**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | (Chair) Jan Irvine, (Vice Chair) Diane Easton, (Secretary) Dan Lennie, (Treasurer) John Aitchison, (Minutes) Liz MacDonald, James Cameron, Marnie Crawford, Jammy Gracoeiro, Bill MacDonald, Joan Stewart Sumner, Alison Thomson, Fiona Warner, Stuart Young. |
|  | Midlothian Councillors Derek Milligan, David Virgo. |
| In attendance: | Bill Hunter, Flora Kenny, Avril Ramsay, Ian Parkinson |
| Apologies: | Joyce Bernard, Kirstie Malley, Owen Proudfoot, Sandy Waterston, Dougie West. |

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| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JI welcome everyone to the meeting and advised in the unlikely event of a fire alarm, attendees should exit by the route they had entered, assemble at the flag pole outside the school, where they should wait until their name had been ticked off the list. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | The office bearers, as listed above, were introduced. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from 10 November meeting** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Correction to item 6, point iii – the foodbank was named Mayfield and Easthouses, not just Easthouses. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DE asked for clarification from DM about potential parking in the area opposite Gigi’s. He confirmed there were two different proposals for use of the land, either Council use or rental/purchase by Gigi’s. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The motion to approve the November draft minutes, subject to the amendment above, was proposed by JC and seconded by AT. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Police report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Police report for October had been received. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Increase in incidents reported in November was due to this being the first report combining the two previous community council areas. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Concern expressed about the £10,000 worth of damage caused by the spray painter. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Waste cooking oil stolen from a public house could be used in diesel cars. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Theft of high value gardening equipment or pedal cycles could be prevented by properly securing shed/garages. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | FK commented on the danger caused by young people doing wheelies on bikes and scooters. |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | If the police constables are unable to attend future community council meetings, they should try to get a substitute to come. |  |
| **Action** |  | **(i)** | DL to request attendance by a substitute officer, if the local constables are unavailable. | **DL** |
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| **ITEM** |  | **4** | **Finance report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Accounts to the end of November had been received. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Balance of funds was £3,732.55. The bank account for the old PHCC would be kept open until the accounts were audited at the end of the financial year and then funds transferred to BDCC. JA confirmed funds could be carried over to the new financial year. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | JSS queried why so much money was held and should it not be spent for the benefit to the community. JA explained BLCC originally had more money in their account than PHCC and had been given additional funds from Bonnyrigg Hub. Covid had delayed expenditure on projects. JSS felt there should be financial plan. DE explained there was an aims and objectives document for the new community council, which listed possible projects, but the document had not yet been finalised. MC commented that money had also been set aside for website development, but was no longer required, due to DW’s assistance. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DL explained new admin procedures. A signing in sheet was to be completed by everyone prior to the start of meetings. Recording equipment was used to aid minute taking. The recording would be destroyed once the minutes had been approved. Minutes and agendas will be circulated in advance of meetings and those not on email would receive paper copies. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DL commended the previously circulated winter newsletter and home emergency plan, both with useful information and encouraged these be distributed to other groups/organisations in Midlothian. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Posters for future community council meetings would be displayed in Lasswade Library, the Co-op, Tesco and the noticeboard beside the old Spar. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **6** | **MTRaP report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JI reported that new traffic lights were to be installed at Bonnyrigg Toll and Hopefield School during January/February. Cycles would be available for public use in Dalkeith and the country parks. Much emphasis was made to encourage people to exercise more. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | If grit bins are empty, residents should alert Midlothian Council. FK stated there were no grit bins at Chesters View. JI agreed to email the Council. |  |
| **Action** |  | **(i)** | **JI to email Midlothian Council requesting a grit bin be placed at Chesters View.** | **JI** |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Discussion on the traffic consultation which finished on 29 November, the problems of parking on Lothian Street and the options for double lines on one or both sides of the street. Midlothian Council will view the comments/suggestions. JI was concerned that online consultations could only be done by those connected digitally. DE commented that people can use the facilities at public libraries to participate and would receive help from staff. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **7** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DV. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Council due to meet on 13 December. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | No plans had yet been agreed on how to fill the black holes in the budget. A strategy was required and the finances were increasingly bleak. Some services will have to be cut to balance the budget. | ` |
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| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DM |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Shifting bus stops on Lothian Street should improve traffic flow. Parking on the pavements was another serious issue. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | He believed businesses should be encouraged and things not made more difficult for them by preventing parking. If double yellow lines were added to Lothian Street, there would be a knock-on effect on the side roads. DE queried how the potential yellow lines would be enforced, as wardens finished at 6 pm. It was confirmed there could be no enforcement after 6 pm. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | DM reiterated the serious financial situation at Midlothian and other councils across Scotland, where statutory services were in danger. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Moving the Christmas lights switch-on to a Sunday had been successful. It was less restrictive for buses and enabled attendance by people who usually work on a Saturday. It had been so busy he was concerned about the crowd. He would try to make an early booking for next year at the Masonic Hall. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | Shows have to be in a distinct area with placement of stewards detailed in the plans. FW commented the Santa Sleigh for Poltonhall Gala Day had been very successful. |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | JSS queried if the Christmas lights could be switched off at midnight to save money. JA explained LED lights used very little power and it would cost more to install a timer. |  |
| Noted |  | (vii) | JI congratulated DM on a great community event. |  |
| Noted |  | (viii) | JI said that Cohens were no longer the pharmacy at the Health Centre and a new one called Bonnyrigg Pharmacy was in place. She asked if DM knew anything about this, but he did not. |  |
| **ITEM** |  | **8** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | BMacD advised that the Bonnyrigg Midwinter Duck race, previously organised by him, was now the responsibility of Lasswade Rugby Club. The race on 22 January was to be called the Doddie Weir Memorial Duck Race. Doddie had shown amazing spirit facing MND and been a generous supporter of previous duck races by providing some prizes. Tickets were £2.50 and funds raised would be split between Children 1st, Lasswade Rugby Club and My Name’5 Doddie Foundation. The event would be promoted on social media and it was hoped community councillors would buy tickets. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **9** | **Planning** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from MC. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Objection to ancillary accommodation at 15A Viewbank View had come from BLCC and the proposal had not been discussed by PHCC. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Change to first floor at old RBS building on High Street to residential use was acceptable. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Discussion on the proposal for a new house NW of Wadingburn Lane led to a vote on the matter, with 11 agreeing to the proposal, 2 opposing and 1 abstention. Thus, BDCC will not object to the proposal. JSS queried why we should be considering planning proposals. MC explained Community Councils have a right to view and comment on planning proposals and their input is valued by Midlothian Council. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Shop at the market site development on the High Street had never been used. Agreed there was no objection to the owner moving his office there. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | A new business was proposed for 25A High Street and this was to be encouraged. |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | Discussion on the Housing Land Audit 22 and the aim to build 805 new houses in Midlothian each year over the next 10 years. A percentage of each new build development has to be affordable. Sometimes the developer gives money to the Council to build, e.g. Cala, while other companies build themselves, e.g. Bellway. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **10** | **Date of next meeting** |  |
|  |  |  | The date was yet to be determined and would be circulated shortly. |  |