**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2023, at café in Lasswade Centre**

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| Present: | Jan Irvine (Chair), Diane Easton (Vice Chair), Dan Lennie (Secretary), John Aitchison (Treasurer), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), James Cameron, Marnie Crawford, Ann Cunningham, Jammy Gracoeiro, Bill MacDonald, Joan Sumner, Alison Thomson, Fiona Warner, Dougie West, Stuart Young. |

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| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JI welcomed everyone to the meeting called specifically to discuss Planning ref 22/00890/DPP Application for change of use of first floor 76 High Street Bonnyrigg, from offices class 4, to hotel, class 7. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Planning application - grounds for previous objection** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | BDCC had previously objected to the planning application to create a 10 ensuite bedroom hotel at 76 High Street, in the building between Bonnyrigg Parish Church and the Co-op store. The objection was due to lack of information on how the hotel would be used, concerns about additional parking creating a negative impact on local residents, potential for noise from late night parties, unsightly rubbish at the front of the hotel and proximity to Bonnyrigg Parish Church with disruption to services. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | **Meeting with applicant and architect** |  |
|  |  |  | A useful meeting was held between BDCC representatives, the applicant and architect on 13 June 2023 to address concerns. The applicant is in discussion with two organisations to use their parking facilities, the Co-op and Broomieknowe Golf Club overspill car park. The business’s bins will be located at the rear of the building. Two additional bins will be situated on the High Street for takeaway litter. Guests will access the hotel via an app on their phone and a PIN at the entrance. There will be no direct access to the hotel via the restaurant. Guests must enter the hotel from the street. CCTV cameras will monitor access to the building. The only alcohol licence will be for the restaurant. The business model does not anticipate the type of clientele who would hold late night parties or generate lots of noise. There will be no function room in the hotel. The restaurant would open from 8 am to 9 or 10 pm. The hotel and restaurant would provide employment for about 20 people. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | SY queried what had changed since BDCC’s initial objection to the planning application. JA explained much more information about the proposed hotel had been presented at the meeting, as summarised above, far more than in the original application, which allayed concerns. A discussion followed and resulted in the recommendation that BDCC withdraw their objection. JA proposed the withdrawal and DW seconded it. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | (i) | **DL to write to Midlothian Council ASAP to formally withdraw BDCC’s objections to Planning ref 22/00890/DPP for a hotel at 76 High Street, Bonnyrigg.** | **DL** |
| Noted |  | (iv) | The applicant was looking for suggestions for the name of the hotel. The Wilton Hotel was suggested by DE, given the building’s previous use as the Wilton carpet factory, while FW suggested The Carpet Factory, in the same historical vein as The Paper Mill in Lasswade. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Closure of meeting** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | The planning application being the sole purpose of the meeting, business concluded at 7.30 pm. |  |
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