**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | Dan Lennie (Chair), Diane Easton (Secretary), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), John Aitchison, Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, David Hally, Bill MacDonald, Kirstie Malley, Avril Ramsay, Ruth Scott. |
| In attendance: | Cllr Dianne Alexander, Cllr Derek Milligan, Cllr David Virgo, Billy Innes, Flora Kenny, PC Euan Lennox, Lorna Miller, Chris Olley, Suzanne Ross. |
| Apologies: | Ann Cunningham, George Nicol, Joan Sumner, Alison Thomson, Fiona Warner, Sandy Waterston, Dougie West, Stuart Young. |

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| **ITEM** | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DL welcomed everyone to the March 2024 meeting.  |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DL introduced visitors, Billy Innes, who wished to raise some problems at Chesters View and Susanne Ross, from Horse Riders Midlothian. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | DL promoted the Duck Race to be held on 17 March along the usual course of Pittendreich Burn and said Bill MacDonald had tickets available for purchase at the end of the meeting. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | DL reported that funding had been awarded from Cycle Scotland for cycle sheds, to encourage sustainable travel. They would be situated near the old public toilets and beside the Community Council noticeboard on Polton St. It was hoped they would be in place by the summer. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from February meeting** |  |
| Noted | (i) | The £55.64 unexpected payment from Midlothian Council had not yet been returned.  |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **AT to arrange repayment of £55.64 to Midlothian Council.** | **AT** |
| Noted  | (ii) | There were no signs about restricted parking in the car park opposite Campview Road, apart from the 2 disabled spaces and the 2 electric charging points. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | The police would provide a report every month and were scheduled to attend meetings 4 times a year, but EL would aim to attend every 2 months. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | There had been 21 objections already to the proposal for a carpark on the corner of Lothian St and Waverley Crescent, opposite Gigi’s. Only 1 comment had been in favour. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | The motion to approve the 7 February draft minutes was proposed by DE and seconded by AR. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the February meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **3** | **Police report** |  |
| Received | (i) | Police report from EL had been previously circulated. He planned to produce the reports a week in advance.  |  |
| Noted | (i) | EL commented that youth disorder was the main issue. Windows of a bus had been smashed on the Cockpen Road and a lad of 14 was charged after a fire-raising incident. Speed checks had been carried out on Cockpen and Eskbank Roads.  |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DL questioned what happens if people park on double yellow lines. EL confirmed it is not a police issue, unless it is an obvious obstruction. Also, pavement parking was not a police matter, but for the council traffic wardens to enforce.  |  |
| Noted | (iii) | SR asked if speed checks could be carried out on the road from Cameron Crescent down to Rosewell Road. EL explained the police normally only do checks where there have been a lot of complaints in a specific area. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | The police have caught 6 off road bikes used improperly and seized them. Police require intelligence from local people to tackle such crime. Contact Crimestoppers or email the police. If a driver appears to be under the influence of drink or drugs, report it. If people acting suspiciously are observed, note their clothing and footwear, taking photos, if possible, and discretely. |  |
| Noted | (v) | DA commented that CCTV cameras now have a search facility for coloured items, making retrieving relevant footage easier. |  |
| Noted  | (vi) | DL reported that Lasswade Library staff had asked if the police could pop into the library occasionally over the school holidays, as there had been a few problems with youth disorder during the half term break. EL confirmed this would be possible. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **4** | **Treasurer’s report** |  |
| Received | (i) | In AT’s absence, JA provided a report. A payment of £78 was listed in the February statement. This was to Plexus Media for the BDCC website. There had been no income or expenditure noted so far in the March account, leaving the total balance at £3,481.13.  |  |
| Noted | (i) | The grant application was due shortly. £300 could be received, but DL felt that as we had £3,481.13 in the account, we already have sufficient funds, so should not put in an application. JA wondered about other community councils and if the money could be allocated to them. DL put the issue to a vote and it was agreed not to apply for the grant this year. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DW’s wife had been ill for some weeks. DW had continued to do much work on the website and the local place plan, for which BDCC was most grateful. It was proposed and agreed that flowers be sent to Mrs West. DL would arrange this.  |  |
| Noted | (iii) | DE said the Bonnyrigg Weedbusters were looking for perennial plants. She proposed a cash donation of £100 was made. DH seconded this. JC thought they didn’t want money, as they got donations from garden centres. DA commented Midlothian Council was setting up a team to help clean up areas and work with the guerilla gardeners. It was agreed the money could be offered to the Weedbusters and if they accepted, they would be asked for feedback on what they spent it on.  |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **AT to offer £100 donation to Bonnyrigg Weedbusters.** | **AT** |
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| **ITEM**  | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DE had attended the February meetings of MTRaP and the Federation of Community Councils.  |  |
| Noted  | (ii) | BDCC insurance policy had been sent to Midlothian Council. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **6** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DM. |  |
| Noted | (i) | He had received lots of emails about parking on Lothian Street and the negative impact on neighbouring streets, especially the Waverleys.  |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Midlothian Council had received a £4m windfall due to over payment to the local government pension fund. This was a one off. A balanced budget had to be set. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | There will be no cuts this year, but there will be internal changes.  |  |
| Noted | (iv) | Work at the old St Mary’s site had begun. A state-of-the-art care home and some flats were to be built.  |  |
| Noted | (v) | Golf Course Road was scheduled for resurfacing. The private road beyond the golf course had no road markings. This was to discourage people from driving straight ahead, as it was a safer route to school. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DV. |  |
| Noted | (i) | He said not as much had been spent on capital projects in the last year, which gave a cushion, but the Council did need to proceed with new capital projects in the coming year.  |  |
| Noted | (ii) | The main issue is that more money is being spent, than is brought in. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | The cost of the AECOM consultants’ review of Lothian St was approximately £5,000. It validated the council officials’ recommendation to install double yellow lines. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | He was keen to pursue a Trusted Trader scheme for Midlothian. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DA. |  |
| Noted | (i) | The capital budget was under greater strain, since some of the schools were in huge disrepair, as they hadn’t been properly maintained over the years. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | She reported Midlothian was one of the best performing councils for roads. Thousands of potholes had been repaired. A request for another pot hole machine had been made. A second gully cleaning machine had been procured, making one each for the east and west of Midlothian.  |  |
| Noted | (iii) | She described the great apprenticeship scheme at Torness, with students sent to Bristol on expenses for a year, before doing 2 years at Torness and then receiving a HND. Torness will stop producing electricity in 2028, with other energy schemes to replace it. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | SR asked if there were plans to reinstate the Local Access Forum. DA agreed to investigate this. SR said the Access Officer had a role in keeping paths open. |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **DA to query situation with the Local Access Forum and Access Officer.** | **DA** |
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| **ITEM** | **7** | **BDCC Groups and Associated Member reports:** |  |
|  | **a** | **Local place plans (LPP) working group update** |  |
| Noted | (i) | The draft LPP had been sent out and received good feedback. Tribute was paid to DW for all his hard work on the plan. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | The plan will be sent to the elected representatives. A list of all those to whom it has been circulated has to be included. |  |
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|  | **b** | **MTRaP** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DE reported on the meeting of 4 March, which included a presentation from the Strategic Transport Planning Officer at Midlothian Council. Work was being done with Lothian Buses on bus route planning and the officer was keen to liaise with community councils. |  |
|  | (ii) | DW had asked about maintenance of road junctions, especially the one at Wadingburn. There is no specific policy for junctions. Resurfacing is done as required, but the Council does recognise junctions are under pressure. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | DA reported the Council had bought a white line machine and staff were working through the backlog. |  |
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|  | **c** | **Midlothian Federation of Community Councils** |  |
| Noted | (i) | No update from the last meeting. |  |
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|  | **d** | **Residents’ Forum** |  |
| Noted | (i) | No problems had arisen in the past month. The administrators were being stricter on what could be posted, which reduces subsequent hassle. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | There had been tightening up on posts with personal information, following new guidance on data protection from the police. If a bank card is found, it should be returned to the bank or a driving licence to the police, not added to the Residents’ Forum.  |  |
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| **ITEM** | **8** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Discussion was held on the offer of photograph of King Charles. This was also offered to schools and public buildings. BDCC had no premises and no facility to display the image. It was agreed not to apply for it. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | The pay phone in Lasswade was likely to be removed. Only one call had been made from it in the last year. It could be bought for £1 and the buyer would be responsible for the upkeep and insurance. DM commented that sometimes a signal couldn’t be obtained in Lasswade, so the pay phone should be available in an emergency. JA queried did it actually work and had it been serviced? It was suggested Lasswade Civic Society might take it over.  |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **DL will contact the Civic Society about the Lasswade pay phone.** | **DL** |
| Noted | (iii) | Parking behind the toilets off Campview Road continued to be an issue, as so many people park all day. DL was keen that parking there be restricted to one hour free. DA said parking and payment was under investigation by Midlothian Council. |  |
| Noted | (v) | Since the double yellow lines were installed on Lothian Street cars are travelling along it quicker, double parking is still happening at night and people are parking in the bus stops, making it dangerous to hail a bus. DA asked the Council if there had been issues and was told there were none. Roads are car free, sightlines are better, but that doesn’t negate parking in bus stops. DA had not seen cars travelling at speed. She said another justification of the double yellow lines was the need for blue light vehicles to get through quickly. DL replied that he had worked in the police in Bonnyrigg for 15 years and had never had an issue getting through on a blue light. DM had seen people passing on bends and that it was dangerous around Eldindean. He remarked on the knock-on effect of 25-40 cars having to park elsewhere. DL concluded by seeing if speeding was observed, report it to Midlothian Council.  |  |
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| **ITEM**  | **9** | **Visitor matters** |  |
| Noted | (i) | BI had recently moved into Chesters View. He had complained about weeds in the shrub area and was told it would be dealt with over the winter, but nothing has been done yet. The houses are very cold and lose heat quickly when the heating is switched off. He wondered was the insulation sufficient? DA agreed to query this.  |  |
| **ACTION**  | **(i)** | **DA to query insulation and heating provision at Chesters View with Midlothian Council.** | **DA** |
| Noted | (ii) | SR produced the Horse Riders Midlothian Constitution and was keen to get BDCC support on bridal paths. She found out a week before work started on the Rosewell to Auchendinny railway path. It had been a hacking path for years. She believed the majority of people wanted the area left as it was, rather than have expensive paving. A track at Rosslynlee, which had been used for 40 years, had been turned into a tarmac pathway for the new estate by the developers. The lack of the Local Access Forum meant she didn’t hear in advance about these plans. LP, presumably for lamp post, had been painted in places along the railway path between Rosewell and Auchindinny. This was a wildlife corridor and Kelly Parry, Council Leader, had confirmed lamp posts would not be installed. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | DL commented that while SR can ask for support for bridal paths, she must understand the paths have to be multi-use. He asked if there was a specific area of concern within BDCC area. She mentioned The Cast near Springfield Mill. DA wondered could bridal paths be part of the active travel scheme, but discovered horses were not included. DL believed it was more an issue for Midlothian Council than for BDCC. DM advised SR to contact the Rangers’ Service.  |  |
| Noted | (iv) | CO was concerned about the bridge in Lasswade and that no-one had investigated its structure. DL advised him this was a matter for Midlothian Council. |  |
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| **ITEM 10** |  | **Planning** |  |
| Noted | (i) | 3 different planning applications, each for 50 houses, at HS11 at Hopefield had been submitted. |  |
| Noted  | (ii) | A decision was still to be made on the application for a hotel on Bonnyrigg High St. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | There was no further news on the application made before Christmas for replacement of a telephone mast near Lothian Glass. |  |
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| **ITEM**  | **11** | **Date of next meeting**  |  |  | Thursday 13 April at 7 pm in Lasswade Library. |
|  |  | Thursday 11 April 2024 in Lasswade Library. |  |  |  |