**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 34 7th September 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Brian Johnstone - Chair, Carole Robertson – Treasurer, Catherine Brown, Dean Swift, Margaret McQueen. [5]

**GUESTS** Councillor Alison Adamson, PC John McLean, Violet McGregor, Edward McGregor, Alan Strachan, Annette Logan, Nerv Balaj, Angela Moohan, Richard Lever, Georgie Hume, Gordon Pennykid, Vera Turnbull, [12]

1. **APOLOGIES** Apologies received from Councillor Andrew Millar, Councillor Peter Heggie, Councillor Dom McGuire, Alan Nicholson, Jodi Conner, Shona McKenzie. [9]
2. **MINUTE APPROVAL.** The previous meeting minute no 33 for 4th May 2017 was approved by Catherine Brown and seconded by Alan Strachan.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** These will be covered in the report from Chair and agenda items.
4. **POLICE REPORT** (This was taken out of agenda order to allow PC McMahon to leave early)

Copies of the crime stats for August were circulated. Those for Livi North showed all crimes down and for Livi South all down except ASB calls which was marginally up. A good trend. Over the year however Hate Crime has jumped up. Alan felt this related to disability figures being included for repeat occasions. Travelling People in Livingston seem to be on the increase and the usual haunts were targeted. The police are very aware of the concerns for the presence of these and it will be on the agenda for the next Livi North LAC meeting on 21st September which Brian will attend. Wheelie bin thefts and subsequent fires is concerning and residents are urged to not put out the night before and consider chaining the 3 bins together at their stance. Again selfish and illegal parking at the Gym in Meickle Road is threatening to cause an accident at the junction with Kirkton Road South. Attendees seem to prefer the road to using the empty car park out of laziness to get to the entrance!

1. **NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.** By the end of the meeting Brian had collected 8 nominations for our CC. Which is healthier than before. The election is on 26th October. The meeting on 2nd November will thus inaugurate the 3rd session of LVCC since it was formed in 2011, with enlarged member numbers. Office bearers will be agreed at that meeting.

1. **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**

***Health.*** Brian attended the quarterly NHS/CC meeting at St Johns last week. Again a very low turnout. Main topic was Paediatrics. So NHS appeared with some heavy weight senior staff. Despite rumours and media use of scaremonger words such as temporary closure, indefinite closure, suspension and cessation the staff restated the NHS commitment for a restoration of 24/7 service in the future. Staff levels had improved with 6 appointed consultants from the required 8. No date for restoration was given despite CC pressure. New doctor’s contracts now include for unsocial hours where the old ones did not.

Other topic was integration of social services with NHS. There seems to be some uncertainty here with senior staff quitting however the working of integrating matters seems to be progressing well.

The Howden practice has formed a patient’s forum and one of our regular residents is present on this. A recent patient questionnaire got 500 response and analysis of the results is available from Brian on request. As statistics go they can be slewed by adjustment so treat with caution.

***Former Kirkton Business Centre.*** Brian spoke with the Nursing Home agents who report steady progress with Building Warrant detailing but site start now unlikely until “first half of 2018” due to delays and overspend on a previous contract. It is hoped to be 12 month build contract with first patient in Summer 2019.

Some progress to report on the 29 houses. At the site owners request Education have reviewed the school’s future capacity and stated that the classroom extension and playground extension are not now needed on this application so the developer contribution drops to a hall extension only. Brian attended the WLC Development Committee meeting which unanimously agreed to adjust the wording of the section 75 legal agreement to reduce the education aspect of the contribution and delete the need to realign Kirk Lane to give land to education. So this should allow both parties to sign up the agreement and the owner to sell on the plot to a house builder with approval in principle for housing.

***Update on actions by the Chair since last meeting.*** Brian continued to debate the tree policy with WLC but had no success getting meetings with the private tree belt owners. Brian to continue to try and make contact and progress.

Brian submitted our representations on the 20mph Bill, supplementary planning on flooding and also the air pollution.

A response was received from the licensing authorities on alcohol sales to underage persons. This however just reiterated the rules and the law with no help or actions to help curb the offence.

We achieved our wish that the road markings be redone at the pedestrian crossing near the nursery in Kirk Lane

Brian attended the Livingston South LAC meeting and made a routine visit to the site manager at Buchanan Gardens

***Livingston Village Community Education Centre Association.*** Brian represents the LVCC on this and Dean is the current letting secretary. The AGM will be on Tuesday 26th September at 7:00 pm in the primary school and new members are needed.

***Village Square.*** We look after our adopted phone box and keep the planters blooming. Brian suggested some sort of sign to advertise that LVCC do this – Meeting agreed that this be done. Dean also suggested a proper notice board be fitted to the phone box rather than just sticking our notices to it – again the meeting agreed to do this. Carole confirmed there was adequate funds in our bank to do these. WLC was looking for someone pay for the Christmas Tree switch on costs of approx £50. Since this is an event in “our” square we could agree to pay this but Brian is to ascertain if other trees in the locality also carry such a charge and also approach Barratt to donate this cost as part of their help the community criteria during their long building project in the village.

**7.** **PLANNING REPORT**

***Weekly Planning Lists.***  These became muddled in July but reappeared in new format with totally random numbering. Brian to ascertain the new numbering logic. It appears there were around 200 applications since we last met in June. Only a few minor ones in our patch and nothing contentious.

***Barratts Cousland Road.*** The Barratt planning application for 87 houses rumbles on and the latest from WLC is that Education have stipulated a condition that no house shall be occupied until August 2020 due to lack of Secondary School capacity. (post meeting note this application will be tabled for approval under delegated powers at the WLC DM meeting on 27th September along with several condition we set some time back)

***Preplanning consultation on proposed housing at Hunters Road by Persimmon.*** This appears to have stalled completely and Persimmon are not providing any update. In August the site was occupied by travelling people for about a week before eviction leaving their usual mess. It is not known if negotiations between the site owner and the potential housebuilder, Persimmon, are still continuing. A local resident has tracked the site ownership so Brian will write to them about the development and the deteriorating state of the site.

***Gavieside.*** A major development is proposed via a PAN planning notice for almost a township spreading from Toll roundabout to Polbeth. This is on the old and emerging WLC local development plan and includes for 1,900 houses, schools, medical centre, retail provision, roads, bridges etc etc. This is a huge master plan for long term development with phase 1 spread from 2019 to 2029 and phase 2 thereafter. We will keep an eye on this one since it borders the LVCC western boundary

**8. NEWS FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS.** Alison was the only one present and had little to add to the discussion other than raising an issue with 2 men living in a car. Gordon Pennykid and the new Minister Nerv Balaj were aware and helping. LVCC could add nothing to this matter.

**9. TREASURERS REPORT** Carole confirmed our bank balance as £530.30.

**10.** **WEB & IT MATTERS** Margaret had retired unwell so no report.

**11.** **SECRETARIAL MATTERS** Since the last meeting in June the LVCC email in box had received 41 relevant messages and a host of social media items. Brian’s own e mail took 115 incoming messages relating to LVCC and he sent out 91.

The incomers of note included:-

Offer of training in planning process – no takers from the meeting; new members need for the licensing forum – no takers from meeting; 3 consultations on Planning Enforcement, climate change and community empowerment – Brian to draft, circulate and submit; job offers from United Nations – Dean and Catherine requested Brian passed on the data; Neil Findlay MSP wants to attend one of our meetings – meeting said yes; Killandean Greenway seek a presentation and volunteers – yes, invite to next meeting:

**11.**  **AOCB**

The problems of gridlock near to Currys was raised again as were some other road safety matters so Brian will reopen discussions with his contacts in Roads Section.

The Airport Consultations require an update at the next meeting.

Gordon will intimate the date for the Gala day AGM.

Speeding and tailgating by the heavy 8 wheelers using Kirkton North Road was raised – Alan McMahon had left so Brian would forward this to him.

The overgrown state of the boundaries of Kaims Terrace was raised. Brian to write to the factors

**12 NEXT MEETING** Our next meeting is **Thursday 5th October 2017 at 7:00 pm** in the function room of Livingston Inn.

*Brian D Johnstone*

*25/09/17*