**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEEETING No 19 OF 7TH JANUARY 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Brian Johnstone - Chair, Alan Nicholson- Vice Chair & Planning Secretary, Carole Robertson- Treasurer, Catherine Brown, Dean Swift.

**GUESTS** Councillor Anne MacMillan, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (part time), Andy Mount, Alan Strachan, Bruce Alexander, Pam Scott,

1. **APOLOGIES** Apologies were received from Angela Moohan, Jill Wisecal, Margaret McQueen and Violet Macgregor
2. MINUTE APPROVAL. The Minute of meeting 18 on 5th November 2015 was approved by Alan Nicholson, seconded by Carole Robertson
3. **MATTERS ARISING** These would be covered in the report from Chair and agenda items
4. **COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION MATTERS** Brian issued to each member copies of the five documents that govern Community Council actions namely Scheme for Establishment of CCs, Constitution and Standing orders for CCs, Code of conduct for CCs, Guidance Notes for CCs and a list of all West Lothian CCs. Brian also issue a map to illustrate the area covered by LVCC and a contact list for the members. Brian encouraged all to read the LVCC e mail in box at least once per week. Some were experiencing difficulty in getting access so Brian will get some advice on this.
5. **FREETRADE PRESENTATION** Livingston is annotated as a Freetrade town and as such the organisation is tasked with spreading the word about Freetrade to the residents of the area. Thus Andy Mount who is the Chair of the local group gave a short presentation about its aims , the qualifications needed to become a Fairtrade town and how we can assist the movement.
6. **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**

***Buchanan House Update*** Due to delays by owner and builder in submitting the planning documents upon conclusion of the Section 75 agreements the demolition will not be as soon as promised but more like February /March. The twin MSC planning applications were lodged with WLC just prior to Christmas in joint names of Manor Forest and Barratt for a total of 112 housing units. Comments and objections are to be lodged by 21st January. If there are no objections them WLC will approve under delegated power soon after that date. After discussions Brian was asked write to the case officer supporting the housing application and asking for consideration of conditions relative to secure fencing to the woodland area, provision of a play area, additional pavements to east and south boundary, prompt demolition after approval and to use the submission to promote co-operation in provision of medical and educational support

***Kirkton Business Centre*** The demolition contractor has been active clearing internally for some 4 weeks now but has been hampered by the scope of asbestos removal and uncharted live services. Brian in conversation with the Dem-master director ascertained that the big machines should move in during the second week of January. Meantime WLC report the Section 75 docs went out pre Christmas and since there are no controversial elements signatures should follow this month for the housing. The nursing home part already has planning approval in principal.

***Housing at the Stadium***  Housing section of WLC are still reviewing layouts and we shall be advised of any changes. Decision will be at a Development Management meeting but is not on the January agenda. So we will check again just before our next meeting.

***Environmental Aspects***This now covers various River Almond projects as well as the Killandean Burn. Also following a meeting with Brian Alan and Angela Moohan Alan has created a list of more local projects. This to be a lead topic at our next meeting. As will selection of a painting team for the phone box to conclude our last project.

***Health Matters*** Anne Macmillan assisted Brian here with updates. St Johns Paediatric review by specialists is unlikely to be reported before the May election It has become a political football! Despite multiple appeals a public meeting looks unlikely. Brian attended the revived quarterly St John’s meeting late in November and the above point was the majority of the discussions. Lack of holiday dental cover was a further sore point. The NHS seems deaf to the logic that West Lothian has a growing population and thus any dilution or diminution of services at St Johns is unacceptable.

7 **PLANNING LISTS & PLANNING ITEMS NOT COVERED BY REPORTS FROM CHAIR** Alan reviewed the 8 or so lists that WLC issued since our last meeting. He pointed out that a large housing proposal has been lodged for Murieston that goes against the Local Development Plan so it will be interesting to watch its progress.

On the LDP our representation of 20th November was acknowledged and expected response date is Spring 2016!

Alistair Shaw’s response to our questions on affordable housing was comprehensive and was circulated to the team plus some other interested residents. There has been no feedback so we assume the queries are answered and this can drop off our agenda.

8 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS.** Brian made an empassioned appeal for somebody to step forward for the secretarial role since ideally it should be filled at our AGM next month.

In the 8 weeks since our last meeting our LVCC inbox received 25 items made up of 13 for information,5 inviting us to meetings, 5 asking us to participate in consultations and 2 referring to jobs campaigns. A few of these are mentioned below:-

From Lorraine a survey on our training needs – Brian to respond

A plea to join a jobs campaign relative to the HMRC office closure – Brian to seek clarification as to what is intended

WLC have announced that, due to cost cutting, in future they will not be planting up islands and plots and seek groups willing to adopt bed – no rush of volunteers hers although wild flower planting got an airing as a suggestion along with “guerrilla” planting. Dean mentioned contact with an outfit called Edible Estates migh be worthwhile

There is a campaign for path training run by Paths For All with a meeting on 1st March – more later.

Margaret McQueen who is missing tonight in preparation for a knee operation tomorrow has volunteered to handle our facebook and twitter accounts and to create and run a website. Such would incur some costs not to exceed £80 so the meeting approved this expenditure. So the meeting accepted her proposal and wished her a speedy recovery.

In addition to the LVCC in box Brian’s in box received 56 items since last meeting and sent 34 outgoing messages.

9  **TREASURER REPORT** Carole tabled a draft report for our missing year April 2014 t0 2015. Alan took this to get approval signatures prior to retrospective submission to Lorraine. Carole would assess if our account was most suitable to us and get forms for signature changes. Brian mentioned that for the current year we are still waiting for a missing receipt for £200 + from WLC for sleepers purchased last August. Anne volunteered to try and expedite .

10 **POLICE REPORT** None available since no officer attended

11 **NEWS & UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

*Lawrence Fitzpatrick* Lawrence outlined the importance and need for wider fibulator use and training in its use. He also mentioned the recent WLC planning case that after council refused permission the remote Scottish Government upheld the appeal thus reversing the local decision. He made an appeal for a team to assist with the Killandean woodland survey.

*Anne McMillan* Anne had previously updated on health. She now highlighted the necessity for further WLC cost cutting of services. She mentioned that Eliburn CC was now revitalised. Brian reported he had been in touch to introduce LVCC.

12 **AOCB**  Brian reported he had made contact in WLC about the trees alongside Cousland Road but had not made any real progress but would pursue again now that festivities were over.

Brian ascertained from Carole that the promised contact and meeting with Chris Norman on the Kaims tree belts had not materialised – he would chase Chris direct for an update.

13 **NEXT MEETING** The next meeting is our **AGM on Thursday 4th February**. There would be no elections this year. As usual the AGM would form the first part of the evening with a normal meeting following. Agendas would be issued around 26th 27th January.

*Brian D Johnstone*

*12/01/16*