**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-04 1st FEBRUARY 2018**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS; Brian Johnstone - Chair, Dean Swift- Minute & Planning Secretary, Carole Robertson – Treasurer, Jodi Conner, Catherine Brown

GUESTS: Nelu Balaj, Richard Lever, Georgie Hume, PC McCartney & PC Cairns (Police Scotland), Councillor Moira Shemilt, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (part), Councillor Alison Adamson (part), Vi McGregor, Alan Strachan,

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from Councillor Alison Steadman, Councillor Peter Heggie, Angela Moohan, Shona Mackenzie, Margaret McQueen, Annette Logan,

**ITEMS: Action**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1Councillor Moira Shemilt notified DS that her name was not included under apologies at the last meeting and she had, in fact, forwarded her apologies to BJ.

1.2 Approval of last meetings minutes was proposed by Alan Strachan and seconded

 by Vi McGregor.

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 (item 2.9 previous minutes) - BJ has notified all previous recipients of minutes

 of the change in distribution.

2.2 (item 2.10 previous minutes) – DS presented details of two notice boards, one from

 the manufacturer of the notice board that is located on the village shop, and another

 from Adambrae which the Bellsquarry Community Council use. After discussion it

 was agreed that the village shop manufacturer would be used and that, mainly for

 cost and administrative reasons, it would be fixed to the phone box. The size will be approximately A2, BJ to confirm measurements. Colour black. DS to process order

 once size has been confirmed. **BJ/DS**

2.3 (item 2.12 previous minutes) - Trees at Kaims: Another visit to John Roberts was

 attempted plus a letter without success.

2.4 (item 2.15 previous minutes) - Guest speakers: No one had suggestions for

 guest speakers, everyone to keep thinking about guest speakers. **ALL**

2.5 (item 2.9 previous minutes): BJ unable to liaise with MM on web matters, he will

 continue to pursue a meeting with MM.

2.6 BJ sent Linlithgow Community Council a supporting response regarding their campaign against stopping the no. 31 bus.

3.0 **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:**

3.1BJ referred to press releases covering the situation atSt John’s Hospital and

 children services, as well as the demonstration organized by Neil Findlay two

 Fridays ago. Paisley Children’s hospital has also closed. BJ will attend the next

 NHS/CL meeting on 15th February. **BJ**

3.2 It has been noted that a piece of woodland in Kaims is for sale by auction. BJ has contacted the vendor to ask if they are aware the area is covered by a tree protection order and that there is archaeological interest in the site. They were apparently not

 aware and did not seem to care.

3.3 BJ contacted the Council about apparent illegal cutting of trees. They stated that

 if it is located private land they have no authority to act unless there is a tree

 preservation order in place or risk of injury or damage and in any case do not

 have the resources to monitor tree felling by private individuals throughout West

 Lothian Council

3.4 BJ attended the Livingston North Local Area Committee on the 11th of January.

 There was a presentation on Inveralmond Community High School as well as the

 usual updates on Police, Operational Services, regeneration issues, and housing.

 BJ will attend the next meeting on 16th February. **BJ**

4.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

4.1 DS tabled the only planning issue within our area: a house extension to a house at 9 Kaims Gardens. In the nearby areas there is a slight change to the application for housing

 at Limeylands (off the A71 across from The Brucefield), and a proposal by Next to

 build a store where Matalan and Pound Stretcher were located at Almondvale Retail Park West.

4.2 It was noted that boreholes were taken at the proposed Nursing home location.

4.3 DS also reported, for general interest, a housing development in Murieston, which

 the Council did not approve, was called in by the Scottish Government and given approval.

4.4 Hunter Road: The legal sale of the land to a developer is close to conclusion. The

 builder will submit for planning approval in due course.

 Trees in the area will only be dealt with by the Council if they are at risk of damaging property. They carried out a survey in November and did not find any trees requiring attention. However they wish to be contacted if anyone feels they have a problem

4.5 Old Cousland Road: still not approved, awaiting a decision from WLC Planning.

4.6 Nursing home: architects have not had response from WLC Planning about change

 to roof angle.

3.7 Proposed housing development on old LDC site: nothing approved, still awaiting both parties agreeing to section 75.

5.0 **POLICE REPORT**

5.1 APC McCartney presented reported crime figures in Livingston North and South Ward

 for December 2017 compared to December 2016. Virtually all types of crime were significantly lower

5.2 There was therefore nothing of great concern during this period.

5.3 The meeting mentioned parking at the new gym by Klondyke Garden Centre and

 the Village School. PC McCartney noted that the school had been given a “Park Smart”

 pack.

5.4 A crime prevention advice for home owners pack and December’s crime statistics were issued to all present.

6.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

6.1 Councillor Moira Shemilt noted that Livingston South Railway Station would be

 closed from 29/03/18 to 10/04/18, with parts of the car park closed on various dates.

 (post meeting note – MS has provided BJ & DS with details of locations and dates.

 BJ is circulating via email).

6.1.1 The housing development approved in Murieston (ref item 4.3 above) was discussed

 and clarified.

6.1.2 The Scottish Government has allocated a further 5 million to the Council budget (see item 6.2.2 below)

6.2 Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick confirmed that the housing planning application in Murieston had been called in by the Scottish Government.

6.2.1 His focus is currently on education and care.

6.2.2 With reference to item 6.1.2 above, LF noted that although the Council has received an additional 5 million pounds it still leaves a shortfall of over 60 million pound resulting from earlier cuts

6.3 Alison Adamson mentioned the Blue Green network (environmental projects in the Almond Valley) and stressed the importance of contributing to the consultation. BJ currently has consultation information forwarded to him from WLC. **ALL**

6.3.1 AA also mentioned the “Park Smart” initiative (ref. item 5.3) and stated that the

 schools seem a bit reluctant to get involved. Apparently there is a financial

 contribution available.

6.3.2 A Community Council is to be formed in Deans, however the first two meetings

 have not actually taken place for various reasons.

7.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

7.1The Treasurer’s report was given earlier at the AGM and is available in the AGM minutes.

8.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

8.1 No further report from last meeting. As stated at the last meeting, the web site

 could do with an update and meeting minutes will now go on the web site, BJ

 to liaise with MM **BJ, MM**

9.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

9.1 The LVCC email inbox received 9 messages since we last met. BJ’s email received 41 messages with 36 being sent out.

 Messages of note were:

 Scottish Opera to advertise programme on 6 February at Howden Park Centre.

 Scottish Fire & Rescue want to register any volunteers who may offer a skill in emergencies. Contact BJ if you are interested **ALL**

 WLC will request feed back on Blue & Green Network initiative by 19 February.

 BJ to attend presentation, prepare and circulate a draft response. **BJ**

 Rural Wellbeing and the Scottish Government are seeking community support for

 various mental health projects. If you wish further information contact BJ **ALL**

 Cyrenians are looking for volunteers to drive people who require transport and

 cannot manage themselves. More information is located on the Village Shop notice board. **ALL**

10.0 **AOCB**

10.1 Jodi Conner noted that there seems to be an alarm going off in Kaims around

 10:00 – 10:30 pm every night. No one else present seemed to have heard it.

10.2 JC also mentioned potholes at top of Kaims Brae. BJ stated that Jim Jack in

 Operation Services in the Council is the person to contact.

10.3 Alan Strachan asked for an update regarding the Nursing home commencement

 of works. The new date seems to be the last quarter of this year.

10.4 Discussion took place regarding the Council’s monitoring of street lights. There

 was differing opinion as to whether or not this was taking place on a regular basis.

10.5 There was also mention of the pothole coming into the Livingston Inn’s car park

 and the continual problem with parking at the gym opposite Klondyke garden

 centre (ref. item 5.3 above)

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

11.1 Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 1 March 2018 at 7:00pm** in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

Dean Swift

04 February 2018