**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2023, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | Jan Irvine (Chair), Dan Lennie (Secretary), John Aitchison (Treasurer), Joyce Bernard, Marnie Crawford, Bill MacDonald (Minutes), Ruth Scott, Joan Sumner, Alison Thomson, Fiona Warner, Dougie West. |
| In attendance: | Councillor Dianne Alexander, Councillor Derek Milligan, visitors Flora Kenny and Avril Ramsay. |
| Apologies: | Community Councillors Diane Easton, Jammy Gracoeiro, Liz MacDonald, Kirstie Malley, Councillor David Virgo, Community Police Officers |

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| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JI welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that it has been 6 months since the Community Council’s formation. The CC executive will meet to review what has been learned in that time. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from 9 March meeting** |  |
| Noted  |  | (i) | There were no matters arising. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Adoption of the draft minute was proposed by Dougie West and seconded by Ruth Scott. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the March meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Police report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Police report was received in advance of the meeting. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | No police officers were in attendance this evening. |  |
| Noted  |  | (ii) | Community Councillors voiced concerns about reports of youth anti-social behaviour in the car park and bus at Tesco Hardengreen. |  |
| Action |  | (i) | JI to request an update from PC Howarth. | **JI** |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Community Councillors voiced concerns over the reduction in community police officers [CPOs]. PC Cassidy is now the only officer for Bonnyrigg and prompts concerns over the inability to provide corroboration as required under Scots law. There were previously 12 CPOs for the whole of Midlothian; this number is being reduced to 6. |  |
| Action |  | (ii) | DL to contact MFCC to find out whether they plan to submit a representation to the Area Commander. | **DL** |
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| **ITEM** |  | **4** | **Finance report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Finance report received from JA. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Noted recent expenditure for the BDCC website. Noted that the balance is very healthy. Noted that the Poltonhall and Hopefield CC account is still open and its balance of £281.32 will be transferred and the account closed in due course. The report shows the combined balance of the former BLCC and PHCC accounts to be £3,354.93. Noted that both accounts are registered with the Bank of Scotland for business internet banking. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | JA intimated his retiral from the Treasurer’s post due to personal circumstances but he will remain as Community Councillor. JI called for thanks from members present in recognition of and tribute to the vast amount of preparatory work done by JA for the merger of the two community councils. This was endorsed with an enthusiastic response. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Received the Secretary’s report from DL. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | The Community Council’s laptop is still to be purchased. |  |
| Action |  | (i) | DL to purchase laptop. | DL |
| Action |  | (ii) | DL to ask the school staff how to link the laptop to their system. | DL |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Noted that the motion calling for the speed limit on the section of the B704 road from the Cockpen roundabout to the junction with the C class road from the A7 to Carrington to be reduced from 40 to 30 miles per hour had been sent to Midlothian Council. Noted that no reply had been received to date. Cllr Alexander noted that she would follow this up if DL could forward the email onto her. |  |
| Action |  | (iii) | DL to send email containing the motion to Cllr Alexander. | DL |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Noted complaints about indiscriminate parking in Laird Terrace especially at peak school times. Cllr Alexander noted that she has asked police to look at it. Cllr Milligan noted that this has been an issue for years and it’s difficult to find a solution that residents would be happy with. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Noted that a Cycle Scotland initiative is offering funding for cycle storage if a suitable site can be identified. DL also proposed asking if they will fund repairs to the existing cycle store at Lasswade Centre. Cllr Alexander noted that funding to support active travel could be available from Midlothian Council. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | Noted that the CLLLE team has asked for feedback from those who attended last month’s training on the new planning system. |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | Noted that next month’s meeting agenda will be altered to bring it in line with the standing orders outlined in the draft Constitution. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **6** | **MTRaP report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Noted that the white lane markings at the Tesco Hardengreen roundabout are almost invisible and this has already been raised at earlier MTRaP meetings. |  |
| Action |  | (i) | [Added after meeting] DE to raise again the issue of line markings at next MTRaP meeting | DE |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Noted that Cllr Alexander would like to be invited to the next meeting. |  |
| Action |  | (ii) | [Added after meeting] DE to follow up with the MTRaP group re extending an invitation to Cllr Alexander | DE |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Noted that the new pot hole repair machine was already in use. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **7** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DA. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Noted that a lot of road resurfacing has been done and the Pothole Pro machine is starting to make a difference. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | There was a prospect of co-operation with East Lothian on plans to prevent excess run-off from fields resulting in pollution and flooding.  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Midlothian Council looking at various initiatives to meet the net zero target, including the Council’s aspiration to build another 2,000 passiv houses. JI stressed the need for better support services if this was to be realistic. JA asked what was meant by passiv houses. DA replied that such houses retained all their heat within the building, adding there were some existing ones around the Hopefield Co-op. Noted that the Local Development Plan is being reviewed and communities are invited to get involved. |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DM |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DM advised that he had met with the Head of Archives and Assets, Historic Environment Scotland and been told HES wanted to build a unit in Sherwood Business Park. This would offer apprenticeships in tradition trades such as stonemasonry and roof thatching as well as be used for storage space. Enthusiasm for this proposal had been expressed by Dr Grace Vickers, Midlothian Council’s CEO. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DM noted his letter of objection to the double yellow line proposed by Midlothian Council for each side of Lothian Street. A copy of the letter has been circulated to members of BDCC. The grounds of objection were concern about resultant excess speeding, increased danger to pedestrians, particularly children and conflict with residents over prospective displaced parking into adjacent side streets. Instead DM has proposed double yellow lines on one side and dedicated parking bays on the other. Noted that parked cars provide traffic calming without the cost of additional measures. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Noted that the old St Mary’s school site is ready for development; mine shafts have been dealt with and the site cleared, however it’s almost a year since the build was due to start. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **8** | **Planning** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Written and verbal report from MC. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Noted that an enforcement order to clear land beside Deaflawhill Cottage on Carrington Road was not actioned on time and is being pursued by Council Officers. Two new planning applications in respective of the HS11 site at Dalhousie South for a further 61 houses. An application to erect a new modern house beside the site of old South Melville Farm. This is only a small portion of the entire site but no information on any other proposals as yet. An application to erect a ‘Garage’ at 401 Lasswade Road; also very new and no detail so far but this is again in the Green Belt. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Mavisbank House was discussed. Midlothian Council may compulsorily purchase it and is seeking funding to stabilise and restore the site. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Noted an item on Midlothian View commenting on the public enquiry for the Sheriffhall upgrade. An announcement on the next stage of the process will be made in June. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **8a** | **Roles and Responsibilites re new Local Place Plans** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Noted that BDCC should look strategically at its whole ward and vision for the future. It’s significant that Community Councils are being given powers to write a plan or a set of conditions and that these have to be taken into account by planners when they consider planning applications. As statutory consultees, Community Councils will have more influence than other community organisations. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Noted that Midlothian Council’s Planning Committee on 28 February 2023 endorsed the start of the review of Midlothian’s Local Development Plan, as adopted on 7 November 2017. In March 2023 it invited community bodies to prepare local place plans, as introduced under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, section 14. JA proposed to hold additional meetings and separately to ask MFCC about bringing Community Councils together to receive training from planners. MC believes that BDCC should discuss what has come out of the planning system and hold public consultations to get the feeling of the community. DL noted that preparation for Local Place Plans is a huge piece of work and BDCC doesn’t have much time to complete them. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **9** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Noted that Lothian Street residents have not yet received a copy of the outcome of the informal consultation held last November, yet Midlothian Council is proposing to press ahead with its plan to put down yellow lines on both sides of the road. JA proposed that BDCC support DM’s objection to Midlothian Council’s proposal for a double yellow line on each side of Lothian Street. This was seconded and passed unanimously by show of hands. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | BLCC Mailchimp bulk email account. Noted that DE will wind up the account and subscribers may receive an automated email advising them of this. |  |
| Action |  | (i) | DE to close BLCC Mailchimp account and delete subscriber list | DE |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Noted the poor condition of the road at St Anne’s Avenue after recent pot hole repairs. JB will send an email with photos to DL for circulation to CC members. DL noted that this road was included in a list nominated by BDCC for resurfacing. |  |
| Action |  | (ii) | JB to send an email with photos to DL re St Anne’s Avenue. | JB |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Noted that the ‘Give Way’ road sign at the bottom of Polton Road is seriously faded and almost illegible. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | Noted that the street signs in Burnbrae have faded. Also that a sign at Cockpen roundabout is damaged. JA suggested using the Midlothian Council website to express the concern. |  |
| Action |  | (iii) | [Added after meeting] DE to report signage issues to MTRaP group | DE |
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| **ITEM** |  | **10** | **Closing comments from Chair** |  |
|  |  |  | JI would like to say thanks to JA for his great work as BDCC’s Treasurer, also for guiding the former Community Councils through the merger process. JA will be warmly welcomed at future Community Council meetings.JI noted also that she has informed the CLLLE team of JA’s departure and the Community Council will be supported as they try to find a replacement Treasurer. JI hopes to have someone in post by August.Noted also that the BDCC draft Constitution is still with the Council’s Legal Services team.Noted also that that BDCC’s ‘Aims and Objectives’ document is still to be looked at. |  |
| Action |  | (i) | JA to send a copy of the final version of the draft Constitution to MC. | JA |
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| **ITEM**  |  | **11** | **Date of next meeting** |  |
|  |  |  | Thursday 11 May at 7 pm in Lasswade Library. |  |