**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2023, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | Diane Easton (Vice Chair), Dan Lennie (Secretary), John Aitchison (Treasurer), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, Anne Cunningham, Bill MacDonald, Kirstie Malley, Alison Thomson, Fiona Warner, Dougie West. |
| In attendance: | Councillors Dianne Alexander, Derek Milligan, David Virgo; Stephen Harpham, Bill Hunter, Flora Kenny, Marie Knowles, PC Euan Lennox, Lorna Miller, Avril Ramsay, plus Leigh Sneddon from 8 pm. |
| Apologies: | Marnie Crawford, Jammy Gracoeiro, Jan Irvine, Joan Sumner, Sandy Waterston. |

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| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DL chaired the meeting, as JI was in hospital. |  |
|  |  | (ii) | Community Councillors expressed concern for JI’s health issues and asked DL to pass on their best wishes. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from June meetings** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | No amendments to minutes from 8 June. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DA had contacted Midlothian Council about signage at Dalhousie Chesters. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The motion to approve the 8 June draft minutes was proposed by AT and seconded by FW. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the 8 June meeting. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | No amendments to minutes from 26 June meeting on the planning application for a hotel at 76 High Street. |  |
|  |  | (v) | DL wrote to Midlothian Council withdrawing BDCC’s objections to Planning ref 22/00890/DPP. |  |
|  |  | (vi) | The motion to approve the 26 June draft minutes was proposed by JA and seconded by DW. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the 26 June meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Police report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Police reports for June and July had been received. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | PC Euan Lennox was the new community officer for Bonnyrigg. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | He highlighted some of the issues reported to the police in June and July: youth crime, car incidents, drink driving, break-ins, youths on roof of Burnbrae Primary School and damage caused, possession of cannabis and problems with off road bikers. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | AS queried why the car collison on Polton Road was not included. EL explained some incidents are not noted if there were personal details or injuries sustained. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | JC commented that youths had been on Burnbrae Primary School roof again. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | EL said Friday evenings was the worst for youth problems and the police were trying to arrange something for them, to keep them occupied. |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | FK complained about youths on dirt bikes along railway walkway. EL explained they need enough information and evidence to create a warrant. |  |
| Noted |  | (vii) | DA and DM were concerned about speed of bikes on railway walkway. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **4** | **Finance report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Finance report had been received. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JA reported an opening balance on 1 July of £3,020.94. Midlothian Council Grant of £900 was received on 6 July, plus £1.35 as interest and the closing balance on 31 July was £3922.29. The former PHCC account will be closed shortly. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Constitution and standard orders for BDCC were still with the legal department of Midlothian Council. It is hoped they will be returned in time for the AGM in Oct. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Poltonhall Gala Day Committee had asked for associate membership of BDCC, so someone else from the Gala Committee, not JA, could attend. DL agreed to take this up with CLLE. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **DL to consult with CLLE about associate membership of BDCC by a representative from Poltonhall Gala Day Committee.** | **DL** |
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| **Item** |  | **6** | **MTRaP report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | The next MTRaP meeting was due on 28 August and DE would attend. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **7** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DA. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Improvements were being made to the area around St Mary’s Primary School to make access safer. |  |
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| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DV |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Signage about no access at the start and finish of the school was also to be erected. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DE queried had this been publicised to parents. DV confirmed the school had been involved in communication. JA added the TRO will be put up on the Residents’ Forum. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | The new pot hole repair machine had been at work in Bonnyrigg. |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DM |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | The last Council meeting before the recess had decided £120m was to be spent on a new school, a replacement for Beeslack. A new swimming pool at £10m was also to be built. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | VAT had been charged at leisure centres. The Council was able to claim this back from HMRC and will receive £7m, £3m of which will go on repairs at schools and libraries. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | He had walked around Bonnyrigg High Street and Polton Street recently and found them looking shabby. Granite paving slabs had not been replaced properly. A power washer was to be used to clean the dirty streets, including pigeon mess. The bins on the railway walkway were always full. It had been agreed new bins were needed, as there were so many more new houses. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | DL queried who was responsible for road and pavement repairs following work done by Virgin? DM confirmed this became Council responsibility after a full year from implementation. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | Work would start on the old St Mary’s School site once the contract was awarded. |  |
| Noted |  | (vi) | JA asked had anything been done to survey the condition of the Christmas lights. DM replied they would be tested in Sept. |  |
| Noted |  | (vii) | LMacD queried the long delay in issuing council tax bills to people who had moved into a neighbouring house. The new owners had been initially told it would take 18 weeks to issue the bill and this was further extended to 30 weeks. She was concerned about this delay and the likelihood of similar delays in billing residents of all the new houses. The councillors expressed shock and advised the resident to contact them with the details. |  |
| Noted |  | (viii) | AS was concerned about the weight and speed of lorries from Rosewell down Polton Road into Lasswade. DL advised her to alert the police. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **8** | **Planning** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | Nothing received from MC |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DE said there had been a meeting about the local place plan in June and they would need to meet again soon. DW commented Midlothian Council had provided a template to help complete the plan. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | An application had been made to erect two new houses at the Old Ex-Servicemen’s Club. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **9** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | **Residents’ Information Forum Facebook page** - Discussion held about messages on the Residents’ Forum referring to a stray cat named Bailey. LS was very angry she had been asked to edit her post and subsequently suspended because of her rudeness to one of the administrators. DL explained being rude was against the Forum’s rules (rule 10) and was not tolerated. She had been asked to edit the post, as everyone is about lost animals, to ensure there are not too many streams about the same issue. MK pointed out the four administrators were volunteers, maintaining the Forum on behalf of the community. The temporary ban of LS, because of her unacceptable tone of language and behaviour, will continue. She should apologise to the administrators and to BDCC. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Another individual, not from the Bonnyrigg area, had been banned from the Forum Facebook page for trying to name an individual who had damaged property. It was a criminal investigation for the police and not a community council matter. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | **Midlothian Diabetes Group** – AT described diabetes groups in West Lothian and Edinburgh. She felt it would be helpful if a group could be established in Midlothian, covering type 1 and type 2 diabetes. It would be a Facebook driven group with perhaps 4 meetings a year, across the whole of Midlothian, with information from Diabetes Scotland and Diabetes UK. It was agreed this was a good idea and AT will take it forward and alert the other Midlothian community councils. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **AT to contact other Midlothian community councils and establish Midlothian Diabetes Group.** | **AT** |
| Noted |  | (iv) | **Traffic on Rae’s Gardens and Leyden Place** – discussion on traffic congestion, as people used these streets to cut through to Lothian Street. The traffic should be on the High Street and not in residential areas. It was suggested we ask Midlothian Council if it would be feasible to close Rae’s Gardens where it meets Douglas Crescent. If deemed possible, then we would ask the Council to do a consultation exercise with the residents. It was further proposed to ask the Council to amend the timings of the traffic lights at Bonnyrigg Toll, to give more time to traffic on the High Street turn right into Polton Street and less time for traffic coming up from Cockpen. This would ease the traffic flow, especially for buses and other large vehicles. DL proposed these suggestion and AT seconded them. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(ii)** | **DL to contact Midlothian Council with suggested improvements for traffic flow.** | **DL** |
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| **ITEM** |  | **11** | **Date of next meeting** |  |
|  |  |  | Thursday 14 September at 7 pm in Lasswade Library. The AGM would be at the October meeting, which would be a double meeting. |  |