**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2023, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | Dan Lennie (Chair), Dougie West (Vice Chair), Diane Easton (Secretary), Alison Thomson (Treasurer), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), John Aitchison, Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, Ann Cunningham, Bill MacDonald, Ruth Scott, Fiona Warner, Sandy Waterston, Stuart Young. |
| In attendance: | Cllr Dianne Alexander, Cllr Derek Milligan, Cllr David Virgo, PC Euan Lennox, Jacqueline Charters, David Hally, Flora Kenny, George Nicol, Avril Ramsay. |
| Apologies: | Jammy Gracoeiro, Kirstie Malley, Joan Sumner.  |

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| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | The AGM had immediately preceded this meeting and the new office bearers had been elected. DL paid tribute to the late chair, Jan Irvine, and her work for the community. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DL welcomed the new visitors, David Halley and Jacqueline Charters. David now lived in Hopefield and used to be on the Newtowngrange Community Council. Jacqueline had lived in Bonnyrigg for 20 years and was a neighbour of RS. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from September meeting** |  |  |
| Noted  |  | (i) | DL had alerted the police about speeding on Dundas Street and Cockpen Road.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DL had investigated preferred sites for cycle storage, at the back of the chip shop beside 13 Dundas Street and near the community noticeboard on Polton Street. He hoped both hoop and proper lock up storage could be obtained. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The motion to approve the 14 September draft minutes was proposed by FW and seconded by DW. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the 14 September meeting. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Police report** |  |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Police report for September had been received.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | EL confirmed speed checks would be carried out during the week of 16 October and following Bonfire Night.  |  |  |
| Noted  |  | (ii) | He explained parking on double yellow lines was not a police matter, but responsibility lay with traffic wardens. He highlighted several incidents; house break-ins, thefts of cars, having found the keys in the house, assault of a female in a pub and subsequent attendance at A&E, seizure of cannabis and equipment and fire raising. His report included advice on home security and the offer of crime prevention surveys for residents. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | BMacD asked if any thought had been given to taking bus passes off troublesome teenagers. While EL may like to be able to do this, he could not, as it was a Scottish Government initiative to provide free passes to the under 22s. BMacD further asked if the police and councillors were aware of Trading Standards looking for volunteers, aged 15 to 16 to help tackle underage sales. This was advertised on bookmarks at Midlothian libraries. While underage drinking and smoking were problems, he was concerned about the safety of potential volunteers. The police and councillors knew nothing about this. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **4** | **Finance report** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JA confirmed the accounts were up to date when he handed them to the new Treasurer, AT. Any movement would be reported at the November meeting. |  |  |
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| **ITEM**  |  | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | There was nothing to report. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **6** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DA. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | A new white lining machine would be in operation soon on Polton Road and Rosewell Road. She hoped this would help reduce confusion at the two sets of traffic lights at Tesco Express.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | She had attended a recent green energy event and emphasized the importance of switching things off, increasing insulation and decreasing gas and electricity usage. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Two working gulley machines should be in use soon. One had broken down and required repair, while another had been purchased.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | She asked was there any interest in a community garden? A site would be needed with access to water. She was hoping it could operate as a business with the produce for sale. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | She asked the community councillors to let her know when and where there were problems with people parking on yellow lines and she would get the traffic wardens to monitor. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | She displayed useful leaflets from the Home Energy Trust and Home Energy Scotland listing grants to help with energy costs. DW offered to put links to the organisations on the CC website. |  |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **DW to add energy saving information to BDCC website.** | **DW** |  |
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| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DV. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | The pothole repair machine was in the Broomieknowe area. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | He sits on the Cost-of-Living Task Force. If anyone is struggling financially, they should get in contact with Midlothian Council, as a lot of help is available. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The TRO for double lines on both sides of Lothian Street was due to go to Cabinet on 17 October. DE was concerned there hadn’t been any notification to the residents about this. There had been a consultation last year, with a lot of opposition to the proposals and no further information. She asked for a new crossing to be created between Rae’s Gardens and Douglas Crescent, as traffic will be a lot faster, if yellow lines were added to Lothian Street. DV believed this should be possible. She commented that parking problems were mainly at night and no-one was around then to enforce the potential double yellow lines. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | He confirmed that the Council was still in deficit, with a £7m gap in next year’s budget. A programme to review and revise capital commitments was under way. There were £500m of capital commitments, half of which was funded so far, but still needed to find £250m. If borrow money, interest also has to be paid. All the councillors were in unanimous agreement that both the Scottish and UK Governments should be approached for funds. The recent census showed a 16.1% growth in population in Midlothian, while the budget forecasts had been made on a growth of 13.8%. Funding was thus based on outdated figures from 3-4 years ago. |  |  |
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| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DM |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | He opposed double yellow lines on Lothian Street, as it merely shifted the parking problem and could lead to anti-social behaviour. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | He reiterated the amount of savings required for the budget and believed the situation was critical. Council tax was likely to rise by 3% next financial year. Midlothian Council needed to consider whether it could approve more new houses and to approach the health board to get commitment to provide health services for this growth. He envisaged statutory services would be at a minimal level. He had not seen any decisive plans on how to save money and time was short.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | He was concerned about the amount and speed of vehicles through Polton village and the consequent danger to pedestrians. A debate ensued on the issue. It was suggested if the residents want the road from Loanhead closed, they should do a local consultation and then petition the Council. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | DV added there had been ownership issues about Mavisbank House. Midlothian Council had issued a compulsory purchase order. Landmark Trust are keen to restore it. There would be two phases of development, the main pavilion with rented accommodation and the auxiliary pavilion with community spaces. DE was concerned about the flow of traffic and parking around Mavisbank House. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | DW asked was there any further progress with the old St Mary’s School site. DM confirmed contractors should start work in the next few weeks. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **7** | **BDCC Groups and Associated Member reports:** |  |  |
|  |  |  | **MTRaP** |  |  |
| Received |  | (i) | DE provided an update on the capital works resurfacing programme of residential streets, the Waverleys and Rosewell Rd. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Midlothian Council was liaising with Transport Scotland on the financial support available to implement 20 mph areas. A policy had been drafted. It wouldn’t be 20 mph across the county, but selective areas.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Scottish Government was keen to advocate an active travel strategy. Midlothian Council doesn’t have an officer to deal with speed on core paths such as the railway path, which was a big issue. |  |  |
|  |  |  | **Midlothian Federation of Community Councils** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Next meeting would take place on Wednesday 18 October. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **8** | **Planning** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | No update received. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **9** | **AOCB** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Remembrance Day – three wreaths had been purchased. FW will attend at Lasswade, DL and DW at Bonnyrigg and JA at Polton village.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Christmas lights switch on – 5 local schools will be at the event on Sunday 26 November. Sunday proved more popular. DM had safety concerns about the number of people at the funfair. The car park at Campview Road would be shut to through traffic, to give more space. The Masonic Hall had been hired, as well as the Pitcairn Centre, to spread the stalls and Santa Grotto. DM was keen that all volunteers have Disclosure Scotland Clearance. He requested £300 from the Community Council towards the Christmas lights event. This was agreed to and would come from the £900 grant from Midlothian Council. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Room layout – DL asked how the participants found the seating arrangement. It was agreed lecture style was acceptable. |  |  |
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| **ITEM**  |  | **11** | **Date of next meeting**  |  |  |   |
|  |  |  | Thursday 9 November 2023 in Lasswade Library. |  |  |  |