**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-09 on 4th October 2018**

**PRESENT**:

MEMBERS; Brian Johnstone - Chair, Carole Robertson – Treasurer, Dean Swift, Planning Secretary/Minute Secretary, Catherine Brown, Margaret McQueen

GUESTS: Councillor Alison Adamson (part), Councillor Moira Shemilt, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (part), Alan Strachan, Richard Lever, Georgie Hume, Garry Gardner, Morag Gardner, Richard Lamont, Helen Lamont

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from Shona Mackenzie, Jodi Conner, Police Scotland

**ITEMS: Action**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1 Carol Robertson proposed approval of the September minute and Catherine Brown seconded.

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 (item 2.3 previous minutes): Knowledge Hub Network was passed to McQ to register,

McQ has not had time to deal with this as yet. **McQ**

2.2 (item 2.5 previous minutes): GDPR – the Council now has the two required documents, which have been independently checked. BJ will issue both the Private Information Notice and the full GDPR Guidance to Privacy Handling Document to everyone in due course. **BJ**

3.0 **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

3.1 Kaims Woodland Sub-Group: Following the meeting last month a subgroup of 11 members was formed to tackle the various problems with the woodland areas within Kaims Park. The Sub-group met on 27 September with 6 attending. Actions were identified and are included in a note of the meeting which has been circulated to

some members and will be issued to others soon. The next meeting of this group

will be 25 October.

3.2 Defibrillator: Requests for a contribution from WLC was not pursued as LVCEA (Livingston Village Community Education Association) has intimated they would

provide funding. This is subject to formal approval from their committee. The meeting enquired about maintenance of the unit and training. It was agreed that when we have

the defibrillator we could better assess the requirement for these two items. It was

decided that somewhere in the Livingston Inn would be the best location, a meeting

will be arranged to discuss. **BJ**

3.3 Local Area Committees (LAC): BJ attended meetings at Livingston South on 07 September and Livingston North 13 September at James Young High School. The

usual reports from Police, Fire & Rescue, WLC housing, regeneration, etc. were presented. If anyone wishes details contact BJ. **All**

3.4 Presentation by Bus Company: will be at the November meeting.

3.5 Bangour Village Hospital: BJ attended the public exhibition of the proposed development which will take place over several years. There is no effect on Livingston Village.

3.6 Oak Tree by Village Shop: A large limb has blown off, revealing a diseased core to the tree. WLC have stated that it should be felled but cannot carry this out as it is not in WLC property. The owners, Persimmon Homes, say the land is not theirs until planning permission is granted.

4.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

4.1 Weekly Planning Lists: are now going to DS and BJ automatically via Lorraine McGrorty.

There have been 68 applications but only one of importance (see…below).

4.2 Persimmon Homes planning application for northern half of the Kirkton Business

Centre site: Planning still not approved as the two parties are in discussion regarding

the timing of the provision of affordable houses.

4.3 Gregory Road Housing: BJ attended a second meeting and received a (massive)

planning application document. BJ recommends that we indicate conditional approval

with conditions on protecting species, trees and traffic measures.

4.4 Hunter Road: BJ ascertained that Montague Evans have a shortlist of two developers (builders), once one is selected a public consultation date will be announced. This

should be within the month.

4.5 Livingston West (Gavieside): Developers (Springfield) will be writing to affected Community Councils soon. Phase one planning applications will be submitted early 2019

4.6 Savills, Charlesfield Road : A public exhibition as a preliminary planning consultation

will be held next Wednesday October 10th at Crofthead Farm Community Centre. The proposal is for housing in the area north of Charlesfield Road just west of the Morrison’s roundabout where there are currently office/factory buildings.

5.0 **POLICE REPORT**

5.1 Although there were apologies from the police they have referred to the Livingston North

LAC for statistics up to end of August. Generally the trend in all crime was down except for arson which was up from nil to 1. AA stated that the figure will rise in the next report due to the recent car vandalism at Livingston North Train Car Park.

6.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

6.1 Councillor Alison Adamson:

6.1.1 The Livingston Players are holding their next performance on Thursday and Friday 11 & 12 October at Inveralmond High School.

6.1.2 AA attended the food growing strategy event at Howden Park Centre (soup & chat) on 13th September. There was a lot of interest in growing food but no locations available.

It was suggested that perhaps sharing private gardens might be one solution.

6.1.3 Almond Valley Heritage Trust is looking for Trustees.

6.2 Councillor Moira Shemilt:

6.2.1 MS attended a very well attended public consultation in Dedridge regarding the new bus service. There were complaints that Dedridge West seemed to be forgotten about and some buses no longer go in the St John’s Hospital grounds therefore patients have to walk from the nearest stop. It was noted that there are no longer taxi cards.

6.2.2 The Anti Poverty Strategy has been launched, and MS has observed that of the 8 points

listed for action number 7 is eliminating poverty while number 1 is “advice”, should this not be the other way around?

6.2.3 There was discussion about the possibility of breakfast clubs being discontinued. MS stressed that these are vital not only for children’s nutrition but to allow parents

to be in employment to help alleviate poverty. MS was generally concerned

about the increase in “working poor” which she observes.

6.3 Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick:

6.3.1 The Planning Bill is currently going through the Scottish Government, which will give developers automatic right to appeal. When this happens the application can be called in and the government can overturn the Council’s Planning decision. LF is of the opinion that, if the proposal has been refused because it is not in accordance with the local plan, the Council’s decision should be final.

6.3.2 The Local Development Plan is in the process of being finalised. The Government has now agreed that the housing supply figures are correct.

6.3.3 P1 testing: WLC has always carried out a similar procedure.

6.3.4 Exam results: Are generally up again this year.

6.3.5 Social Care: Non-residential care will now be charged.

6.3.6 As has been widely publicised, the Paediatric Ward at St John’s Hospital has been closed seven times, it could be three years before it is sorted out.

7.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

7.1The balance in the bank account is now £289.09. However when an outstanding

invoice is paid the new total will be £232.11.

8.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

8.1 MMQ has not had the time to work on this. It was agreed that for the time being

CC would wait until MMQ eventually has time.

9.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

9.1 The LVCC email inbox received 11 messages since we last met. The most relevant were:

* + An invitation to join University of Dundee research in uncovering the environment, which was declined.
  + Notification that WLC have adopted the new Local Development Plan, although it may be not yet be formally approved (see 6.3.2).
  + The Carnegie Trust has forwarded link to their paper on “Remaking Towns after Brexit”.
  + Report on accessible taxis
  + Royal Mail warning about “Scam mail”.
  + Next NHS/CC meting is Monday 3 December, which BJ will attend. **BJ**

10.0 **AOCB**

10.1 GH wanted clarification as to why the Paediatric Ward at St John’s Hospital cannot

be opened. This is due to a shortage of staff. It appears to be a nation wide problem with a short fall of 600 consultants. Apparently there are proposals to upgrade some nurses’ positions to enable them to carry out some consultant functions.

10.2 RL stated that at his last visit to Howden Health centre he had to prove his identification. The meeting suggested it was all part of GDPR and guarding against

possible identity theft.

10.3 AS stated that his bins were not emptied again. LF repeated from previous meetings

that the service may be held up for various reasons but to keep the bins out as they will eventually be emptied. AS noted that it can be difficult in the windy conditions.

It was also pointed out that restrictions on hedge height, imposed with old Livingston Development Corporation fues, are no longer binding.

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

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

11.2 The next Kaims woodlands meeting will be held on Thursday 25 October 2018 at 7:00pm in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

Dean Swift

05 October 2018