**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 33 1st JUNE 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Brian Johnstone - Chair, Carole Robertson – Treasurer, Catherine Brown, [3]

**GUESTS** Councillor Alison Adamson, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (part time), PC John McLean, Violet McGregor, Helen Lamont, Elizabeth Scott, Judi Conner, Alan Strachan. [8]

1. **APOLOGIES** Apologies received from Councillor Andrew Millar, Councillor Moira Shemilt, Councillor Peter Heggie, Alan Nicholson, Dean Swift, Margaret McQueen, Vera Turnbull, Annette Logan, Shona McKenzie. [9]
2. **MINUTE APPROVAL.** The previous meeting minute no 32 for 4th May 2017 was approved by Catherine Brown and seconded by Carole Robertson.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** These will be covered in the report from Chair and agenda items.
4. **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**

***Health.*** Brian attended the quarterly NHS/CC meeting at St Johns last Monday. A very low turnout with only 6 of 41 CCs represented**.** Not a lot of news.

Getting Doctor appointments is a common difficulty with most practices. Although news from Vera at the meeting applauded an improvement at the Howden practice.

The Carmondean/Deans practice currently run by NHS because all 5 doctors on the contracted practice resigned en-masse looks to revert to a contracted business in the near future due to good doctor recruitment.

The parking problems at St Johns continues but will change on 3rd July - possibly to the detriment of staff. A vehicle recognition system starts in July to monitor and hopefully reduce the many non-hospital persons using the car parks regularly as their “park and ride” facility.

St Johns is well placed with 3 finalists in the NHS Scotland awards – one in catering, one in voluntary and one for the Lynne Jackson nurse of the year award – some good news.

NHS Lothian escaped the recent Cyber attack problems by having more modern computer systems and an “on the ball” IT support team

***Community Council Elections***. Every 4 years WLC require that all Community Councils hold elections for their team of members. Nominations have to be in by 12th September 2017 just after our meeting here on 7th September. We as LVCC can have up to 18 but we never get near that, at present there are 6 elected members with only 5 active and the minimum for survival is 4. At present there is myself, Carole, Catherine, Margaret and Dean.

I will put myself forward as a nominee but whether I want to continue as Chair is up to the first meeting after the election. Dean has indicated to me he will re-stand. At the meeting both Carole and Catherine indicated a willingness to re-stand. Also at the meeting Jodi Conner volunteered to stand. Brian will check on Margaret after the meeting. Brian suggested Alan Strachan would be an able addition to the team and Alan said he would think about it. Carole also indicated Shona MacKenzie would probably stand so Brian would ask her after the meeting. So it looks as if we can survive.

Brian will issue the forms in due time for September.

***Update on actions by the Chair since last meeting.*** The Police and Fracking consultation submissions were made in due time and have been acknowledged.

The Airport Consultation on flight path changes would appear to be flawed and major challenges have been lodged and supported by 9 MSPs, 9 Local councillors and 17 Community Councils. This is ongoing and no timescale is known. The meeting voiced the opinion that flight numbers overhead had increased and seemed more noticeable at night.

News from Glberts, the agents for Randolf Hill, indicated the site start for the nursing home looked to be early 2018. Gilberts had just started work on the detailed Building Warrant drawings.

***Planters in the village square.*** The bulbs did give a good show in the spring time and are now dying back. Brian to seek advice on what to do with them prior to planting bedding plants. The meeting unanimously approved that we go ahead and purchase bedding plants spending a similar amount to last year (£77). Again Dean and Shona volunteered for this.

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

***Weekly Planning Lists.***  Since our last meeting the lists totalled 87 new planning applications. Nothing of concern for the LVCC area and its immediate environs.

***Barratts Cousland Road.***  Although not proceeding to buy the site Barratt still want to obtain planning approval and this process is going exceedingly slowly with Barratt having submitted revised plans which we still have to see and make comment. Barratt do not want a site discussion as previously requested by LVCC. Brian cannot see the logic or hidden agenda behind Barratt getting planning approval and not proceeding to buy the land from WLC and will pursue this question with the planning case officer.

The other difficulties with this road partly hinge on the Barratt outcome but also cover 3 other issues and Andrew Millar, one of the Livingston North Councillors, has taken this on board. Brian had suggested a multi-party meeting to air all the problems and just heard today that the subject will be on the agenda for the Livingston North Local Area Committee (LAC) on Thursday 29th June. Brian will attend this meeting.

***Housing at former Kirkton Business Centre.*** The WLC case officer tells me the site owner is reviewing 2 options – a – to sell the site now without planning consent and thus make the housebuilder go through a new planning application process or - b – to continue to conclude his current application to completion and then sell on the site with an enhanced value. This follows a WLC change to the education contribution aspect of the section 75.

***Preplanning consultation on proposed housing at Hunters Road by Persimmon.*** The negotiations between the site owner and the potential housebuilder, Persimmon, are still continuing before a start date is announced for the long awaited public consultation. The WLC case officer has written indicating concern at the time lapse since first raised last December and hinting that the application be withdrawn and resubmitted as a new application when plans, details dates and venues are known. Meantime the cleared site rests quietly and at least there was not the magnet of an empty building to rob or vandalise or party in!!

**6. POLICE REPORT** PC John McLean said there were 23 calls in the village area compared to 27 previous year. The 23 calls resulted in 4 crimes. Youth antisocial behaviour still dominated and were being “attracted” into large groups via social media from well outside the area, the age band is 14 to 16. The park was the main locus and cameras were suggested however the process of licencing could be lengthy and fruitless. John repeated that the police had no power to deal with travelling people whom they regularly met with and followed around a string of regular temporary sites. There seems to be no all embracing rules, regulations or anything in place to restrict traveling people and the mess they inevitably leave behind.

**7. NEWS FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS** Brian reminded everyone that because this CC straddles 2 wards we have 8 councillors. The local elections brought changes. In Livingston North we lost Anne McMillan and Angela Moohan, retained Robert De Bold and Andrew Miller and welcomed new in Alison Adamson and Dom McGuire. In Livingston South we lost John Muir and Danny Logue, retained Lawrence Fitzpatrick and Peter Johnston and welcomed new Moira Shemilt and Peter Heggie.

Brian welcomed Alison as one of the new councillors attending this evening for the first time

Brian also wanted to record via the minute that LVCC acknowledges the time, effort and support received from Anne McMillan and Angela Moohan during their terms as councillors.

Alison introduced herself as the new girl on the block with not much to report yet other than struggling on a steep learning curve.

Lawrence read out the latest road closure details starting on 3rd July for 4 weeks with Kirkton Road North closed at the underpass 95m east of the junction with Village Lane. For many residents this will mean lengthy detours. A shuttle bus service will operate to link in with usual buses. He acknowledged our best wishes in his new role as Leader of West Lothian Council.

**8. TREASURERS REPORT** Carole confirmed our bank balance should as £614.73.

**9.** **WEB & IT MATTERS** Margaret could not make the meeting so no report. Brian could not get into our LVCC website recently so will speak with Margaret later.

**10.** **SECRETARIAL MATTERS** Since the last meeting the LVCC email in box had received 9 relevant messages and a host of social media items. Brian’s own e mail took 41 incoming messages relating to LVCC and he sent out 39. The incomers of note included:-

Offer of grants to start a community food cycling forum - we decided not to participate

Invitation to participate in Scottish Government 20mph consultation – Brian to draft a submission and circulate the e mail list of residents for comment

Invitation to comment on Lidl’s application to increase their in-store alcohol sales area during December. No objection but use this as a means of logging concerns on youth procurement of alcohol.

Latest cycling magazine Spokes has arrived – no takers

Seafarers asked that we support Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September – no action here

Invitations to participate in 2 Planning Guidance consultations one on Air Quality , the other on Flooding with submission dates of 14th July - Again Brian to draft and circulate

**11.**  **AOCB**

The problems and dangers of indiscriminate parking at the pedestrian crossing at the children’s nursery in Kirk Lane was raised. Police are aware of this and have issued fines from time to time. PC McLean said they would make more visits. Brian took on board to discuss with WLC road section the repainting of the lines to show up the no parking zone more prominently. Alison volunteered to take up the issue through her activities with WLC.

The problem of tree belts within the Kaims area re-emerged as concerns in several places for different reasons. The areas within WLC control can usually get some attention. However most areas in Kaims are now in private hands which makes action more difficult to generate. Notwithstanding Brian will contact owners and meet if possible to try and get some kind of management regime started for these wooded zones. Brian will also review all previous work on this tormented area and try to press forward. There is also differences between residents’ wishes which makes universal decisions impossible but we can but try to progress the issues

**12 NEXT MEETING** Our next meeting is **Thursday 7th September 2017 at 7:00 pm** in the function room of Livingston Inn.

*Brian D Johnstone*

*05/06/17*