**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-21 on 05 MARCH 2020**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS: Brian Johnstone - Chair, Dean Swift – Minute Secretary, Shona McKenzie

GUESTS: Councillor Alison Adamson, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (part) , Councillor Moira Shemilt, Kirstin Shemilt, Ian Aitken, Diane Loughlin, Robert Drummond, Carol Drummond,

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from: Derek Wood, Jackie Conway, Catherine Brown, Carole Robertson - Treasurer

**ITEMS: ACTION**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1 The minute for 06 February 2020 was approved by Shona McKenzie and seconded by Brian Johnstone.

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTE**

2.1 Item 3.1 previous minute – BJ circulated response from WLC transport officer related to questions about bus services.

2.2 Item 3.4 previous minute – BJ to handle any further issues regarding the Kaims woodlands.

2.3 Item 2.4 & 3.6 previous minute - nothing as yet has been approved regarding the improvement works to “Livingston Village Park”. BJ to get update at Livingston North LAC meeting, hopefully start date and programme. DS stated that the “improvements” seemed to be items which would normally be carried out as maintenance works and therefore this expenditure should be for additional

works. BJ to question. **BJ**

2.4 Item 4.2 previous minute - Ethicon site; see item 4.2 under planning.

2.5 Item 4.3 previous minute - Hunter Road; see item 4.3 under planning.

2.6 Item 4.5 previous minute - No progress as yet.

2.7 Item 9.1 previous minute - Fire & Rescue Service report to receive comments, Jackie Conway did respond.

2.8 Item 10.4 previous minute - Christmas tree lights; grants for CC’s will be available from the end of March.

3.0 **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

3.1 BJ thanked the members for the retiral gift, though he reluctantly accepted taking on the chairmanship for another year. He also repeated that there would be much more delegation of tasks.

3.2 Meeting minutes – After discussing aligning our agenda format to the main topics of the WL joint forum it was generally agreed to retain our format but put the forum topics as sub parts of the report from the chair when there was specific news in these headings.

3.3 Gala Committee - The CC has formed a bond with the Village Gala Day Committee now that Jackie Conway (chairman) is a member of the CC. We will work together on aspects of general village community matters.

3.4 Possible guest speakers – suggestions were: a representative of West Lothian Community Police, dial a bus and WLC Planning to discuss open space/masterplan issues.

3.5 Joint Forum of Community Councils – Monthly newsletters are now issued and well worth reading. BJ will circulate. **BJ**

3.6 Flooded path between Buchannan Gardens and BT property – No new news since last meeting.

4.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

4.1 Weekly Planning Lists: Since the January meeting there have been 92 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. A plan was tabled and general discussion took place mainly on the retention of the open space on the eastern end of the site. The layout and type of houses (by Barratts) was indicative at this stage. Any comments at this stage to be submitted to Rydens (not WLC).

4.3 Hunter Road – Planning have some issues with the current proposals and are in discussion with the developer. This will most likely take some time to resolve.

4.4 General – There are now 5 developments for housing in Kirkton South. Gregory Road was approved in principle but 1 Simpson Parkway, adjacent, was refused. There seems to be no obvious consistency in these decisions. BJ has written to WLC Planning asking them to consider a masterplan for the area as opposed to apparently a piecemeal approach. By coincidence (or not) LVCC has received a new planning consultation on “housing within employment areas”. This is one reason for requesting speaker from WLC Planning (see item 3.4).

5.0 **POLICE REPORT:**

5.1 No police report.

6.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Adamson

6.1 Various items were reported:

Waste Scotland Initiative: there are various drop off points, however none in Livingston. There are also places that recycle toys, do party lending kits with reused items, and prom dress exchange.

International Women’s Day is on the 8th of March

Royal British Legion providing a VE day commemoration in May, time and place will be provided at next meeting . **AA**

First Bus have frozen or reduced the price of their weekly and annual tickets.

Train concessions are safe for now.

WLC achieved a high level in a recent UK wide survey for street lighting, road safety, and safe routes to school.

SNP would support the budget from either party if our recommendations were met, and they were with reference to recycling depot full time hours, grass collection on sports fields and better maintenance in Cemeteries. labours budget was the only one we could support.

Councillor Shemilt

6.2 Various items were reported:

The bottle bank in Kirk Lane is closed (however it was noted that there is one in the Livingston Inn car park).

The Livingston Family Centre will be closed.

The extended opening hours for the re-cycling centres was welcomed.

Recent WLC budget - MS noted that all parties did not get involved to agree the budget, and noted that some cuts were still being made even though it is claimed that the Scottish Government provided more money to the Councils.

Councillor Fitzpatrick

6.3 Various items were reported:

Budget – council tax has gone up as with other Councils, mainly due to additional children as a result of substantial new housing, pressure on social care and repair and upgrades to school. As most people are in the Council Tax bands A, B and C they will not find a significant increase. General Council charges (for halls etc.) to increase in line with inflation. Early Learning and Child Care allowance is increased. Operational services will get new machinery for street cleaning. Additional funding is allocated for bus travel, focusing on connectivity within the council area.

There were complaints about the lighting between the Centre and McArthur Glen. A meeting has been held to resolve this and new lighting will be installed.

Trees general – a lot of the town’s beech trees are getting weak, coupled with saturated ground, means that some may have to be removed. However, there is a budget for replanting.

Inveralmond swimming pool is open to the public, LF will forward poster to BJ. **LF**

Regarding BJ’s letter (ref item 4.4) – As the Council ‘s remit does not include health care, it does not include health centres in their masterplans. By law the Council has to provide land for housing, however LF felt that there was more guidance required from the Scottish Government. Some applications which are refused by the Council get overturned on appeal to the Scottish Government’s reporter. There is plenty of land available for housing, but developers want other areas which are often in high landscape value locations. More guidance is required from the Scottish Government regarding “acceptability” of certain locations and what is “effective” housing land.

7.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

7.1 No report

8.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

8.1 No report

9.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

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

A 4-yearly review of CC functions has started, BJ to respond. **BJ**

Airspace/Airport news has been received if anyone wants a copy **ALL**

The CC was asked to participate in BBC Scotland’s “Question Time” programme. Anyone wishing to attend to inform BJ **ALL**

The next public transport forum is in the Civic Centre on 18th March at 7:00pm. A**LL**

The next Local Development Plan starts soon, a newsletter has been issued. If anyone wants a copy contact BJ. **ALL**

Support us available under the Keep Scotland Beautiful banner. SM to review. **SM**

A Community Benefits Tool Kit is available for renewable energy projects, it was agreed not to take any action at this time.

10.0 **AOCB**

10.1 With reference to item 6.3 (child care), it was noted that more childcare positions have been advertised. However, some thought that in the past closing dates for these positions were too short but apparently the current recruitment process is still open.

10.2 It was noted that one lamp post on Main Street has been replaced, were there going to be additional or was this just a replacement. It was generally felt that it was a replacement only.

10.3 SM announced that her son was organizing a litter pick at “Kaim Park” this Saturday at 10:30am. He hopes to have one every month. SM asked if a notice could be put on the CC Facebook page. (see next item)

10.4 CD asked if she could be involved in the Facebook page. It was agreed that CD’s involvement would be desirable and suggested that she contact MM for guidance. CD can insert the item about litter picking (see above item) **CD**

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

11.1 Next meeting of the Community Council will be on Thursday **2nd April 2020 at 7:00pm** in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

Dean Swift

09 March 2020