**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2023, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | Jan Irvine (Chair), Diane Easton, Dan Lennie (Secretary), John Aitchison (Treasurer), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, Ann Cunningham, Jammy Gracoeiro, Bill MacDonald, Kirstie Malley, Ruth Scott, Joan Sumner, Alison Thomson, Fiona Warner, Sandy Waterston, Dougie West Stuart Young. |
| In attendance: | Councillor Derek Milligan, Councillor David Virgo, Flora Kenny, George and Janet Nicol, Avril Ramsay. |
| Apologies: | Marnie Crawford, Councillor Dianne Alexander.  |

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| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JI welcomed everyone to the May meeting.  |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from 13 April meeting** |  |  |
| Noted  |  | (i) | Police officers had been present on some buses going into the Tesco at Hardengreen. No further youth disorder in the carpark had been observed. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | GN queried funding of the Historic Environment Scotland (HES) apprenticeships. DM believed HES was funding these directly. Normally funding was announced in April. KM confirmed she had heard from a local hairdresser that people currently on the scheme would be kept on, but Scottish Government was not adding new apprentices. DL offered to contact Colin Beattie, MSP, to confirm the situation. |  |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **DL to write to Colin Beattie querying government funding of the apprenticeship scheme.** | **DL** |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | GN noted April minutes said the new pothole machine was making a difference, but he had not seen any improvement. DM explained the Council had started in country areas and was working its way towards the towns. Potholes should be reported via the Council [website](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200287/roads/173/report_a_road_fault).  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | The motion to approve the April draft minutes was proposed by FW and seconded by JS. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the April meeting. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Police report** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | None received and no police officers in attendance. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **4** | **Secretary’s report** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DL was due to meet Cycle Scotland representatives on 16 May to identify an area which could be used for secure cycle storage. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | The possible reduction of community police from 12 to 6 officers had not been confirmed. The BDCC can’t complain about the situation yet. Once there is clarification, we will combine with the Federation of Community Councils to make representation. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | A laptop has been bought for the Secretary’s use. It will be connected to the big screen in the room for future meetings and will reduce the amount of paper that needed to be printed. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **5** | **Finance report** |  |  |
| Received |  | (i) | JA distributed the May 2023 statement of accounts showing a total balance of £3,354.93. No income or expenditure was recorded during the month. The former PHCC account with a balance of £281.32 will be kept until the time of the AGM and then merged into the BDCC account. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | JA reported the PC purchase by DL was £249, plus a printer at £49.99 and a SIM card at £10. AT and DE proposed and seconded this expenditure. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | DE confirmed she was due no further money for printing costs and DW confirmed there had been no website expenditure.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | JA suggested the old printer, previously used by DE, should be advertised on the Residents’ Forum as available for another community organisation. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **6** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DV. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | The biggest concern currently was the proposed changes to the 49 bus from Rosewell to Edinburgh. This had been raised at the Midlothian Council meeting on 9 May, as there had been very little local consultation. The Council had asked Lothian Buses to put the change on hold and requested a meeting to discuss alternative proposals. The 3 Bonnyrigg councillors and 3 from Rosewell will meet with Lothian Buses. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | The speed limit consultation in autumn 2022 recommended that almost all the roads in Bonnyrigg would have a 20mph limit, while the main roads would remain at 30.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The cost of a school day had been discussed at the Council meeting, with increased food costs, cost of uniforms and the expense of added logos on jumpers. The logo requirement meant jumpers could be 3 or 4 times the price of plain jumpers in supermarkets. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Pothole repair machine can’t just drop everything to deal with a new pothole. There is a schedule of work and it depends on the classification of the road. Permission is required if it has to be dug up. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | DL queried how much it would cost to change the signs and road markings to 20 mph. DV confirmed it would be £275,000 from the existing budget, without any additional money from Scottish Government.  |  |  |
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| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DM |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | He had endorsed DV’s proposal at Council meeting that line marking be brought in house. Currently the Council uses a company from Manchester. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DM commented that Lothian Buses proposing massive changes to routes without consultation was bad. He admitted extending the 31 on Sundays to Polton Mill was an improvement, but it would have been preferable to amend the 31 route daily to include Rosewell. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | There was a 5-year rolling programme for resurfacing, with the Waverleys next on the schedule. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | He believed the addition of double yellow lines on both side of Lothian Street would cause more problems than solve. There had been a lot of objections to the proposal, so it would have to be discussed at Cabinet level. He hoped a less draconian scheme could be agreed. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | DM was connected with Bonnyrigg Rose Boys’ Club. Lasswade Rugby Club had had a big event on the same day, with more than 500 spectators. This led to pressure on parking in the area. He felt it was important the two clubs communicated more to avoid such clashes. DL commented that if the matches at the Boys Club, not Dundas Street, and Lasswade Rugby hadn’t been on at the same day, a lot of money would have been lost in the local pubs and shops. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | There was no further progress with building the new care facility at Polton Road. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (vii) | DE commented on the parking on both sides of Rae’s Gardens creating a hazard, as no emergency vehicles could have got through. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (viii) | GN believed the 20 mile per hour scheme was a waste of money. He favoured a speed camera on Rosewell Road. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ix) | DE explained the 20 mile per hour scheme was to encourage people to reduce speed and have a psychological change on driver behaviour. JA supported anything which makes the streets safer. The proposal is still a public consultation, as the Traffic Order has not yet been approved. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (x) | JA queried if placing of speed cameras was a matter for the Council or the police. DL explained evidence of need was required and a Board of Experts determined the criteria, making it quite difficult to get cameras installed. Neither the Council nor the police make the decision. |  |  |
| Noted  |  | (xi) | FL asked if the crossing wardens were to be cut this year. DM confirmed they would not be. |  |  |
| Received |  |  | Written update from DA |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Tea room run by Bonnyrigg & Sherwood Community Development Trust was now open on Lothian Street. All profits go back into the community. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | 20 mph speed limit in towns and villages is going out to consultation. She hoped it would be embraced to bring safer streets to the community and help our journey towards net zero. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Police Board had discussed the issue of bad behaviour of some young people on buses, making use of their free passes. We need to try to find a way to engage with the youngsters rather than take their passes away. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | She attended the opening of the new green zone at the Mining Museum, a family friendly area showing how to build bridges, make hydrogen and generate electricity from wind. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | Local Review Body discussed disposable vapes and how dangerous they can be, with the potential to explode as well as being non-recyclable.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | Keen to promote use of bus route corridors, to make bus travel more efficient and encourage people to take the bus rather than car. Angered at the proposed stopping of number 49 bus from Rosewell and asked for an urgent meeting with local councillors and Lothian Buses. |  |  |
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| **Item**  |  | **7** | **MTRaP report** |  |  |
| Received  |  | (i) | Written report from DE was circulated. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | She attends MTRaP meetings every 6 weeks. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | The residential streets programme will work on the Waverleys and Pentland Road later this year. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The new pothole machine works 8 times faster than previous equipment. Further information is on the Council website. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | The bus tracker sign on Bonnyrigg High St is to be replaced. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | Concerns about safe travel to schools, especially St Mary’s Primary. The Council will review pedestrian and vehicular access around all primary schools in the county. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | Concern about lighting columns still being lit during day light. It was suggested it could be linked to the CCTV cameras, as the lights have to be on for the cameras to work. JA suggested a device could be fitted to switch off the lights dawn to dusk. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (vii) | Nothing was mentioned at the meeting about the yellow line proposals for Lothian St. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (viii) | AR queried how residents at Chester’s Court would get parking permits when restrictions accessing St Mary’s were introduced. DL explained these would be given to residents who provided their car registration number and there would be exemptions for those with blue badges etc. The consultation exercise would end on 19 May. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **8** | **Midlothian Federation of Community Councils update** |  |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from JI. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Meetings are for 2 hours, still via Zoom, which encourages attendance. Invited guests speak for a long time, meaning there is less time for important items on the agenda. DE suggested JI email the meeting Chair to complain about this. DL agreed and said the guest speakers should be at the end, after the main business. |  |  |
| Noted  |  | (ii) | DE reminded those present that BDCC is the largest CC in Midlothian. Two reps from each CC can attend Federation meetings. She felt we should be permitted to send more. JI and DW already go. JI will check with R Hogg Chair of Federation to see how many can attend. |  |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **JI to contact R Hogg about Federation representation.** | **JI** |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **9** | **Planning** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | No report received.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | A local place plan covering the next 10 years will be drafted over the next few months. Midlothian Council will devise. Input is required from BDCC and prior to this public engagement is necessary. A meeting is to be held on Monday 15 May at 7m pm in the café at the Lasswade High School to discuss this. Those who had previously expressed willingness to contribute to the plan were invited to attend. The previous plan had been for 5 years. This one was to cover 10 years and included existing development sites for 2,000 new houses. We need to ensure builders don’t ditch sites elsewhere, including Edinburgh, and try to get more in Bonnyrigg. The infrastructure is not adequate for further large-scale developments and it takes a long time to get the appropriate infrastructure in place. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | JA queried what the councillors’ role will be in the local place plan. DM said they would have a strategic overview. Independent reporters from the Scottish Government will examine the plan and Scottish ministers have the final say. |  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **10** | **AOCB** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JI thanked GN for his attendance and bringing up matters, but reminded him these should come under AOCB. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | FW reminded everyone the Poltonhall Gala Day was Sunday 4 June, there were lots of free attractions and encouraged people to attend. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | SW reported his address at Dalhousie Chesters had been changed to one a mile away on Rosewell Road and this caused issues with non-delivery of goods meant for him and delivery drivers trying to deliver food he hadn’t ordered, especially late at night, creating an unnecessary disturbance. He had tried to contact Midlothian Council, but no-one was available. The problem had been ongoing for 3 years. DV and DL believed it was a Google mapping problem and nothing to do with the Councill or Post Office. JA and JG offered to try and get this changed. |  |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **JA and JG to contact Google about their mapping error.** | **JA/JG** |  |
|  |  | (iv) | DE distributed redrafted Residents’ Forum rules, following discussion at the February meeting. KM suggested a few sections could be combined to make the rules more succinct. DW will post the revised rules on the Forum at the beginning of each month, to remind residents what was permissible and hopefully to reduce problems for the administrators.  |  |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(ii)** | **DW to post Forum rules at the beginning of each month.** | **DW** |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | JS asked what the purpose of the Residents’ Forum was. JA explained it had been set up as a Facebook group some years ago and was a useful means for people in Bonnyrigg to share information. |  |  |
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| **ITEM**  |  | **11** | **Date of next meeting** |  |  |   |
|  |  |  | Thursday 8 June at 7 pm in Lasswade Library. |  |  |