**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-20 on 08 FEBRUARY 2020**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS: Brian Johnstone - Chair, Dean Swift – Minute Secretary, Carole Robertson - Treasurer, Catherine Brown, Shona McKenzie, Jacqueline Conway, Jodi Conner, Margaret McQueen

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**

1.1 The minute for 08 January 2020 was approved by Catherine Brown and seconded by Alan Strachan.

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTE**

2.1 Item 3.4 previous minute – Kirsta Keane was not present to report on felled beech tree on Kirk Lane. However, by email she stated that the tree closest to the village hall is within the tree preservation order boundary but not the others. She also raised the subject of a replacement with WLC who said they would add it to their programme.

2.2 Item 3.5 previous minute – Livingston North Local Area Committee meetings held on the 23 January and 31 January for Livingston South and North respectively: BJ attended, there were the usual reports with a very interesting report on Street Works success with youths as part of regeneration work.

2.3 Item 4.3 previous minute - Hunter Road, refer to planning section, item 4.3

2.4 Item 4.5 previous minute - BJ has not proceeded with this however the subject is also discussed in item 4.5.

2.4 Item 5.2 previous minute - The time for consultation on the Local Policing Plan ran out before a submission could be made.

2.4 Item 9.1 previous minute - BJ submitted ideas from last meeting for improvements to “The Park” as requested by WLC. It has now been noted that there is £36,000 allocated for these works which will include:

Footpath and drainage upgrades, cutting back vegetation form footpaths

replacing benches, seating and signage and some woodland thinning.

Also, 61% were in favour of a wildflower meadow so this is being progressed through the B-Lines project this spring.

3.0 **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

 3.1 Buses – After a long wait answers to our questions submitted have been answered. BJ to circulate full email **BJ**

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. A design has been prepared and WLC now liaising with adjacent properties. See item 6.1

3.3 Beech tree at “Village Green” – see item 2.1

3.4 Kaims Woodlands - BJ will deal with any further minor issues.  **BJ**

3.5 Joint Forum of Community Councils – it is now fully established and doing useful work. It is growing in size and strength with a new blueprint which may give more power and access. Monthly newsletters are now issued and well worth reading.

3.6 Livingston Village Park allocation – BJ to monitor. **BJ**

4.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

4.1 Weekly Planning Lists: Since the January meeting there have been 43 applications, ones in the LVCC area of importance listed below:

4.2 4 Simpson Parkway, Former Ethicon (Johnson & Johnson) Site – Pre planning consultation has been lodged with public exhibition arranged in local primary school on Friday 6th March. BJ has kept neighbours adjacent to site informed. There appears to be anomaly between the developer’s plan and WLC local development plan, legal boundaries also seem not to be clear. BJ will meet the developer and speak to the local planning officer prior to the exhibition. **BJ**

4.3 Hunter Road – BJ forwarded a submission covering the relevant planning aspects. Apparently there were only three neighbour submissions. BJ to monitor **BJ**

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

4.5 Following last meeting’s discussion regarding the lack of “community” spaces (both building and exterior spaces) within the proposed housing schemes, there was further discussion regarding the loss of open/green space generally in the town and West Lothian in general. There seemed to be no overall plan when assessing individual residential planning applications. It was also suggested that there should be a process of “repair” for landscape lost or damaged. Carol Drummond to prepare a draft report on the subject and forward to BJ who would submit to WLC. JC suggested a link to schools and others with the objective of combining this subject with the shale trail and other initiatives. DS stated that, although a bit late to influence the housing developments already submitted for planning approval, the Scottish Governement’s initiative to have Community Councils to prepare ‘Local Place Plans” would be a good vehicle to raise open space issues. **CD BJ**

5.0 **POLICE REPORT:**

5.1 No police report.

6.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

 Councillor Adamson

6.1 Ref item 3.2 - WLC engineers are working on a design for remedial works and will discuss it with both adjacent property owners. A design has been prepared which involves a drain to Cousland Road. WLC now liaising with BT for access across their land. Works may proceed in April.

6.2 Ref item 2.4 - It has now been noted that there is £36,000 allocated for “the park”.

It was noted that 61% of respondents were in favour of a wildflower meadow. There has been talk of a “designed” wildflower meadow in Howden Park.

6.3 VG Day memorial event will be held at Civic Centre on 18th August at 6:30pm.

6.4 There was a break-in at Almond Valley Heritage Centre and AKB Beauty last week, the persons responsible have apparently been identified by the police.

7.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

7.1 The current balance is £362.19

7.2 The accounts are complete, audited and signed at the AGM this evening

8.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

8.1 With reference to item 5.1 of the AGM it was felt appropriate to provide links to the Gala Day Committee sites.

8.2 After looking at an app called “Robin Hood” for Community Council communications MM felt that as so few people were using the app that it would not be worth pursuing for use by LVCC. .

9.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

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

 LVCC received a reminder about “Dial a Ride” and “Dial a Bus”. Do we want a poster and/or a speaker? Think about for the next meeting **ALL**

Civic Trust “My Place” awards for community led environmental projects was advertised, however LVCC did not qualify.

Comments requested on National Planning framework 4 by end of March.

A review of the Fire and Rescue Service - comments requested by 18th March. JC to respond. **JC**

Suggestions for twinning towns – was left for next meeting

The January Democracy Newsletter has been received.

A notice has been received regarding VE Day celebrations in May.

There is a reminder that LVCC can use Council offices and Libraries for photocopying. JC stated that she has a contact (Concept) at Geddes House who may assist. AA has said that Council funding may be available for printing of appropriate material.

Further Airspace/Airport news has been received.

10 **AOCB**

10.1 There was a general thank you to BJ for his work as Chairman for the past several years.

10.2 It was noted that more water than usual is now running from Kirk Lane, in front of the Church, down the footpath into the square.

10.3 JC stated that BT have agreed that the phone box can be used as a power source.

10.4 JC referred to residents in Linlithgow purchasing Christmas lights and arranging the Council to erect them. Apparently LVCC can apply for a special grant to cover such items. JC & BJ to jointly fill out required forms. **JC, BJ**

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

11.1 Next meeting of the Community Council will be on Thursday **5th March 2020 at 7:00pm** in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

Dean Swift

09 February 2020