**BONNYRIGG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**Held at 7.00pm on 12 October 2023 in Lasswade Centre**

**Present:** John Aitchison, Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, Ann Cunningham, Diane Easton, Dan Lennie, Bill MacDonald, Liz MacDonald, Ruth Scott, Alison Thomson, Fiona Warner, Sandy Waterston, Dougie West, Stuart Young.

**In attendance:** Cllr D Milligan, Cllr D Alexander, Cllr D Virgo.

Jacqueline Charters,Catherine Duns, David Hally, Flora Kenny, George Nicol, Avril

 Ramsay.

**Apologies:** J Gracoeiro, Kirstie Malley, Joan Sumner.

1. **Welcome**

Diane Easton welcomed everyone and paid tribute to the late Chair, Jan Irvine, for her work with the former Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council and the new Bonnyrigg and District one. She had been very involved in the local community for many years, had done much work during the pandemic to organise shopping for the vulnerable. Diane also thanked Flora Kenny for the support she had provided to Jan in her final days.

1. **Chair’s report**

Diane Easton provided a summary of the inaugural year of BDCC. It was still bedding in after the merger. It was the largest community council in Midlothian, met regularly with MTRaP and the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils. It had helped lobby Midlothian Council on the access and parking issues around St Mary’s School and the increasingly invisible lane markings at the Tesco roundabout. She thanked the local Midlothian councillors and community police officers for their regular attendance and updates. She also thanked the volunteers; John Aitchison (Treasurer), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), Dan Lennie, (Secretary) Dougie West (Web Editor), Kirstie Malley and the other Admins for the work on the Residents’ Forum. Looking ahead there would be work on the new place plans, cycle storage and parking issues on Lothian Street. BDCC was in a good place, with strong membership and she was looking forward to another year of activity on behalf of the community.

**3. Minutes**

Draft minutes of the inaugural AGM meeting on 13 October 2022 were circulated prior to the meeting. The motion to approve these draft minutes was proposed by John Aitchison and seconded by Dougie West. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the 12
October 2022 AGM meeting.

**4.** **Secretary’s report**

Dan Lennie reported it had been a steep learning curve for him as Secretary. He had previously attended meetings as the police representative. He was pleased to see how the community council had worked following last year’s merger. It was now paper free, to save printing costs. There was one mailbox, which made it easier to manage. If something came into the community council in-box, he forwarded it to everyone. He confirmed he had enjoyed his year as Secretary.

**5. Treasurer’s report**

John Aitchison provided a summary of the financial situation. A laptop had been purchased for community council work. £900 grant had been received from Midlothian Council. £300 was given to the Events Committee for the Christmas lights switch on and £300 to Poltonhall Gala Day. He thanked Dougie West for all his work on the historical records of the two previous community councils and on website maintenance. The closing balance was £3,922.29, which included £1,160 from Bonnyrigg Community Trust. John had tendered his resignation as Treasurer in April 20023 and had been Acting Treasurer since then. He was definitely resigning now and would pass the end of year statement and accounts to the new treasurer.

**6. Members**

Diane Easton thanked Owen Proudfoot for his work on behalf of the community council. He had resigned during the year, due to family and work commitments. Ann Cunningham was co-opted last year and was now a full councillor. George Nicol had been nominated, approved and duly elected to the Bonnyrigg and District Community Council. There was still one position available. Diane then handed over to Catherine Duns from Midlothian Council. Catherine explained that community councillors were elected for 3 years, while office bearers were elected for 1 and new office bearers had to be appointed. She oversaw the nomination and appointment of office bearers.

**7. Office bearers**

The following positions were appointed without opposition and the applications approved and duly elected to the executive of Bonnyrigg and District Community Council.

Chairperson Dan Lennie
Vice-Chairperson Dougie West
Treasurer Alison Thomson
Secretary Diane Easton
Minutes Secretary Liz MacDonald
Media Officer Kirstie Malley (She was not present at the meeting, but had agreed)

**8. Details of next AGM**

 This would take place on Thursday 10 October 2024 in the Lasswade Centre.