**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023, at Lasswade Library**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Present: | Jan Irvine (Chair), Diane Easton (Vice Chair), Dan Lennie (Secretary), John Aitchison (Treasurer), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), James Cameron, Marnie Crawford, Jammy Gracoeiro, Ruth Scott, Alison Thomson, Fiona Warner, Sandy Waterston, Dougie West. |
| In attendance: | Councillor Dianne Alexander, Jaqueline Charters, Bill Hunter, Flora Kenny, George and Janet Nicol. |
| Apologies: | Joyce Bernard, Jonny Cassidy, Bill MacDonald, Kirstie Malley, Councillor Derek Milligan. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JI welcomed everyone to the June meeting and congratulated JA and FW on a very successful gala day at Poltonhall on 4 June. |  |  |
|  |  | (ii) | JI apologised to RS for not previously mentioning the sad death of her husband, Gibby. He had long been an advocate of BLCC with much input over the years. On behalf of the Community Council JI passed on condolences. RS thanked JI for her kind words. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from 13 April meeting** |  |  |
| Noted  |  | (i) | DL had written to Colin Beattie querying the funding of apprenticeships. They were funded for 2023-24, but not committed for future years. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | JI had contacted Midlothian Federation of Community Councils regarding membership. Each community council was permitted 2 members. Others may attend, but not vote. Jan also queried could there be proxy votes if a member can’t attend or if one member can vote twice? |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The mapping error on Google had been sorted for SW. DA is to contact Midlothian Council about the road sign which is in the incorrect place. |  |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **DA to contact Midlothian Council re signage at Dalhousie Chesters.** | **DA** |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | The motion to approve the May draft minutes was proposed by AT and seconded by FW. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the May meeting. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Police report** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | None received and no police officers in attendance. JC will no longer be the community police officer and it has still not been confirmed if there will be one or two community officers. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ITEM** |  | **4** | **Finance report** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JA reported an account balance of £3,055.94. During May £298.99 had been spent on a laptop. He had recently audited Mayfield and Easthouses CC books. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | LM queried if the £900 awarded from Midlothian Council had been received yet. JA confirmed it had not.  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ITEM** |  | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Cycle shelter at Lasswade High School is to be repaired. Cycle Scotland wouldn’t fund a shelter at Bonnyrigg Toll, but only provide one for flats which don’t have appropriate storage, to avoid storage in internal stairwells. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DL had received a complaint about speed of traffic on Lasswade Road. He had sent this on to the 3 local councillors and the police. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | A meeting was to be held the week of 12 June with the architect and applicant for the planning application for a hotel at 76 High Street, which BDCC had previously objected to.  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Item**  |  | **6** | **MTRaP report** |  |  |
| Received |  | (i) | MTRaP met on 5 June and DE provided an update. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | The residential streets programme will work on the Waverleys, Dundas Park and Maryhill Place from end of July until October. Information will be added to the Residents’ Forum.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Lane marketing at Tesco roundabout was to be redone on night of 8 June.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Some of the budget for capital programme had been allocated to the new pothole machine. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | Any complaints about roads and signage should be reported to the council via the website. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | Restrictions on access to St Mary’s School will hopefully be implemented in time for the new academic year. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (vii) | No word yet on parking on Lothian St and DE had asked for an update. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (viii) | DA commented she supported introduction of double yellow lines on Lothian St to enable buses move along more safely. She believed one side being yellow lined would make the situation worse. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ix) | People parking on the pavement caused problems for prams and wheel chairs. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (x) | DE commented people are concerned about parking, but vehicles slow the road down and make it safer. If single or double yellow lines are added there will be no enforcement, especially in the evenings when the situation is worst. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (xi) | JA asked if the double lines don’t work, would the Council remove them or put in speed sensors? |  |  |
| Noted |  | (xii) | JA queried could there be evening enforcement. DA said yes, that was possible, if it could pay for itself by the fines levied.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (xiii) | FW commented that deliveries at Gigi’s meant the bus can’t get in to pick up passengers. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (xiv) | AT queried if there had been the same issues before Gigi’s was operational. She believed Gigi’s should take responsibility. DL stated it wasn’t Gigi’s fault, but their customers’ and restrictions can’t be imposed on businesses. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ITEM** |  | **7** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DA. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | The Gala Day had been a great day out and well organised. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | The new tea room in Bonnyrigg was a lovely place to visit. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The Council had agreed new bins to be rolled out soon for old clothes not fit for charity shops, small electrical items and cardboard. These help with our green credentials. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | The Council development plan would consider local amenities. DA was concerned about the lack of meeting places. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | She was part of the Business Transformation Group (BTG), looking at the finances and how Council meets the needs of the people. She admitted the finances were constrained and they had to find pots of money in various places to aid the budget. New strategy was to consider if we are getting best value and are the buildings fit for purpose? |  |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | The Justice Board was looking at rehabilitation of offenders, trying to keep people out of prison and ensure support was available for victims. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (vii) | She had been a judge at the Youth Philanthropic Award. 10 teams from S3 in Lasswade High School had competed for £3,000 for their chosen charity. Their presentations had been very good. The winners were Maggie’s and the pupils will carry on the work they had already done with Maggie’s. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (viii) | She had been on holiday in Europe driving 3,000 miles in 2 weeks and noticed there were no potholes, very little litter, streets were clean, grass on verges was high to encourage wildflowers and wildlife. She believed we should examine our food strategy and grow more cash crops locally. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ix) | JA asked if the Council could become a fair tax council, with all the companies under procurement paying appropriate tax. DA agreed this would be a good policy. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (x) | DW commented that East Lothian had wildflowers on their roundabouts and queried why this wasn’t happening in Midlothian. DA was keen for this to happen. She mentioned Midlothian Seeds, which were collected by rangers and distributed via libraries to encourage people create corridors of diversity. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ITEM** |  | **8** | **Planning** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JA asked if the New Local Plan Working Group could be moved out of planning in the agenda for future meetings, as input from local councillors would be useful in devising the plan. DA agreed it should be a separate agenda item. The New Local Plan Working Group was a sub group of the BDCC. JG felt there should be a sub group meeting in July specifically on the local plan, although the CC doesn’t usually meet in July. DW commented Midlothian Council had provided a template for the plan.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | MC said there was nothing major to report on planning, apart from the issue of the hotel proposal for 76 High St. DL agreed to arrange a meeting with the applicant, architect and BDCC representatives to discuss the proposals. Meeting was subsequently held on 13 June.  |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | DL is now receiving notification of all planning consultations. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | First bit of work for the enforcement action on Carrington Road has been done, but the overall work was not yet completed. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ITEM** |  | **9** | **AOCB** |  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JA was pleased the Gala Day had been so well attended, with an estimated 5,000 people over the 5 hours. Funfairs were hired with free access for the community. Gary Locke of Hearts official opened the event. Various schools were involved. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | One unexpected issue arose over access to the pavilion at Bonnyrigg Rose Community Football Club. The original asset transfer had stipulated local organisations should have access to the facilities and that was denied on the day. JA will arrange a meeting with Bonnyrigg Rose Community Football Club to resolve this for next year. |  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | Rules for the Residents’ Forum stipulated that any business posts should be limited to one per month, yet the fishman was advertising regularly. It was agreed the rules have to be followed by the administrators as well as the residents, to ensure consistency. It was suggested a meeting of BDCC Executive and the Residents’ Association admins should be arranged. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ITEM**  |  | **11** | **Date of next meeting**Thursday 10 August at 7 pm in Lasswade Library. |  |  |   |