**BONNYRIGG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**Held at 7.00pm on 10 October 2024 in Lasswade Centre**

**Present:** John Aitchison, Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, Diane Easton, Dan Lennie, Bill MacDonald, Liz MacDonald, Kirstie Malley, George Nicol, Avril Ramsay, Ruth Scott, Joan Sumner, Alison Thomson, Dougie West, Stuart Young.

**In attendance:** Cllr D Milligan, Cllr D Virgo, Catherine Duns, Flora Kenny, Susanne Ross.

**Apologies:** Ann Cunningham, David Hally, Fiona Warner, Sandy Waterston.

1. **Welcome**

Dan Lennie (Chair) welcomed everyone to the 2024 AGM of Bonnyrigg & District Community Council, including the visitors, Flora Kenny and Susanne Ross. The minutes of the AGM on 12 October 2023 had been circulated and approved in November 2023 and there were no further amendments.

1. **Chair’s report**

Dan Lennie reported BDCC was now paper free, apart from essential documents. It was more efficient and cost effective. It had been a busy year. A huge amount of correspondence was received in the BDCC inbox. Each email was addressed to BDCC and had to be shared with all the community councillors. He had enjoyed being a member since he joined in 2022 taking the Secretary’s role and then substituting for Jan Irvine, the previous Chair, during her illness. He became Chair after Jan’s death, feeling underqualified for the position. His father had been Chair of the former Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council in the 1970’s, a nice bit of family history. His wife was retiring, he wanted to spend more time with his family and was thus resigning as Chair and also from BDCC. He expressed thanks to Dougie, Diane, Alison and Kirstie for their support and encouragement in the role. He felt if he could become Chair, anyone could take on the role.

**3.** **Secretary’s report**

Diane Easton said Dan had been a great Chair and thanked him for his work. She had been Secretary of the former Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council and continued in the role in BDCC. She was now stepping down as Secretary due to personal circumstances. She felt the Secretary was a great role, with attendance at the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils and MTRaP meetings and support from the CLLE team at Midlothian Council. She would remain as a community councillor. Sandy Waterson was retiring due to health issues, after 17 years of service, while Kirstie Malley had resigned from her Media Officer role and as a community councillor. Avril Ramsay had been co-opted last year and could now be nominated as a community councillor. David Hally would also move from co-option to a full community councillor role. Both were nominated by Dan Lennie and Catherine Duns from Midlothian Council had the required paperwork.

**4. Treasurer’s report**

Alison Thomson confirmed she was also resigning as Treasurer, but would stay on as a community councillor. It had been a tricky year closing one bank account following the merger, with a lot of problems with the bank in getting signatories changed. There had not been much movement with the finances. The accounts had been audited.

**5. Election of community councillors**

Catherine Duns reported that Fiona Warner had volunteered to become Treasurer. There were 16 community councillors, with the possibility of co-opting 4 more. She asked for nominations for Chair. This was an essential role. No-one was put forward. She then asked for nominations for Secretary. Again, no-one was forth-coming. Catherine commented that BDCC was one of the biggest community councils in Midlothian and it was unfortunate as Chair could not be found. Dougie West confirmed he would take up the Media Officer position and maintain the website. Liz MacDonald confirmed she would continue as Minute Secretary. Catherine stated a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary were essential for BDCC to operate. She explained handovers would be provided from the existing office bearers and there would be support from Midlothian Council. Susanne Ross said she would be prepared to take on the Secretary role. She would need to be nominated as a community councillor. Catherine asked Dan to outline the Chair’s role. He said it was the public face of the community council, the name at the foot of official emails and involved communicating with many other organisations. He pointed out the Chair was an easier role, now the connection with the Residents’ Forum had been dropped. BDCC could not operate if there was not a Chair. Catherine Duns said the Chair did not have to be a single person, the role could be shared, or there could be a rolling chair, with each CC member taking charge of a meeting. As there were still no volunteers, Catherine Duns advised the meeting be suspended, the need for a Chair be advertised and an EGM be held before the next meeting on 14 November 2024. \*

* Subsequent to the AGM, it was confirmed the AGM was valid and there was no need for an EGM prior to the next community council meeting, but the first order of business MUST be to elect a Chair. The meeting could then continue as normal.

**6. AOB**

John Aitchison had personally purchased wreaths for Remembrance Sunday on 10 November and would need to be reimbursed. Dougie West proposed this, seconded by Alison Thomson. Fiona Warner would lay the wreath at Lasswade, Joyce Bernard would at Bonnyrigg and Susanne Ross at Polton. Fiona Warner, as the new Treasurer ,would need to go to the bank to hand in the necessary paperwork and be accompanied by Diane Easton, a current signatory.

**7. Details of next AGM**

This would take place on Thursday 9 October 2025 in the Lasswade Centre.