**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 0N 6 FEBRUARY 2020**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS; Brian Johnstone - Chair, Carole Robertson – Treasurer, Dean Swift- Planning Secretary/Minute Secretary, Shona Mackenzie, Catherine Brown, Jackie Conway, Jodi Conner, Margaret McQueen (part)

GUESTS: Councillor Alison Adamson (part), Alan Strachan, Robert Drummond, Carol Drummond, Derek Wood, Richard lever, Georgie Hume, Nelu Balaj

APOLOGIES: Apologies received from Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Violet

McGregor,

**ITEMS: Action**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1Approval of last meetings minutes was proposed by Dean Swift and seconded by Carol Brown

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 – Carole, Catherine, Jodi, Shona, Margaret, and Dean, and thanks to everybody else here present.

2.2 Brian Johnston formally announced that he would resign and the Council should therefore consider who might take up the post.

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 opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. After much discussion Brian Johnston was re-elected as Chairman with the understanding that tasks will be delegated to various members as required.

4.2 Other office bearers are: Dean Swift – Minute and Planning Secretary Carole Robertson – Treasurer.

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

5.0 **AOCB**

5.1 There was discussion about LVCC’s presence on social media. It was agreed that one improvement would be to put each other’s links on the dedicated LVCC e mail and Gala Day Committee’s Facebooks sites.

**6.0 MEETING DATES FOR NEXT SESSION**

6.1 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 05 March 2020

April 02 April 2020

May 07 May 2020

June 04 June 2020

July No meeting

August No meeting

September 03 September 2020

October 01 October 2020

November 05 November 2020

December No meeting

January 07 January 2021

February AGM 4 February 2021

Dean Swift

Minute Secretary

09 February 2020

**Appendix**

**Livingston Village Community Council**

**Report from the chair at AGM on Thursday 6th February 2020**

**Brian D Johnstone**

Well good evening everyone and welcome the 9th AGM of the Livingston Village Community Council – and my final report as your chair – after 10 years I am taking a rest.

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

A wee bit of background first. We 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 3,000 residents – small in comparison to Murieston at 6,000 or the largest in West Lothian Bathgate at nearly 22,000

Our meetings this year have not been particularly well attended - an average attendance of just 11 per meeting compared to 20, 13, 15 for the previous 3 years. Looking back since the last AGM I noted attendances as 10,10,14,14,7,8,18,13,9. More participation is to 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.

We had 3 guest speakers. Last January Ian Bienlowski of Lothian Buses gave us an update on the Lothian Country services. In April Nicola and Sharon spoke to us about the revived Gala Day vision. In May Pauline Moffat described the OPAL services of the Cyrenians.

During the year we submitted to several consultations such as Planning for Nature & Wildlife, Relocation of Cedarbank School, Advertisements and Shopfronts in Conservation areas, Heritage and Townscape Values, Developer Contributions to General Infrastructure.

On planning we have kept in touch with existing but as yet undetermined planning applications such as Gavieside masterplan and its phase 1 details, Charlesfield Road Housing, Gregory Road Housing, and submitted representations to newer ones such as 1 Simpson Parkway and Hunter Road housing applications. Soon we will be getting involved with the preplanning consultation for 4 Simpson Parkway (the old Ethicon site). Several times we have lodged concerns at the growing number of housing applications for redundant employment premises in the Kirkton South Estate which we feel needs a co-ordinated approach on infrastructure rather than piecemeal singular approval or even a masterplan of its own.

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

Looking after the Village Square was continued with the summer bedding plants in our planters and the spring bulbs are just beginning to emerge from winter hibernation. I will record here our thanks to our 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. While the Gala Day is in our minds we wish to table a proposal that its committee amalgamates into the Community Council as a single function sub group of the council and that the Village Christmas Pensioners party also becomes attached to this team.

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

As LVCC are now part of the West Lothian wide Joint Forum of Community Councils which replaced the old association which died a few years back. This forum is now very active and has a strong voice to air common community council matters and a has created topic sub groups such as Heath Education Town Planning. There are 35 active CCs out of 41 possible CCs in West Lothian.

In November our Kaims Woodland sub group was disbanded after 14 months of efforts to get improved maintenance of the 7 woodland strips within the Kaims estate. There are some positive results and some solutions but also some frustrating dead end action results. This group was formed in September 2018 when a LVCC meeting of 50 or so residents attended . At that meeting some 11 residents agreed to join an action team to meet and pursue solutions – 2 never turned up at any meeting, 1 backed out after the first meeting and 3 more resigned early in the campaign leaving 5 stalwarts to battle on for over a year. The group has encountered intransigent authorities, uncooperative landowners unwilling grant source, uninterested woodland groups. But also encounters persons with sympathetic encouragement and guidance. However the former have outweighed the later. There are some active items still and LVCC will assist them to conclusion

We have our 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 WLC Local Area Committee for both North and South wards – these are every 2 or 3 months. We did attend the quarterly NHS/CC meetings – these went into limbo for 9 months but are about to restart with a new Chair.

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. However we do try.

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 your elected team

Carole, Catherine, Jackie, 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 04/02/20