**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | (Chair) Jan Irvine, (Vice Chair and Secretary) Diane Easton, (Treasurer) John |
|  | Aitchison, (Minutes) Liz MacDonald, Midlothian Councillor Dianne Alexander,Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, Marnie Crawford, Anne Cunningham, Dan Lennie, Bill MacDonald, Kirsty Malley, Midlothian Councillor Derek Milligan, Ruth Scott, Joan Stewart Summer, Alison Thomson, Fiona Warner, Dougie West. |
| In attendance: | Colin Beattie MSP, Jenny Gray, Flora Kenny, Avril Ramsay. |
| Apologies: | Sandy Waterston. |

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| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Introduction and welcome** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JI welcome everyone to the meeting.  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from 13 October meetings** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Inaugural AGM and first ordinary meeting of BDCC were held on 13 October. No Minutes Secretary was appointed. JA had produced draft minutes to be circulated electronically and approved at the December meeting. Subsequently LMacD had agreed to produce future minutes. |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Minutes of last meeting of the Poltonhall and Hopefield CC on 10 August were not available on 13 October. Print copies were circulated for approval at December meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Police report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Police report for October had been received. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Concern about the amount of car crime, broken windows and renewed theft of alcohol from the Co-op by schoolboys.  |  |
| Noted  |  | (ii) | DL was more concerned about the house break-ins and ran-sacking of Hawthornden Primary School. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | MC queried was there more crime or a new way of reporting it? As insurance claims need a police report and crime number, this could explain the increase in incidents listed. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Use of swabs for on the spot drug tests seen as positive. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **4** | **Finance report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | JA distributed statement of accounts, showing combined funds of the old Bonnyrigg and Lasswade CC and the old Poltonhall and Hopefield CC. These had been merged into a new bank account for BDCC. Opening balance on 1 September was £3,897.63, three remembrance wreaths were purchased and the closing balance on 30 September was £3,766.52. |  |
| **ITEM** |  | **5** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DA. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Holds portfolio for climate change. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | A lot of developers are putting in the old-style street lights, which DA has queried, as the new style ones are more eco-friendly. | ` |
| Noted |  | (iii) | New Council initiative called Eco-4 is a cost of living working group, looking at food and energy costs. It is benefits based for people who can’t afford additional double glazing, insulation etc. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Consultation letters about the parking problems in Lothian St to be issued soon. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | DA visited Hawthornden Primary School recently and was concerned about a roof leak and buckets on the floor. |  |
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| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DM |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Consultation letters on the parking problems at Chester Court also to be issued soon. |  |
| Noted  |  | (ii) | Gigis had asked by email if they could take over the empty ground opposite their restaurant. |  |
| Noted  |  | (iii) | Lasswade Primary School had been listed for renewal, but this has been reduced to refurbishment. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | New “701” school at the Bush is to replace Beeslack High. Loanhead children will go to the new school, which will reduce numbers at Lasswade High. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | Severe problems recruiting and retaining sufficient bus drivers. 31 will reduce to 15 minutes service to High St and 30 minutes to Bonnyrigg and Polton Mill. |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | 4-6 traffic warden on mopeds are available to monitor traffic and parking issues. |  |
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| **ITEM**  |  | **6** | **Report from MSP** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from Colin Beattie. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | 35% drop in people using buses, trains and going into retail premises have led to reduction in service. |  |
| Noted  |  | (ii) | Almost every employer need staff; 3.5m EU workers have left the UK, over 3m workers have long Covid and 1.5m have left the workforce. Very low unemployment level. Serious long term problem for the economy. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | According to the Trussell Trust foodbank usage has increased by 34%. The UK government will dispense with “best before” dates and less food becomes available to the foodbanks. Midlothian Foodbanks are in Penicuik, Gorebridge and Easthouses, with one opening shortly in Dalkeith organised by the local community council. JSS was concerned Bonnyrigg didn’t have one and CB suggested we approach Dalkeith CC. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Numerous objections had been received to the planned Sheriffhall roundabout upgrade. A public enquiry was due to start by the end of the year, which could take up to a year to conclude. CB feared it will run out of time, as the project is part of the City Deal and expires in 2027-28.  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **7** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DE |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DE had been elected Secretary and Vice Chair of BDCC in October. She has since decided to stand down as Secretary, due to work load and other commitments. She thanked people who had helped her in her various roles in the old BLCC. She proposed DL should be the new Secretary for BDCC. This was seconded by DW. JI thanked DL for taking on the role. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | JA asked DE if she was prepared to continue as Vice Chair? She confirmed this task was less onerous and she was happy to continue. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii)  | KM had an important role maintaining the Residents’ Forum and would concentrate on this, rather than also assisting the Secretary. |  |
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| **ITEM**  |  | **8** | **Midlothian Traffic, Roads and Paths [MTRAP] Update** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DE |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Meeting on 24 October included a presentation from Midlothian Council on the footways and carriageways projects and the residential streets projects. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Council permission had been granted to procure a new pothole repair machine. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Winter service policy was discussed and new software had been acquired to identify which grit bins needed refilling. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | White lines at the Tesco roundabout were to be repainted in the next few weeks. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **9** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Suggestion of aligning all community council AGMs in one month came from Midlothian Council, but the CCs felt there was no real benefit to this. Agreed BDCC would resist the proposal. |  |
| Noted  |  | (ii) | Midlothian Council Consultation on 20 mph speed limits opened on 1 November and would conclude on 29 November. Briefing note is on the website and Traffic Convenor is compiling a list of “hot spots”. JA and JC favoured main routes at 30 mph, apart from in front of schools at 20 mph and side roads also at 20. AT commented Ian Baxter had said some years ago it was not sensible to have a mixture of speeds across the town and more expensive, as it required additional signs. Agreed BDCC Facebook page and the Residents’ Forum should feature the Consultation and encourage the public to participate.  |  |
| Noted  |  | (iii) | DW reported there was a problem with the new combined website due to the size of files. A more modern system is available from Plexus Media with larger files and images permitted. This would look more professional. As we already have a domain name, the cost for this would be £78 p.a. JA proposed this subscription be accepted and FW seconded it.  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | AT stated DM had emailed her asking if BDCC would sponsor the Christmas light switch on by giving £300. This was accepted. |  |
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| **ITEM**  |  | **10** | **Planning** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Planning report for Nov had been received. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Hedge had been removed when sewage pumps were added on Carrington Road for the new houses. It was agreed MC will contact the planners to ensure the hedge is reinstated.  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Application to turn a parking space at 10 Old Market Place into private garden by relocating a fence was discussed. JC concerned it could be taking away a potential parking spot for future owners. It was confirmed by nearby residents there were no parking problems in the area. Agreed to leave this to the owners and council planners to determine. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Update Report on Planning Enforcement featured in the Council Papers at the Planning Meeting on 11 October. It was useful for CC to know the rules and reduced time limits for planning permission. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | MC said that sometimes the CC has to make a response to a planning issue quickly. She requested a procedure for such emergency consultation. JA suggested she should email everyone asking for a response by a certain date and time, so she could gauge opinion and send the Council an agreed reply. This was agreed. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | No further word on the proposed Sainsburys at Cockpen roundabout. MC confirmed the planners are very far behind. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **11** | **Date of next meeting** |  |
|  |  |  | Thursday 8 December at 7pm in Lasswade Library. |  |