

**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL****Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2023, at Lasswade Library**

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

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Chair's remarks</b>	
Noted	(i)	DL welcomed everyone to the November meeting.	
Noted	(ii)	He thanked LMacD for agreeing to be Minutes Secretary for another year.	
Noted	(iii)	The collection following Jan Irvine's funeral had raised £250, which would be split between the two wards she had been in at Midlothian Community Hospital.	
Noted	(iv)	Volunteers were needed to help develop the Local Place Plan. DL appealed to the community councillors to become involved, if they had interest in or experience of local planning.	
Noted	(v)	There were two vacancies for community councillors. David Halley and Avril Ramsay were co-opted.	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes and matters arising from October meetings</b>	
Noted	(i)	The draft minutes from the AGM were approved by JC and seconded by JB.	
Noted	(ii)	The motion to approve the 12 October draft minutes was proposed by FW and seconded by DE. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the 12 October meeting.	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Police report</b>	
Received	(i)	Police report for October had been previously circulated.	
Noted	(i)	As no police officer was present, DL spoke to the report, mentioning £6,000 worth of goods stolen from Sherwood Industrial Estate, alcohol theft from the Co-op, a woman biting a police officer who was attempting to arrest her, an accidental chemical spillage, house break-ins and car theft, amongst the incidents.	
Noted	(ii)	Six people were caught speeding on Dundas Street/Cockpen Road and given formal police warnings as per the Lord Advocate's guidance.	
Noted	(iii)	SW was concerned about an abandoned car near Lasswade Rugby Club. As it was taxed and MOTed, it was not of police concern.	

<b>ITEM</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>Finance report</b>	
Noted		(i)	AT confirmed there had been no movement in October, while the only expenditure in November was for the wreaths for Remembrance Sunday. £55 had been received unexpectedly from Midlothian Council. DE agreed to query this with Catherine Duns.	
<b>ACTION</b>		<b>(i)</b>	<b>DE to contact Midlothian Council about unexpected payment.</b>	<b>DE</b>
Noted		(ii)	Bank cards were required to make payments, rather than cheques. BMacD pointed out debit cards had been held in the past. Two people were required to sign cheques, which was time-consuming. If BACS payments were to be used, a payments approval system would be required. This enabled one person request payment and a second person to authorise it.	
<b>ITEM</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>Secretary's report</b>	
Noted		(i)	DE reported that she had been tidying out the Community Council inbox and would work on the folders and sub folders next.	
<b>ITEM</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>Report from Midlothian Councillors</b>	
Received		(i)	Verbal update from DA.	
Noted		(i)	She had been to CCTV HQ in Edinburgh to see what CCTV can do. Searches can be made of it based on a description of an incident, shop lifting, missing persons etc. 22 CCTV cameras are in Midlothian, 4 of which are mobile and can be deployed as necessary.	
Noted		(ii)	She had visited Torness Power Station, which can supply electricity to over 2 million households and is scheduled to close in 2028. It will be dismantled and a cap put on it for years to come. In its place Millerhill will generate heating for the Shawfair. Viridor at Dunbar will produce heating and electricity and join up with Millerhill in energy supply.	
Noted		(iii)	She had visited Bonnyrigg Primary School, provided recycling bins to encourage recycling and stop littering. She had also visited Hopefield, where the pupils had won an award for cycling proficiency. Bonnyrigg Primary School had problems with flooding in the playground, which would be investigated.	
Received		(i)	Verbal update from DV.	
Noted		(i)	He had attended a lot of meetings about capital commitments to balance the budget. Midlothian Council had £500m of commitments, with £250m still to be found. Much was spent on the education estate, with replacing Beeslack High School, a new primary school in Bonnyrigg, plus health and social care funding. A consensus needed to be reached, as £250m cannot be borrowed.	
Noted		(ii)	Week commencing 20 November was Safety Awareness Week. Some pupils at Lasswade Primary would act as parking monitors to	

			encourage parents to park responsibly and bike repair classes would be available.	
Noted		(iii)	He was due to visit Hawthornden Primary on 10 November and was keen to identify and try to resolve issues at the schools.	
Received		(i)	Verbal update from DM	
Noted		(i)	He was concerned the budget faced a massive deficit, with no concrete proposals to resolve it. Inflation would further accelerate the problem.	
Noted		(ii)	He had visited Lasswade Primary School too and was concerned about the state of the fire doors. Five required replacing. There were also leaks from faulty windows.	
Noted		(iii)	The original proposal for a replacement building at Lasswade Primary had been thrown out. Refurbishment was an option, but that too had been withdrawn.	
Noted		(iv)	Midlothian Council Cabinet meeting had decided on the double yellow lines on Lothian Street. There were no discussions on alternative proposals. No letters in support of the yellow lines had been received, yet there had been objections. He was unhappy at the way this had been handled.	
Noted		(v)	KM thanked DM for his support of Lasswade Primary School.	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>BDCC Groups and Associated Member reports:</b>	
	<b>a</b>		<b>Local place plans working group update</b>	
Received		(i)	DW provided an update on the recent survey of residents. It had been created as a Microsoft form, with ratings of 1-7. Doing it this way made it easier to analyse. There had only been 120 responses out of 18,000 people in the area, which was a disappointing response rate.	
Noted		(ii)	DW picked out a few figures and comments: Moving around 4.4. Public transport 4.2, removal of 49 bus and busy 31 buses coming from Edinburgh were seen as particular problems. Traffic and parking 3.4. Streets and space 3.9. Natural spaces 4.9, but need for improvement of the railway walkway, especially from Dalhousie Chesters to the Waverleys and concern about speeding cyclists on the walkway. Play and recreation 4.2, vandalism at play parks was a problem, especially in Hopefield. Facilities and services 3.9 with plenty of hairdressers and takeaways. Work and local economy 4.1 Housing and community 3.7, not enough social or affordable houses. Social interaction 4.0, no hub, just the church and masonic halls.	

		<p>Identity and belonging 3.9, the sense of community was lost as lots of new houses were built and commuters going to work in Edinburgh. Feeling safe 4.1, more police patrols required.</p> <p>Care and maintenance 3.6, lack of proper weed killing resulted in blocked drains at roadsides. Much reliance on weed busters and litter pickers.</p> <p>Influence and sense of control 3.0, the lowest score of all with a feeling the current administration didn't listen and consultations are in name only.</p> <p>DL thanked KM and DW for drawing together the comments. He asked for volunteers to help with the local place plan. DW would lead on it with four others. It was due by the end of March. DL wanted it to be simple, concise, achievable and realistic.</p>	
	<b>b</b>	<b>MTRaP</b>	
Noted	(i)	DE reported the Lothian Street double yellow lining was the most significant issue relating to BDCC. They were to be implemented early in 2024 and we would have to wait and see what the effect was.	
	(ii)	Resurfacing of the Waverleys was due to finish soon.	
	(iii)	Budget for the pothole pro machine had taken some money from the road repair budget, meaning some repairs would be carried over to the new financial year.	
	(iv)	Next MTRaP meeting was on 20 November.	
	<b>c</b>	<b>Midlothian Federation of Community Councils</b>	
Noted	(i)	A tribute had been paid to Jan Irvine.	
Noted	(ii)	Meetings had still been held via Zoom, but the next one, due on 15 November, would be face to face.	
Noted	(iii)	All the other Community Councils in the Midlothian Federation had signed a letter to Midlothian Council about planning, but BDCC didn't approve of the letter and didn't want to be associated with it.	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	<b>a</b>	<b>Remembrance Day</b>	
Noted		Arrangements for laying of wreaths on Remembrance Day were confirmed.	
	<b>b</b>	<b>Online storage</b>	
Noted		Use of online storage for BDCC business – a family subscription to Microsoft Office 365 for 5 people would mean all the documentation could be stored securely in one place, with information updated and shared amongst office bearers. DL would investigate further.	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>(i)</b>	<b>DL to investigate cost of Office 365 subscription and report back.</b>	<b>DL</b>

	<b>c</b>	<b>Updated Constitution and Standing Orders</b>	
		An updated document for all community councils would need to be looked at during the coming year.	
	<b>d</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives Sub Committee</b>	
		BDCC aims and objective need to be updated. There had been a draft document last year, but it was never formalised.	
	<b>e</b>	<b>Residents' Forum</b>	
		No problems or controversies reported in the last month. The original Forum had been set up by a previous chair, meaning we have no control over it. Will consider decommissioning it to create a new one, more part of BDCC. It is a good local resource, but has become very repetitive. Also, there shouldn't be abuse directed at administrators.	
	<b>f</b>	<b>Visitor matters</b>	
		DE noted a number of emails from other Community Councils concerned that Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) were being reviewed by Midlothian Council. DV explained MUGAs at St Mary's Primary and other schools were unused outside school hours. They were often locked and there had been queries about making them available to the community, at a charge, especially as some sports clubs can't get space to play. A charge would be necessary to cover cost of lights, janitors, facilities etc.	
	<b>g</b>	<b>Youth Shelters</b>	
		BMacD had read about a £1.45m funding partnership between Midlothian Council and Sport Scotland. He described a meeting he arranged with Colin Cassidy, Depute Midlothian Council Leader with responsibility for sport and leisure, to discuss the potential of using some of the funds for youth shelters across Midlothian. It was agreed these had to be located carefully, with appropriate sports facility alongside to encourage proper usage. One was already in place in Woodburn. BMacD would visit it and follow up with Councillor Cassidy. DA confirmed she had done some research on these previously, including those with internet access or mobile phone charging, but unfortunately found that residents were not prepared to have them in their own areas.	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Planning</b>	
Noted	(i)	Nothing to report on planning.	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
		Thursday 14 December 2023 in Lasswade Library.	