**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-05, 4th MAY 2018**

**PRESENT**:

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

GUESTS: Georgie Hume, Councillor Alison Adamson, Vi McGregor, Alan Strachan, Richard Lever, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (part), John Mclean & Alan McMahon – Scottish Police

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from Jodi Conner, Angela Moohan, Margaret McQueen, Councillor Moira Shemilt

**ITEMS: Action**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1 Catherine Brown noted that the previous meeting minutes failed to mention her request to have the comments on the Persimmon Homes proposals, to include the possibility of including a retail unit (shop). It was clarified that BJ would make a verbal request in person when he met with them.

1.1 With the amended note about the shop Brian Johnstone proposed the minute and Dean Swift seconded.

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 (item 2.1 previous minutes): The notice board has been installed and is in use.

2.2 (item 2.2 previous minutes): Suggestions for guest speakers; No confirmed

arrangements as yet however there will be a speaker at the June meeting. BJ to clarify

the Council Ranger Service’s role and ask them to attend a meeting. **BJ**

2.3 (Item 4.1 previous minutes): Persimmon Homes; see item 4.1

2.4 (item 9.2 previous minutes): Data Protection; BJ has contacted Lorraine McGrorty

requesting a unified statement to cover all Community Councils in West Lothian

2.5 (item 9.4 previous minutes): Scottish water consultation; It was agreed that the

council will contribute. BJ to draft and circulate a response. **BJ**

2.6 (item 9.6 previous minutes): WLCC Forum, see item 3.2

2.7 (item 9.7 previous minutes): Bank closures, BJ submitted letter expressing

concerns at remote bank closures.

2.8 (item 9.8 previous minutes): Knowledge Hub Network, BJ still having trouble

clarifying the issues involved. BJ will ask Margaret McQueen for assistance. **BJ**

2.9 (item 9.9 previous minutes): Local Development Plan, as there are no changes

in the Livingston Village area, no comment will be submitted.

3.0 **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:**

3.1Local Area Committees (LAC): BJ missed the May 3rd meeting but will attend the

next on 18th of May **BJ**

3.2 Joint Forum of West Lothian Community Council: This is a single body to link all the Community Councils on common problems, etc. It will have full day workshops on subjects like empowering communities, enhancing communication and Planning.

The next meeting will be in 6 months time, any member can attend.

3.3 Woodlands**:** There is no further progress on finding landowners in the Kaims

area.

BJ has been invited to join Eliburn CC next meeting on 9th May where there will

be a guest speaker from the Woodlands Trust, who manage several woodlands in Livingston.

3.4 Charlesfield Lane Play Area/Tennis Courts: Works are progressing slowly. The

works consist of removing the rotten timber and chain link fence and replacing

with metal fence panels. New goals and basketball backboards will be provided.

The surface will be cleaned and the lines re-painted. The Council has not responded

to Councillor Miller’s question as to whether or not the fencing is the type which

minimizes the sound.

3.5 Equal Rights of Appeal: Ineos has raised a legal challenge against the Scottish Government on its decision to ban fracking. BJ, on LVCC’s behalf, has lodged

support since we did submit a detailed case to support the ban.

3.6 Blue Green Network: There were so many contributions to their consultation that

a report on the findings is not yet published.

4.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

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

Centre site: BJ tabled a revised plan and reported on a meeting he attended with Persimmon and WLC Planning. The main points discussed were - having read our objections they displayed a revised plan indicating a slight variation to the layout. They

explained that the increase in house numbers was due to smaller houses and slightly more land available. WLC Highways and Education have no objection to the proposals.

The school will be slightly enlarged. The facades will now be light render and “stone”-

like cladding. Window colours will match the Nursing Home. WLC Planning have no further objections. After much discussion, mainly about traffic circulation at peak times,

it was agreed that we would rescind out objection with the understanding that they will

look at the traffic management again, possibly introducing a left turn only (school drop

off and pick up times) on Kirk Lane junction with Kirkton North Road and confirming

the other items mentioned above. **BJ**

4.2 Gregory Road Housing : Following a meeting with the developer a letter was

forwarded with the points made. Gladman acknowledged the letter and promised

to update us as necessary.

4.3 Hunter Road: Despite several calls there is no update.

4.4 Old Cousland Road: Barrett proposals not approved, the site will be marketed again.

4.5 Livingston West (Gavieside): A letter was submitted covering the points made at the

last meeting. Clarendon (the developer) acknowledged the letter and stated that they want to continue the dialogue when the full planning application is submitted in June.

5.0 **POLICE REPORT**

5.1 This months statistics were read out; generally reported crime was down with fire

raising and assault slightly up (low single figures). Compared to other parts of the

town crime is still very low. Maukeshill suffered from fire raising again.

5.2 The police advised against filming people who are committing a crime.

5.3 An email from the police advising people to secure their bins was issued to all a

few days ago via BJ.

6.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

6.1 Councillor Alison Adamson:

6.1.1 There did not seem to be an increase in fly tipping following the charging introduced,

but it is a bit early to evaluate. It was encouraging that there has been a good take up

of the new permits.

6.1.2 Drain covers are being stolen in the town; this was noted in the “West Lothian Courier”

6.1.3 West Lothian Licensing Board requests the public’s opinion on line.

6.1.4 Traveling people are back at Cousland Road. However, the bollards, which were removed, will be replaced.

6.1.4 There is an Environmental Visual Audit being carried out in Knightsridge, it is not

known as yet, if it will extend to Livingston Village.

6.2 Councillor Fitzpatrick:

6.2.1 The catchment plan for schools is under review. Children in Buchannan Gardens

will attend Toronto Primary.

6.2.2 The ‘City Deal” monies from the Scottish Government will see major works in the Winchburgh area including a new train station, motorway link and two new high

schools.

6.2.3 The permit for rubbish up-lift can be shared with your neighbours.

6.2.4 The police will lose 1,000 places and the Transport Police will be merged with Police Scotland.

6.2.5 The “Accounts Commission”, which can be found on the internet, confirms the 9.3%

of real cuts in WLC’s budget.

6.2.6 Under the homeless bill if a person is deemed homeless they must be found accommodation **that night**. WLC have a team with hotel places lined up to

cater for this.

6.2.7 LF is looking at the new Planning Bill. It may reflect the change in the English

Bill, which has taken protection away from meadows and may allow more calling

in of planning applications.

6.2.8 Lothian Health now has a procedure for providing transportation home for people who have to leave their children in the hospital and are without transport.

7.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

7.1There were outgoings for insurance, data protection and lights this month. The grant

from WLC was deposited. The balance in the committee’s bank account is now £414.11.

7.2 BJ investigated if the grant was for the correct amount. It was.

8.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

8.1 No report

9.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

9.1 The LVCC email inbox received 12 messages since we last met. BJ’s email received

59 messages with 30 being sent out. Messages regarding road closures were Bank of Scotland car park 4-15th June and the Somme parade will close some roads in the town centre on the 29th of June

9.2 NHS meeting will be on 14th of May

9.3 Consultation on licensing procedure for Scotland – it was agreed not to respond as it

did not affect us directly.

9.4 Consultation on gambling – it was agreed not to respond as it did not effect us directly

9.5 A Community Council in Fife is encouraging support to help wildlife. There will be a

notice placed on our noticeboards and further information can be obtained from BJ. **ALL**

9.6 Scottish Health Campaign network – BJ will clarify what the aims are of the group

and report back. **BJ**

9.7 Ogilvie School Campus – a proposal to locate children up to 18 with complex needs to one location. For more details contact BJ. **ALL**

9.8 The Killandean Allotment open day is Saturday 19 May from 1-4pm. **ALL**

9.9We have been asked to support the ban on fracking as Ineos have instigated a

judicial review of the Scottish Governments decision to ban fracking. The meeting

agreed to support the ban.

10.0 **AOCB**

10.1 It was reiterated that traffic generally is increasing around the town, especially on Alderstone Road.

10.2 There was discussion about bins not being emptied. This problem started with the

“beast from the east” and was exacerbated by broken-down vehicles which require specialist repair. Also, the purchasing of new vehicles is held up, as they are all

made to order.

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

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

Dean Swift

04 May 2018