

LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING No. 18
HELD ON 5th NOVEMBER 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Johnstone (Chair), Trudi Shannon, Alan Nicholson, Dean Swift

VISITORS ATTENDING

Councillors Angela Moohan and Lawrence Fitzpatrick (part time)

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Catherine Brown | Carole Robertson |
| Alan & Pat Strachan | Francis & Ramsay Weir |
| Annette Logan | Jill Wisekal |
| Violet McGregor | Helen Lamont |
| Pamela Scott | Elizabeth Scott |
| Alice Bailey | Mary Hamilton |
| Gordon Pennykid | |

APOLOGIES

Margaret McQueen

MINUTE of 1st October 2015 (No 17) was accepted as a true record and was proposed by Trudi Shannon and seconded by Alan Nicholson

MATTERS ARISING

Any arising matters would be covered in reports from the Chair and later agenda items.

FILLING VACANCIES - INTERIM ELECTION RESULTS.

Lorraine McGrorty as Returning Officer for Community Councils had declared that the following four persons had been duly elected as new full members - Carole Anne Robertson, Catherine Ferguson Brown, Margaret McQueen and Alan Nicholson and that Dean Swift would be retained as an associate member and that Brian Johnstone and Trudi Shannon remain as full members.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Since there was now so few office bearer Brian announced that an election was required now to fill more of the positions. This could not wait until the normal time for such role filling at the AGM in February 2016. Thus the office bearers selected tonight would hold position until the February 2017 AGM. Thus to comply with the constitution Brian Johnstone stood down as chair but said he could be available for reselection if wanted also Trudi Shannon stood down as secretary and stated she would soon no longer be eligible for membership since she would be moving out of the area of LVCC and thus could not be reselected for office bearer position. Brian passed the Chair to Angela Moohan as an independent person to conduct an election of office bearers resulting in the new team as below-

Chair – Brian Johnstone – proposed by Trudi Shannon and seconded by Alan Nicholson

Vice Chair- Alan Nicholson – proposed by Brian Johnstone and seconded by Jill Wisekal
Secretary – position not filled at the meeting – to be filled at later date by co-option if necessary
Treasurer – Carole Robertson – proposed by Brian Johnstone and seconded by Alan Nicholson
Planning Secretary – proposed by Brian Johnstone and seconded by Annette Logan
The meeting then reverted to normal agenda topics with Brian in the chair

REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR

1.Housing at Almondvale Stadium

Our representation plus 2 further objections stand and the 2 planning applications will be tabled at a future Development Management Meeting at which we as LVCC will be allowed to speak. No date yet for such meeting since there has been some delays because of a way-leave issue with power cables and the WLC Housing Team have called the plans back because of some unhappiness with layout So we await revised proposal information and confirmation of meeting dates.

2.Buchanan House

On target for a January demolition start. The legal agreements (section75) are finally signed off by both WLC and Manor Forest. WLC have issued the planning approvals for housing. MF are in the final stages of hand over to the builders Barratt who will soon be submitting their MSC application to get started on site.

3.Kirkton Business Centre

The legal documents are in the last stages between the owner and WLC who do not anticipate a further round of negotiation before signature. *Post meeting good news---the selected demolition contractor confirmed he is ready to start on site during week commencing 9th November.*

It was noted that WLC Operational Services crews have been very active pruning the hedges on north and east perimeters of the site, not just pruning – hacking the height and width by at least half. Brian contacted Jim Jack Head of Operational Services on Tuesday to get reasons for this and who had instructed this work so close to site clearance – as yet no answers.

4.Health

Jim Forest has informed us that the quarterly meetings at St Johns are to be reinstated and would we send a representative. These will be held in St Johns at 17:15 on Mondays. After discussion it was agreed Brian would attend the first meeting but Catherine may in the future attend. Meeting dates are 23/11/15, 08/02/16, 09/05/16, 08/08/16 and 07/11/16

Ian Buchanan Chair of WL Public Partnership Forum for Health and Care has posted his 14 page monthly health report into our e mail inbox. This covers a large variety of health topics.

5.Rivers Almond and Avon Reconnection Programme

This is a collection of some 8 significant projects relating to improving water quality in the 2 rivers and their associated tributaries for the benefit of wildlife and to restore the natural heritage. It is probable that Alan Nicholson will become involved in one of the projects close to our patch namely the Killandean Blue/Green Network project. In due course he will contact Graeme Hedger.

6. Recent Incoming Items

The usual assortment of items covering information, invitations, requests and consultations amounted to 24 since our last meeting - the latest 6 in today have not been included here. Brian quickly summarised potentially relevant ones as:-

Quarterly bulletin from *Spokes the cycling campaign* – No real interest shown by attendees

Training invite for boosting fund applications – Defer until new committee more established

WLC invite for consultation on the *Active Travel Plan* which seeks to encourage everyday walking and cycling journeys. Views in by 15th December 2015 – no volunteers to participate.

Brian had noticed a number of *facebook* entries to our e mail address. Trudi volunteered to update this and give an update at next meeting.

Next *Planning Training* session by Chris Norman will be Th 3rd December in Council Chambers at 7:00pm. Brian will attend and welcomes others to join him.

Work starts today on the *Refurbishment of the Almondvale Park* due for completion next March details can be seen on www.westlothian.gov.uk/almondvalepark

MONTHLY PLANNING REPORT

1. Weekly Planning Lists

Alan reported no significant or interesting planning applications since last meeting. There was 26 pages of entries in that time. Alan passed round his tablet with samples of the typical pages we receive so that attendees could see the type of data we receive and how we get involved should we wish to.

2. Housing Proposal at Old Cousland Road

Brian, Dean and some other residents had visited the EMA preplanning exhibition for this site. A site plan was tabled and discussed at some length. As a result of the chat Brian would submit comments to cover the following areas of concern education, medical centre, road access, numbers of houses and flats, clarification on social housing, inclusion of retail facilities, timescale. *Post meeting note - Brian submitted a 10 point list of points to the architects on 8th November 2015 and copied in the WLC planning case officer.*

3. West Lothian Council Local Development Plan

The evolution of this plan has been ongoing for some time. LVCC did lodge several pages of comments to the earlier consultation on the Main Issue Report in October 2014. We are now being invited to participate in the consultation on the draft final report by 22nd November. Brian attended a briefing session and tabled the 284 page Proposed Plan along with the large scale map relative to Livingston area. This shows the planned use for every piece of land in the area and covers the time span to 2024. It is important in that when planning applications are made and if they fit the designated use within this plan then almost automatic approval will be granted. For our next submission of comments 2 actions are agreed - Brian will compare our previous submission points to the new plan and check for deviation or whatever and respond accordingly. Alan and Brian will meet with Angela Moohan on Wed 11th November to put together points for our submission. Just after this get together Alan and Brian will attend the final WLC briefing session on the report. So there is time for Brian to collate and submit our gather concerns and statements.

If anyone wants to borrow the report or plans to study and make comments then contact Brian
Otherwise look on line at www.westlothian.gov.uk/LDP Please forward any comments to Brian
before 19th November

4. Affordable housing

Brian has gathered some numbers to answer a question from Margaret McQueen on the affordable housing allocation spread in Livingstone and its disproportionate nature – but there are gaps thus Brian will now write formally to get a more comprehensive picture from the Housing Management Team.

POLICE REPORT

There is no report since there was no police attendance - for the first time this year.

PHONE BOX AND PLANTERS IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE

Brian will circulate information to the team to try to put together an action plan forward to finish the refurbishment and maintain the area.

NEWS FROM ATTENDING ELECTED COUNCILLORS.

Angela Moohan asked for comments on the Houston Medical Centre appointment system and its reported failings.

She stated that the long awaited NHS review report of St John's services was being deliberately held until after next May's elections. This smacked of a political manoeuvre. Most attendees deplored this action.

She expressed her concerns and sought views on the performance of Police Scotland .She felt West Lothian had been good with regard to Community Policing but this had now gone and there was a disturbing small but noticeable upturn in certain crime figure because of this. The meeting generally agreed that Policing was now worse than in the old Lothian and Borders days

She gave an open invite to all about the carol singing evening on 4th December sponsored by the Gala Committee. Notices would appear around the village

Lawrence Fitzpatrick updated the Kaims area residents with tree felling concerns and said that the Head of Development Planning Chris Norman would be in direct contact to invite affected parties to a resolution meeting over the old Midlothian (1965), but still valid, Tree Preservation Orders

He intimated the new bin collecting calendar would soon be issued. He encouraged all to read the recycling aspects to ensure we all do our bit to correctly use the "blue" bins.

He started to deal with the LDP but Brian halted further discussion since it had been fairly well debated earlier

AOCB

Brian encouraged all the new and existing committee members that they should all regularly open and read the content of our e mail in box livingstonvillagecommunitycouncil@outlook.com using the password issued in his e mail

Brian advised all new members that there are 5 handbooks to aid Community Councilors which were attachments to Lorrain's e message about their appointments. If anyone wants hard copies

contact Brian. The topics covered are the CC scheme in West Lothian, our code of conduct, our constitution and standing orders, guidance notes on planning etc, a list of all West Lothian Community Councils and their sizes.

A resident with property backing on to Cousland Road raised a tree issue that seemed to affect a few of the gardens. The problem is unmanaged and self seeding trees on the road verge overgrowing their space and intruding into property with root damage becoming common. Brian would inspect the areas and develop a suitable request for action to the correct WLC section. Dean explained that historically there was an LDC planting plan but time has elapsed and the plan has not been adhered to since there is evidence of wrong tree type selection and inappropriate special planting.

Brian reminded all that we do not have a December Meeting since this month is generally busy with festivities and all their incumbent activities. The next meeting is therefore Thursday 7th January and will have a guest speaker on the Fairtrade topic. However if anyone wants to air a pressing problem in the meantime contact Brian and he will route the issue along the correct road.

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY 7th JANUARY 2016 AT 7 PM
With Guest Speaker Andy Mount

VENUE: LIVINGSTON INN FUNCTION ROOM