**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEEETING No 28 OF 5th JANUARY 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**. Brian Johnstone - Chair, Carole Robertson - Treasurer, Margaret McQueen, Catherine Brown, Dean Swift.

**GUESTS** Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (part time), Violet McGregor, Eric Mitchell, Lorina McQueen, Annette Logan, Alan Strachan, Norma Gray, Andrew Marshall.

1. **APOLOGIES** Apologies received from Anne MacMillan ,PC Alan MacMahon, PC John McLean, Alan Nicholson, Jill Wysekal.
2. **MINUTE APPROVAL.** The draft minute of meeting 28 on 5th January 2017 was approved by Alan Strachan and seconded by Margaret McQueen.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** These will be covered in the report from Chair and agenda items
4. **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**

***Health matters.*** Brian had not spotted any significant news. The next joint NHS/Cc meeting will be on Monday 27th February 2017 – Brian will attend and give feedback at our next meeting on 2nd March.

***Buchanan Gardens – Barratt Housing.*** Work is progressing pretty fast with ground work by sub contractor Advanced Construction. Barratt have not as yet given us a revised programme nor the contact details for their Site Manager – hopefully by next meeting. There was a feeling that the traffic management and road cleaning was falling short of construction standards and would be pointed out to Barratt. A resident reported transmitted vibration to her house – again this will be referred to Barratt.

***Road Safety matters .***As at this meeting we still do not have an adequate response to our letters of 30th October 201 and 15th January 2017. Brian wants to have a meeting and will chase WLC next week. (post meeting note - Hurrah! A lengthy response landed by e mail on Friday just after our meeting – Brian will digest and act accordingly)

***Bus Services.*** As a postscript to last meetings session with Bus User Scotland Brian felt the speaker was really apologising for the bus companies but not offering any help/solution/guidance as to how to improve things. So inconclusive and not very useful.

**6** **PLANNING LISTS & PLANNING ITEMS NOT COVERED BY REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**

***Planning Lists.***  From our last meeting the list amounted to 27 pages containing 116 applications had been lodged with WLC. Dean pointed out 2 for interest 32 flatted dwellings in Eliburn close to the JW church and tree felling at the new Manse in Charlesfield Lane

***Barratts at Old Cousland Road.*** Our comments had been noted by Planning Officer who was suggesting a meeting with Barratt to try and finalise site unit numbers (WLC want 5 less that Barratt’s plan) and safeguarding more trees. Brian had spoken to both WLC and Barratt and both seemed to indicate they were waiting the other party!. Not near approval yet so Brian will follow up before next meeting.

***Housing at Former Kirkton Business Centre.*** Again no progress to conclude section 75 so. again Brian will try to contact planner for an update for the next meeting.

***Propose Housing at Hunters Road by Persimmon.*** No real change so last month’s statement repeated “An early PAN (Proposal of Application Notice ) has been lodged for major housing on the site of the former Thus/Cable & Wireless/Vodaphone site in Hunters road. This starts a 12 week consultation process but no date for the consultation exhibition has been released yet. Brian has established contact with the WLC case officer Steve McLaren and Persimmon’s Development Planner, David Jinks and will keep in regular contact with each as the PAN progresses to a later planning application. Meantime the existing site owners Gamlin Ltd have instructed Central Demolition to clear the site and demolition started yesterday”. Brian reassured close neighbours that he would be vigilant on this one and keep in close touch with all parties, Archeologically a statement had been lodged in connection with potential ancient burials in the mounded area on this site and opposite land. Tree preservation orders are known to exist around the site areas for trees over 100mm in girth.

**6 POLICE REPORT**

 Our Community Police kept away tonight because of the AGM aspects but PC Alan McMahon gave us some stats. to be read out as:-

**7 NEWS & UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

Anne Macmillan raised the following points

1. 6 new paediatric consultants have been appointed across NHS Lothian and the first starts in February.
2. The staff at St Johns are to be congratulated for achieving an exemplary inspection report with no requirements or improvement recommendations subsequent to an unannounced inspection by the Healthcare Environment Inspectorate. This standard of report is a first in NHS Lothian so we add our compliments to the dedication of all staff at our local Hospital. When approached to print a press release on this the local paper – The Courier – said it was not noteworthy enough. The Courier attitude seems to be if it is not sensational or bad doom and gloom news then we don’t want to know. Organisations are given too much press space for criticism and bad news and no space for congratulations for meritorious success. A bad mark for the media – yet again!!
3. A&E are coping well with increased presentation numbers

Councillor Fitzpatrick raised the following items

1. There is to be a constituency boundary rearrangement to reduce the number of members. Pentland and West Lothian will be amalgamated in some way.
2. The LDP in final form is now with Government Recorder.
3. The education budget is to be centralised. This central collection will receive all the additional West Lothian community charges for bands E to H and reallocate as Scottish Government think fit Again centralisation going over the heads of local knowledge, local wishes and local government - cannot be a good thing!

**8 TREASURERS REPORT** Carole reported current balance is still £364.73 but was concerned that no recent bank statement had been received. (post meeting note – by coincidence a new statement arrived on the Friday after our meeting. Brian reminded Carole that our annual statement would be needed for approval at our next meeting -the AGM on 2nd February.

**9** **WEB & IT MATTERS** Margaret reported Facebook and Twitter were showing about 127 hits, the web was now updated. Margaret asked Anne for a copy of the St Johns press release to add to our web and reminded everyone to submit any news items or intimations about forthcoming events**.**  The LVCC web address is repeated here as ***www.livingstonvillagecommunitycouncil.org.uk***

**10** **SECRETARIAL MATTERS** Since the last meeting in November the LVCC email in box had received 24 relevant messages and a host of social media items. Brian’s own e mail took 51 incoming messages relating to LVCC and he sent out 68. Excluding items raised above the relevant incoming messages contained the following topics:-

3 Airport Consultations on master plan, airspace and noise – we did not contribute to any.

 Empowerment teaching for excellence – ran out without comment from us.

 Invitation to a Parliamentary reception om affordable housing – did not attend

 Consultation on Quiet Roads – closed without comment from us.

 Planning Consultation on noise – closed without comment from us

 Use of libraries questionnaire – not relevant to us

 Update reports from River Forth Fisheries Trust and the Almond Barriers projects

**11**  **AOCB**

Our next meeting on 2nd February 2017 will be in 2 parts. A short **Annual General Meeting** first followed by our normal formatted meeting. Brian will raise a matter relative to our **office bearers** Brian, Carole and Alan. It is normal for these to stand down each AGM and be replaced or re-elected for the subsequent year. However in October 2017 the full 4 yearly CC elections are due for all CCs in West Lothian the whole team of Brian, Carole, Alan, Margaret Catherine and Dean have to stand down and seek re-election through the WLC form filling exercise along with any newcomers (up to 12). So Brian will propose, and seek AGM meeting approval, that the current office bearers remain in post from AGM to the October election.

**12 NEXT MEETING** Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 2nd February 2017 at 7:00 pm** in the function room of Livingston Inn and will be in 2 parts with AGM first follows by a normal Community Council meeting

*Brian D Johnstone*

*12/01/17*