**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 3-0.5 APRIL 2018**

**PRESENT**:

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

GUESTS: George Hume, Pam Scott, Jack Kerr, Linda Anderson, Ian Aitken Councillor Moira Shemilt, Councillor Andrew Miller, Jill Parton (Carmondean Community Council), Councillor Alison Adamson, Vi McGregor, Alan Strachan,

APOLOGIES:Apologies received from Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Angela Moohan, Joe Rule, Police Scotland

**ITEMS: Action**

1.0 **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1.1 Approval of last meetings minutes was proposed by George Hume and seconded

by Alan Strachan. They were approved.

2.0 **MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 (item 2.2 previous minutes) – The notice board has been delivered and awaiting

warm weather for fitting to phone box. Invoice has been paid. **BJ/DS**

2.2 (item 2.4 previous minutes) – Suggestions for guest speakers; Council Ranger

Service, a representative from Council department who covers litter collection, the Chairman of Livingston Village Community Education Association to explain their

role and a representative from WLC Planning Department to discuss the planning

process in general. BJ to contact all. **BJ**

2.3 (item 3.1 previous minutes) – BJ and CB were to attend the

NHS/CL meeting on 15th February but was cancelled. There may be one on

the 14th of May

2.4 (item 3.4 previous minutes) - BJ missed the Livingston North Local Area Committee

on the 11th January due to illness.

2.5 (item 9.1 previous minutes): BJ attended the Blue Green network (environmental

projects in the Almond Valley) drop in session. He also drafted and submitted letter

to Council.

2.6 (item 9.1 previous minutes): No one who has skills in emergencies has come forward to volunteer with the Scottish Fire & Rescue, to work with Rural Wellbeing and the Scottish Government for support with various mental health projects and volunteers

with Cyrenians driving people who require transport and cannot manage themselves.

3.0 **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:**

3.1Health**:** BJ The February NHS/CL meeting was cancelled with the next being on

14th May. Regarding the on going shortage of consultants at St John’s paediatric department, there was a media note regarding a consultant on secondment to be

reinstated to assist paediatric care. Councillor Shemilt stated that apparently the

secondment was allowed as the consultant was a locum. MPs on all sides are

supporting measures to retain the department at full strength.

BJ has noted that the patient participation group for the Howden practice is now online, having meetings every 2 weeks, the next one is 1st May.

3.2 Local Areas Committees (LAC): BJ missed the Livingston South meeting but

did attend the Livingston North. The school presentation was given by St.

Margaret’s School with the usual reports from police, fire, etc. The next

meeting will be; North – 3rd May, South – 18th May.

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

area. BJ does have a useful contact for the Hunter Road site for any complaints

from the Kaims Grove and mound 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 Village Shop: BJ, who has been requested to address the village shop issue again,

asked for suggestions other than the efforts already carried out (contacting all of the

major stores with no success). There were no further suggestions other than suggesting to Persimmon Homes that they might include a space for a shop in their housing site,

which is currently submitted for planning permission. It was thought that Persimmon

would not be interested for various reasons.

3.5 Various media reports: The Police Scotland/Transport Police merger seems to be

off. Holyrood has several debates on bus services at the moment: ending “top up”

fares and improving local bus services ( It seems the Lothian Buses may take over from First Bus), with Deans recycling centre to close there may be an increase in fly tipping.

4.0 **PLANNING REPORT**

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

Centre site: BJ tabled the previously approved plan for the site which had 29 houses

and explained that the new proposal is for 40 houses. After much discussion it was agreed that BJ, who has already submitted an objection in principle, will formally

object on the grounds of house numbers (and the effect on school spaces, traffic, drainage and health), and the general appearance which it now looks like an ordinary

“estate” with brick houses whereas the previous scheme provided more of a

village character. Also refer to item 10.2 **BJ**

4.2 Police Station and Pentland House sites in town centre: planning applications have

been made for housing on these two sites. Demolition will start on Pentland House

in April followed by redevelopment .

4.3 Hunter Road: Agent for Norwood is close to selling site for high-end housing. The

builder will submit for planning approval in due course.

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

The site could be offered to another builder.

4.5 Livingston West (Gavieside): This masterplan proposal is for 1900 houses with a

“hub” for school, shops, etc. however these would not be included in phase 1.

The existing road from Alba Centre to West Calder will be used (thought upgraded)

with a second phase road connecting into Simpson Parkway at the traffic lights

from the turn off to SKY. There would also be a new park and ride at West Calder

train station. Following the public consultation exercise observations BJ submitted comments on 2nd March. A plan was tabled for attendees information.

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

to roof angle. It was noted that proposals on Persimmon’s South boundary do not coincide with the Nursing home’s North boundary

4.7 Gregory Road: Gladman have lodged a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) for

the site directly south of Bannantynes. There is a public exhibition on the proposals

to develop the site for housing on 24th April, BJ & DS are attending an earlier meeting

with Gladman on 17th April.

4.8 There was an application, now granted and carried out, for tree canopy thinning

at Glen Cottage on Charlesfield lane.

5.0 **POLICE REPORT**

5.1 No one was available from Police Scotland due to shift patterns. As WLC have

withdrawn funds for community police, future attendance is not known at this time.

6.0 **NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

6.1 Councillor Miller expressed concern over:

6.1.1 The restructuring of Police Scotland, not only for the loss of Community Policemen,

but in losing Campus Police.

6.1.2 Waste and litter issues with the closure of waste recycling centres, terminating green

bin pick-up, and tips closed to trade waste. There will be more fly tipping.

6.2 Councillor Moira Shemilt noted that;

6.2.1 As reported last meeting, Livingston South Railway Station is closed as the

improvement works, which are half complete, are being carried out. There is a

video on line which shows the progress of the works.

6.2.2 See Item 3.1 – MS wanted to clarify that the department at St. John’s was

never closed, as had been reported, but had reduced hours.

6.2.3 Cruden’s planning application for housing in the town centre is to build 146 flats

with 1/3 “supported” for 55 year olds and over.

6.2.4 MS ran through some of the cuts which have been made following

approval of the WLC budget – Blue Badge holders to be charged, garden maintenance

for pensioners terminated, taxi card finish on 31 May, The family centre function to be taken over by the children’s centre, and more.

6.3 Councillor Alison Adamson:

6.3.1 Reminded everyone to secure their bins to prevent vandals stealing them

(see item 10.6). **ALL**

6.3.2 Councillor Alison Adamson clarified the changes from taxies for people in need of assistance to “dial a Bus.” There are also taxi cards available for £3.00 towards the

cost of a fare.

6.3.3 AA noted that she was also concerned about waste disposal following the closure of tips, etc. She stated that residents can get a card for 25 visits.

7.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**

7.1With the cheque received today from WLC the balance in the committee’s

bank account is £415.00.

7.2 BJ to investigate if this is the correct amount as it does not seem to relate to the

village population **BJ**

8.0 **WEB & IT MATTERS**

8.1 The web page has now been updated and some new photos have been added.

8.2 It was confirmed that no new fees are due this year

8.3 The Facebook and Twitter sites seem to be used.

8.4 data protection – see item 9.2

9.0 **SECRETARIAL MATTERS**

9.1 The LVCC email inbox received 21 messages since we last met. BJ’s email received 89 messages with 58 being sent out.

9.2 BJ asked if anyone was able to take on data protection (GDPR) as the community

council should be up to speed by the end of May. BJ will do a bit of research and

might liaise with MMcQ. It was suggested that Lorraine McGrorty from WLC may have advice as all the community councils will be going through the same exercise.

In the meantime it was agreed that the committee should seek approval from all members and guests to use their email addresses. **BJ/DS**

9.3 The meeting agreed that as regards archived material, mostly paper copies, that

accounts should be kept for 7 years and everything else for 5.

9.4 Scottish Water has asked for comments on their document “Shaping the Future”.

Comments are due in August, therefore this will be discussed at the next meeting. **ALL**

9.5 Whitburn Community Council has asked us to support their petition on electoral

votes related to admin make-up and local councils. It was agreed that, as this

was a political matter, we would not respond.

9.6 PAS has offered a one day training on the Scottish & Local Planning System which

must be paid for. It was agreed not to attend as the West Lothian Community Council Forum has a half day course that anyone can attend. This is on 27th April. Contact

BJ for details. **ALL**

9.7 We have also been asked to comment on bank closures, BJ to make general

comment by closing date of 13h April. **BJ**

9.8 The Community Council has been asked to join The Hub Knowledge Network.

BJ has not looked at this as yet, therefore it will be discussed next meeting  **BJ/ALL**

9.9 WLC are recommending adoption of the Local Development Plan as modified

by the Scottish Government. As we have contributed in the past, BJ will visit

the latest document and compare to the previous one and report back. **BJ**

9.10We 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 It was suggested that when we review housing planning applications that the

subject of electric car charging points be introduced.

10.3 The general issue of litter and fly tipping was discussed.

10.4 There were, once again, complaints about the parking for the gym by Klondyke.

10.5 It was noted that there is still a drainage problem along the path to the north of Kaims

10.6 Jill Parton (Carmondean Community Council) raised the issue of youths setting

fire to bins in the Deans/Dechmont woods area. BJ explained that the Village has

had its share of this behaviour. They seem to relocate periodically.

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

11.1 Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 3 May 2018 at 7:00pm** in the function room of the Livingston Inn.

Dean Swift

06 April 2018