**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2024, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | Avril Ramsay (Chair), Suzanne Ross (Secretary), Dougie West (Media), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, Ann Cunningham, Bill MacDonald, George Nicol, Ruth Scott, Joan Sumner, Alison Thomson. |
| In attendance: | Cllr David Virgo, Billy Innes, Flora Kenny. |
| Apologies: | Cllr Derek Milligan, John Aitchison, Diane Easton, David Hally, Fiona Warner (Treasurer), Stuart Young. |

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| **ITEM** | **1** | **Chair’s opening remarks** |  |
| Noted | (i) | AV welcomed everyone to the December meeting and checked they had signed in. Apologies were noted, as above. No new visitors were present. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **2** | **Election of Vice Chair** |  |
| Noted | (i) | GN was nominated as Vice Chair by JS and seconded by JB. He duly took his place alongside the Chair and Secretary. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **3** | **Minutes and matters arising from 14 November meeting** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DW had contacted FW. She had been to the bank and was advised to open the new account online. |  |
| Noted | (i) | The motion to approve the November draft minutes was proposed by JC and seconded by JB. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the November meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **4** | **Police report** |  |
| Received | (i) | The November police report had been circulated. PC Cunningham was unable to attend the meeting. |  |
| Noted | (i) | The number of thefts from the Co-Op and fires in George IV Park were commented upon. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | AC asked for a printout of the police report in the future. SR agreed to provide this. |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **SR to deliver a printed police report to AC.** | **SR** |
| Noted | (iii) | BMacD raised the issue of parking on double yellow lines outside the Family Shopper on Dundas Street, saying drivers could be prosecuted for driving without due care and attention, as they had parked in a dangerous position. SR said pavement parking was a council, not police issue, unless it was a serious obstruction. DV confirmed double yellow line parking, as well as pavement parking were council matters. BMacD was concerned about the potential for a serious or even fatal accident at the location. SR would contact PC Cunningham about the parking and report back. She further advised BMacD to take a note of vehicle registrations and report them via the council website. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **5** | **Treasurer’s report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | There was no report, as FW was ill and unable to attend. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | The actions from the November meeting for FW to reimburse JA and deal with invoices from AT would be carried forward to 2025. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **6** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | No report was provided. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **7** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DV. |  |
| Noted | (i) | DV reported the Scottish Government budget of 4 December was more positive than expected. More money had been given to Scotland by the Westminster Government and in turn there was more for Scottish councils. Some money had to be ring fenced, for salaries etc. The funding gap he mentioned in November would be halved. There would still need to be a council tax increase, but fewer services were at risk. He believed it was important the council was more commercial, to make money and avoid cuts, e.g. by using roads equipment outwith normal working hours, or making it available to other councils. The Alpine Coaster and café at Hillend would generate income. Yurts or campervan pitches may be provided at Vogrie Country Park. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Midlothian Council was due to meet on 17 December, when a verbal update would be provided by the Finance Officer. If the council tax rose by 9%, it would result in more than £6m income. The rise will be confirmed in February. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | FK observed all homecare was outsourced and surely this must be expensive. DV replied this was organised by the IJB. Some money was provided by the Government and from commercial enterprises to help with overall funding. Concerns were expressed by several community councillors about carers not observing good hand hygiene practices. DV agreed to report this to relevant council officials. |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **DV to report concerns about carers not following hygiene procedures.** | **DV** |
| Noted | (iv) | FK was concerned about the length of time taken and number of staff involved in trimming bushes in Chesters Court. As the bushes will grow back, she felt planting grass seed would be more efficient. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **8** | **BDCC Groups and Associated Member reports:** |  |
|  | **a** | **MTRaP** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DW reported on the recent MTRaP meeting. There had been the usual updates about roads to be resurfaced. Work on the A7 urbanisation would hopefully start in April 2025, funded by the Scottish Government, as part of the active travel campaign and effort to get people out of cars. There were currently no paths or pavements from the Hardengreen to Dobbies’ roundabouts. The A7 would be made pedestrian friendly, with speed reductions and more bus stops. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Discussion was held on the one road and two footpaths BDCC would want to suggest for resurfacing/repair. Eskdale Terrace, Hawthornden Gardens, St Anne’s Avenue, De Quincey Road and Polton Bank Road were all noted as having big potholes. DV thought work was already scheduled for Polton Bank Road. Weight restrictions may be added to the road through Polton Village. This would be uploaded to sat-navs and hopefully prevent short cuts from Loanhead. JC said the footpath between Rosewell Road and Cameron Crescent, along the boundary fence of Lasswade Rugby Club was very overgrown. DV commented it was not technically a footpath. SR suggested Hawthornden Castle to Cameron Crescent. It was eventually agreed that Hawthornden Gardens needed the most work and should be nominated as the road for repair. Footpaths to be nominated were Polton Road West - from Hawthornden Castle to Cameron Crescent and Polton Road - from Dobbies Road to Elm Row, Lasswade. DW would submit these to the Roads Inspectors. |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **DW to submit details of road and footpaths suggested for repair to Midlothian Council.** | **DW** |
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| **b** | **MFCC** |  |  |
| Noted | (i) | No report had been received from DE. SR would attend the next meeting on 18 December. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **9** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Community Councils Privacy Notice – No objections to the suggested wording of the privacy notice were received and it was agreed it should be adopted. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Lasswade High School Childcare Service Consultation – DV explained the Mount Esk Nursery behind Lasswade High School (LHS) would soon be moving to Hawthornden School. The modular units would remain in place to be used for children with additional support needs. The nursery at LHS was for teachers’ children. There were only 15 children at it, but it wasn’t possible to have all 15 in at one time, as the room was so small. Running it costs Midlothian Council £100k a year, even though it is only open during school hours and doesn’t cover costs. The Council proposed closing it and helping teachers find other nurseries. All the adjacent primary schools have nurseries, so alternative care was available. AT wondered if the LHS nursery was closed, would some teachers leave. DW asked should we as a community council respond to the consultation? It was agreed it wasn’t necessary to do so. JC commented there was enough provision locally for the children to be accommodated. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **10** | **Planning** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Nothing new to report. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Planning permission for the 11 golf lodges near the Premier Inn, which had been refused, would be discussed at the next Review Board on 16 December. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | The TableTable restaurant at the Premier Inn had closed. An application had been made to knock down the restaurant and create more rooms. Breakfast would be available for guests, but no other meals. The Coal Authority wanted more drilling to be done to check there were no adjacent mine workings. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | JC asked about the bike shelters which had been proposed for Bonnyrigg, as nothing more had been mentioned about them. DW agreed to query with DL, as nothing had been said in his handover. |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **DW to ask DL about the proposed bike shelters for near Bonnyrigg Toll.** | **DW** |
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| **ITEM** | **10** | **Date of next meeting** |  |  | Thursday 13 April at 7 pm in Lasswade Library. |
|  |  | Thursday 13 February 2025 in Lasswade Library at 7 pm. |  |  |  |