**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2023, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | Jan Irvine (Chair), Diane Easton (Vice Chair), Dan Lennie (Secretary), John Aitchison (Treasurer), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), James Cameron, Jammy Gracoeiro, Bill MacDonald, Kirstie Malley, Sandy Waterston, Dougie West. |
| In attendance: | PC Jonny Cassidy, PC Chris Howarth, Flora Kenny, Ian Parkinson, Avril Ramsay. |
| Apologies: | Joyce Bernard, Marnie Crawford, Ruth Scott, Joan Sumner, Alison Thomson, David Virgo, Fiona Warner. |

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| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JI welcomed everyone to the meeting. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Owen Proudfoot has resigned from the Community Council, due to pressure of other commitments. JI emailed to thank him for his input and service over the years and will send him an official thank you letter. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Next month and from then on meetings will start and finish with the crack of a gavel. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Police report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Police report for February had been received. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | CH provided further information. The biggest problem had been off road motor bikes and e-bikes at One Dalhousie Estate. Several calls to the police were made by concerned residents. The Midlothian Community Action Team (MCAT) were deployed on 17 February and one youth was charged with several Road Traffic Offences, the off-road bike seized and a report submitted to the Youth Justice Officer. There have been no further problems in that area. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DE congratulated the police for their prompt action and involving MCAT, illustrating how useful their contribution was in tackling issues. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | There had been a sexual incident in the Waverleys, with a man arrested and under strict surveillance. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | DE queried why the hit and run road traffic accident at Bonnyrigg Toll on 26 February was not in the report. The police will investigate. |  |
| Noted |  | (v | JI thanked the police officers for their attendance and report. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Minutes and matters arising from 9 February meeting** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DL emailed Midlothian Council regarding litter on the Distributer Road between Cockpen and Hardengreen roundabouts and it had been cleared up quite quickly. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | A new hamburger shop had opened at Poltonhall and a lot of rubbish was dropped within the first few days. This would require monitoring. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The motion to approve the February draft minutes was proposed by JG and seconded by DL. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **4** | **Finance report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JA apologised that he had not circulated the finance report prior to the meeting and would send it soon. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | £3,432.93 was in the bank and there had been no transactions in the last 2 months. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | The auditors said authority for expenditure should be noted in the minutes. Payment to DE for printing costs of £53.97 was made on 22 October 2022. LMacD gave authority in retrospect. Payment of £78 was due to DW for website maintenance. JI approved this expenditure. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DL reminded community councillors of the training day on Saturday 25 March at Lasswade High School 9.15-1.45 on the new planning regulations and software system. He encouraged as many as possible to sign up for this. The software will be free for a year and after that there will be an annual charge. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | For future meetings DL plans to use the laptop connected to the computer screen in the library room. This dispenses with the need to print so much, as documents can be displayed on the screen. DE queried if training on the equipment would be required. JA said the HDMI connection between the two pieces of equipment should be sufficient. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | DL had looked at laptops in Currys. A simple, modern 14-inch screen laptop running Windows 11 should be possible for around £249. A £10 SIM card was also required to verify payment via phone for purchases. Total cost, including software, likely to be £300-£350. This enables BDCC documentation be kept safe and secure in 365 Cloud and complies with GDPR. It was agreed the purchase should be made. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | The Minutes Secretary would be unable to attend the meeting on 13 April and DL appealed for someone else to take the minutes. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | DE queried why the agenda didn’t include Visitor Matters as a separate item. DL thought this would be included in AoCB. JA commented that people may not want to sit through the whole meeting, but would prefer to bring up their topic and then be able to leave. IP agreed AoCB was the correct place but there should always be sufficient time allocated to it. DE and JG suggested AoCB was placed ahead of Planning, so that the Midlothian councillors could have input if necessary. DE was keen that visitors get a chance to express their views, as we should be representing the community. Also, if something large is raised, we can call another meeting to give it due attention. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **6** | **MTRaP report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Next meeting was on Monday 13 March. DE will provide an update at the April CC meeting. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | One driver had experience already of using the new pot hole repair machine. Other drivers will be trained. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | JA commented the volume of heavy vehicles were affecting the roads and the density of tarmac used was not sufficient, especially on Lothian Street and High Street. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **7** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | No councillors were present and no reports had been received. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **8** | **Planning** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Planning report for March had been received. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Cllr Milligan had called in the planning application for a supermarket at Cockpen roundabout because of concerns about the effect on town centre facilities and those on Burnbrae Road. This means the application will go to the Planning Committee, rather than be nodded through. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | The former Bonnyrigg and Lasswade CC had objected to the application on behalf of local residents because of traffic and parking concerns and the proximity of two children’s nurseries. The former Hopefield and Poltonhall CC had supported it. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Work on the 20 sheltered flats has started at the old Co-Op site on Bonnyrigg High Street. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **9** | **AOCB** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from KM on the Residents’ Forum, a Facebook Group. This was a useful source of information on the local area, with 4 admin people monitoring it. There was a set of rules for items that can be added. Advertising posts were permitted only on the 1st day of each month. There had been a lot of complaints recently from people who were unable to post their comments, with some being abusive. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DE felt the rules were not obvious and proposed the BDCC post them each month. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | JA said if the admins were receiving verbal abuse, the perpetrators should be banned. KM agreed. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | DW queried why the Residents’ Forum is associated with the CC. DE explained it is because the CC is responsible for the insurance and Data Commissioner fee. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **DE and KM would look at the rules to make them clearer and to emphasize use of the search function before trying to post a message**. | **DE/KM** |
| Noted |  | (iv) | IP observed that it was very hard to get young people involved in CC business and was keen they be encouraged. DL agreed, explaining there was an aims and objectives document and it was hoped 5th and 6th year school pupils become involved. IP suggested we hold a CC meeting during school time, so they could see the CC in action. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(ii)** | **DL will raise possibility of pupil attendance with the head teacher.** | **DL** |
| Noted |  | (v) | BMacD asked if anything had come out of Midlothian Council’s speed survey. JI said nothing had been received yet. He proposed the speed limit on B704 from the Cockpen roundabout to the crossroads at the bottom of the hill intersecting with the Carrington Road be reduced from 40 to 30 miles per hour, because of the dangers of exiting from Cockpen Church on a blind corner, the risk of collision and the impact of higher speed. He mentioned the proposals to make the Church a social and community centre during the week as well as a place of worship, would lead to increased usage. Furthermore, the road was busier with the existing and new houses, the growth of Gorebridge and the speed limit on the distributor road between Cockpen and Hardengreen roundabouts had already been reduced to 30 mph. A vote was held on the proposal and passed unanimously. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(iii)** | **BMacD would draft wording for a motion requesting the speed reduction to be sent to DL and forwarded to the Council.** | **BMacD/DL** |
| Noted |  | (vi) | JG asked if any further information had been received from Midlothian Council regarding the budget proposals and the input from the Federation of CC. JI said the Council had been overwhelmed by budget problems and no response had been received. Quality impact assessments had to be done on the proposed cuts, especially on the 3rd sector. |  |
| Noted |  | (vii) | JA gave an update on the Poltonhall Gala Day Committee. It had changed its name to Poltonhall and Bonnyrigg Gala Day Committee and would like to be an associate member of BDCC. JI said he would have to write making an official request for this. The Gala was Sunday 4 June, was the first since the pandemic, with the gathering collecting at 11 am and parading at 12 noon. Equipment would be hired from Midlothian Council, a public entertainment licence obtained, with inflatables and a show of wrestling. It costs approximately £12,000 to put on the Gala Day and it was hoped it would be well supported. |  |
| Noted |  | (viii) | Following OP’s resignation DW will advertise for a new Community Councillor on BDCC website and copy it to the Residents’ Forum. |  |
| Noted |  | (ix) | DE asked had there been any further update on parking on Lothian Street. As nothing had yet been heard, JI suggested DE raise this as the next MTRaP meeting. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(iv)** | **DE to query parking restrictions at MTRaP meeting on 13 March** | **DE** |
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| **ITEM** |  | **10** | **Date of next meeting** |  |
|  |  |  | Thursday 13 April at 7 pm in Lasswade Library. |  |