**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2024, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | Dougie West (Vice Chair), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), John Aitchison, Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, Ann Cunningham, David Hally, George Nicol, Avril Ramsay, Ruth Scott, Joan Sumner, Alison Thomson, Stuart Young. |
| In attendance: | Pamela Dobbie, Billy Innes, Flora Kenny, Alastair MacFarlane, Val Renwick, Suzanne Ross, Vivian Wallace, Suzie Young. |
| Apologies: | Cllr Dianne Alexander, Dan Lennie, Diane Easton, Bill MacDonald, Kirstie Malley, Fiona Warner, Sandy Waterston. |

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| **ITEM** | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |
| Noted | (i) | In DL’s absence DW took the chair and welcomed everyone to the August 2024 meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from June meeting** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DW had added a link on the BDCC website to Midlothian Council’s funding breakdown, but that page was still showing 2023-24 figures. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Unclear if DA had raised the pothole issues in Chesters Court with the Council. This was to be queried at the next meeting. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | JA asked if DE had completed the SEPA consultation and if there had been any feedback? DW would check with DE. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | It was agreed wild flowers on roundabouts were good for biodiversity, but health and safety on the roads was more important. |  |
| Noted | (v) | Hopefield drains were still causing a problem when there was heavy rain. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | JS mentioned the deterioration of the roads into Hopefield, especially at the roundabouts. |  |
| Noted | (vii) | The motion to approve the 13 June draft minutes was proposed by GN and seconded by JC. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the June meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **3** | **Police report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | No police report had been received. DW said EL was moving to a new job as Police Liaison Officer at Lasswade High School and will be replaced by PC Fiona Cunningham. DW commented on EL’s presence at our meetings, and the regular reports were appreciated by everyone. DW wished EL well in his new role. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **4** | **Treasurer’s report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | AT was still trying to sort out the bank account and get signatories changed. JA still has digital access, but she does not yet. JA agreed to bring the books up to date and present them to the next meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DE was not present, but had said there was nothing to be raised. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **6** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Noted | (i) | No councillors were present. Nor had any reports been received. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **7** | **BDCC Groups and Associated Member reports:** |  |
|  | **a** | **Local Place Plans (LPP) working group update** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DW explained for the benefit of visitors the background to the LPP. It had been submitted at the end of March and was available to view on the BDCC website. Midlothian Council have to produce a local development plan (LDP), and Community Councils now have the right to submit an LPP as part of the LDP. 9 LPP’s had been submitted across Midlothian. The local council officials are working on these and will revert to BDCC in due course. JA added that from now on the LDP’s will be for 10 years. |  |
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|  | **b** | **MTRaP** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DW explained MTRaP is a subgroup of the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils. Representatives from each Community Council are entitled to attend the MTRaP meetings with Midlothian Council Roads Department staff to discuss what work is required on roads and pavements. Various roads in the Bonnyrigg area had been resurfaced or repaired in the past year. There is still considerable work to be done but officers had to prioritise the work based on the budget available. At the previous MTRaP meeting it was reported that the Council officials hadn’t yet been given full details of their financial allocation for this year. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | JA queried if staff had been trained on use of the white lining machine and was the machine to be hired out to other areas? DW commented that a purpose-built truck had been bought, staff have been trained and relining work has been completed in various areas including Bonnyrigg and Lasswade. There is considerable work to be done across the county. The subject of external work will be raised at the next MTRaP meeting. |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **DW to raise white lining at the next MTraP meeting.** | **DW** |
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|  | **c** | **Residents’ Forum** |  |
| Noted | (i) | The Bonnyrigg Residents Forum was currently suspended and had been since early May. A statement about its future has been prepared by BDCC office bearers and would be circulated to all Community Councillors for comment. A new forum, Bonnyrigg Residents Forum, had been set up, with no connection to BDCC. |  |
|  |  | JA queried whether the motion proposed at the June meeting, to re-open the forum for a limited time had been carried out. DW explained the statement would be circulated as soon as possible. After any comments are received the statement will be posted on the Bonnyrigg Residents Forum. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **8** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Friends of Polton Group – This was a new group, concerned about the problems of traffic going through Polton village. It was requesting considering be given to closing the road in one direction, but couldn’t agree in which direction, towards Loanhead or towards Bonnyrigg? Letters had been distributed to local residents. DL and DW were surprised no-one had come to the BDCC about the issue before establishing the group. The road was unsuitable for long vehicles and drivers were ignoring this sign and driving other drivers off the road. The road should be for residents only, was definitely unsuitable for lorries and should not be used for a shortcut. Sat-nav was a lot to blame for this, showing the road as the quickest route from Loanhead to Bonnyrigg. JA suggested a weight limit be imposed to prevent lorries. It was agreed the subject be raised at the next MTRaP meeting. DL had sent a letter to Midlothian Council querying the validity of the Friends of Polton Group and requesting no further action was taken until BDCC was consulted. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **9** | **Planning** |  |
| Noted | (i) | BDCC had sent in an objection to the application to relocate the marquee at Melville Castle. Midlothian Council officials have refused the application. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DW reported that at the end of each week an update on current planning applications to be decided is added to the BDCC website. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | A plan to create 11 golf lodges at South Melville Farm, beyond the Premier Inn and Golf Range had been submitted. Several important things had not been taken into consideration with the application: - traffic issues with access and egress, no admin area for handovers, no staff toilets, no place for commercial waste and no turning space for bin lorries. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | AMcF from Melville Golf Centre expressed his concerns. The proposed buildings would be in an agriculture field and green belt land. No septic tank was specified, and there is concern about the limited water supply. He was worried drainage could go under the golf course and into the Esk. |  |
| Noted | (v) | DL had emailed DW pointing out 11 lodges, each for 6 people could mean 66 people and 33 plus cars. Putting the word “golf” in the name doesn’t preclude other use for the facility and he believed there could be an alternative motive. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | GN and AC said the BDCC should object to the application and this was supported by those present. |  |
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| **ITEM 10** |  | **Visitor Matters** |  |
| Noted | (i) | GN pointed out the old Spar building was in a dilapidated state. It was privately owned, yet its poor condition could be taken up with local councillors. Also, the tanning shop opposite had many pigeons nesting, causing a nuisance. Repairs are required to the canopy. |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **DLK/DW to alert the 3 local councillors to these issues.** | **DL/DW** |
| Noted | (ii) | Councillor DM had offered to use some of his environmental fund to help tidy up Bonnyrigg town centre. Perhaps this could be actioned? |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DW said Bonnyrigg doesn’t have a hub, unlike Dalkeith, Gorebridge and Rosewell. In the recently submitted LPP we had suggested the old Spar might be an ideal location for a hub, but it would require a lot of money. FK said a 25-year lease was required to take on the property and no-one would be prepared for that length of responsibility. JS was keen that the idea of a hub in Bonnyrigg be progressed. She wondered about the old carpet factory as a potential location, but there is still a planning application in there for a hotel and restaurant. JA pointed out that Bonnyrigg Rose do a lot of things in the community. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | DW welcomed representatives of Bonnyrigg Weedbusters. DW added they had done a fantastic job over recent years at the Toll flowerbeds. BDCC had discussed how support the Weedbusters. After discussions with them it was agreed high visibility jackets would be useful. These had recently been presented to the Weedbusters by DL, DW and DE. It was hoped these would attract attention to their work and lead to more support for the team. |  |
| Noted | (v) | SR reported that a fast and a slow horse ride from Bonnyrigg to Dalkeith would be held on Sunday 15 September. She had 9 participants so far and was hoping for more. She had been working with Alan Williamson from Midlothian Council on risk assessments and first aid provision. |  |  |  |
| Noted | (vi) | SY reported concerns of a Bonnyrigg resident about noise levels in a house where dogs were kept. He was advised to suggest the resident approach the Council Housing Officer, in strict confidence, as there are restrictions on dog ownership in properties. |  |  |  |
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| **ITEM** | **11** | **Date of next meeting** |  |  | Thursday 13 April at 7 pm in Lasswade Library. |
|  |  | Thursday 12 September 2024 in Lasswade Library. |  |  |  |