West (Gavieside, 1 Simpson parkway and the aging Cousland Road- applications still show “awaiting decision”.

4.5 There was discussion regarding the lack of “community” spaces (both building and exterior spaces) within the proposed housing schemes. As each scheme is submitted on an individual basis a reserve or allocation of community facilities seem to be left out. Comments on planning applications should include this point, along with the usual comments on lack of school and healthcare facilities. It was noted that while other districts in the town (and elsewhere in the council) have dedicated community buildings with a good level of facilities, the village only has community rooms and limited use of gym in the school which is not seen as sufficient. It was suggested that the old village hall might be used as a community centre again. BJ to pass on these observations to WLC. **BJ**

5.0 **POLICE REPORT:**

5.1 Although no police representative has been present for several months the CC now receives weekly updates by email. This week’s topic was Adverse Childhood Experiences and how this affects youth behavior. Some statistics were included but these were out of date.

5.2 There is a public consultation survey on local policing plan (The Contact Assessment Model i.e. the way police respond to contacts from the public). BJ will email a copy to everyone. **BJ**

6.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

 Councillor Adamson

6.1 There were no Councillors present however Alison Adamson reported by telephone that there is an update on Airport Airspace Changes. (See item 9.1, last para)

7.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

7.1 Although no report was available CR reported that the current balance is just under £200.00

7.2 The accounts are in hand for next month’s AGM. **CR**

8.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

8.1 No report from MM

8.2 BJ has messages from a firm called “Robin Hood” regarding Community Council communications which he has on to MM for comment. **MM**

9.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

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

 The libraries provide a questionnaire which is available if you are visiting. If

you wish to ensure library services are maintained you may want to fill

one out. **ALL**

The Scottish Government has issued a consultation on community wellbeing, which has to be submitted by 29th January. It was agreed that the CC should respond as it will be related to the Local Plan exercise.

There is also an online survey related to strategic transport projects for the next 20 years and covers all forms of transport. As submissions are due by this Friday no submission will be made.

The CC has been asked to contribute to a survey on “Livingston Village Park” (the area between Maukeshill / Riverside Court and the river. It is unclear if it extends west to the multi-sport area off of Charlesfield Lane. Following suggestions from the floor BJ will submit comments by Friday 10th January.  **BJ**

There is also a Scottish Government consultation on Planning performance. As this is due on 14th February it was decided to leave it for the next meeting.

There is an update from the Airport on airspace changes (also see item 6.1). Apparently, a final decision on proposed changes will be decided on 31 January.

10 **AOCB**

10.1 JC stated that the Gala Committee will now take on the organization of the Pensioners Christmas Party.

10.2 JC stated that, while the Christmas tree light switch on was a successful event, there was disappointment as to the quality of the actual lights. This will be taken up by the Gala Committee.

10.3 It was noted that some people in the village voluntarily pick up litter on a large scale. It was suggested that perhaps these people should be acknowledged with some sort of community reward. NB suggested “Spring Clean” which could include the school. BJ will put this on the next agenda.

10.4 It was noted that paths along Hunter Road were thick with leaves and several other areas of the village (and town) have a similar problem.

10.5 KK suggested planting a replacement tree for the felled Beech on Kirk Lane (see item 3.4)

10.6 It was suggested that the CC post a notice, along with the date of the AGM, asking for nominations for the various officers. **BJ**

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

11.1 Next meeting of the Community Council will be the **AGM** on **Wednesday 6th February 2020 at 7:00pm** in the function room of the Livingston Inn. A regular Council meeting will follow the AGM.

Dean Swift

10 January 2020