**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2025, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | George Nicol (Chair), Dougie West (Media), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), John Aitchison, James Cameron, Ann Cunningham, David Hally, Bill MacDonald, Ruth Scott, Joan Sumner, Stuart Young. |
| In attendance: | Cllrs Dianne Alexander, Derek Milligan, David Virgo; PC Fiona Cunningham, Flora Kenny, Valerie Renwick. |
| Apologies: | Suzanne Ross, Fiona Warner. |

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| **ITEM** | **1** | **Chair’s opening remarks** |  |
| Noted | (i) | GN welcomed everyone, including visitors, to the June meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **2** | **Police report** |  |
| Received | (i) | The May report had previously been circulated. |  |
| Noted | (i) | FC mentioned incidents of note including sheds broken into, drivers being caught using mobile phones and serious assaults. She was pleased to report there had been no recent house break-ins. Bonnyrigg and Rosewell had been targeted earlier in the year with break-ins to steal car keys and drive away. She encouraged people to check the Police Scotland website, which had a lot of advice on home security. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Parking around schools continued to be a problem, along with speeding.  |  |
| Noted | (iii) | The Co-op had employed security people 2-10 pm to help prevent theft. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | DW mentioned thefts of bread baskets from Tesco Express. Tesco had been advised to move these baskets elsewhere. |  |
| Noted | (v) | JA asked if dash cam footage from the public could be sent to the Police, as evidence of crime and FC agreed this was possible. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | DM said there were rumours circulating that Police Scotland had decided to reject money from Midlothian Council for the Community Action Team, (CAT) as keeping its funding in-house was a priority. FC confirmed CAT was still operating and she had no knowledge of the funding situation. |  |
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| **ITEM**  | **3** | **Minutes and matters arising from 8 May meeting** |  |
| Noted | (i) | The reaffirmation of BDCC support for local GP services and public health access had been added to the BDCC Facebook page. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | GN had cleaned up the community noticeboard. There were still marks on it, but it was much improved and enabled display of minutes and other documents. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | JS was unhappy that the creation of a pizza take-away in the old Spar seemed to be a done deal. The local councillors confirmed this had not yet been through planning. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | DM reported that the public consultation on widening the High Street at Bonnyrigg Toll had been published |  |
| Noted | (x) | The motion to approve the May 2025 draft minutes was proposed by SY and seconded by BMacD. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the May meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **4** | **Treasurer’s report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | FW was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent a report to say she was still having a problem with the bank because of signatures. |  |
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| **ITEM**  | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Received | (i) | SR was unable to attend the meeting, but had circulated a lengthy report. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DM commented that SR’s rude behaviour at a recent meeting with planning officials was poor. DV added that basic courtesy was important. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Questions were raised about developer contributions, when permission for new housing is granted. These were to help towards funding schools, new play parks, sports facilities, bus route development etc. People don’t get a say in where the developer contribution goes. The Council has to prove that new houses result in a need for developer contributions. Money had to be returned because pupil numbers had not grown as much as expected. Conversely, if school numbers go up, the Council can’t go back and ask for an increase in developer contributions. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | JS said that Bonnyrigg needed a hub, like Rosewell, Gorebridge and Dalkeith had. She had hoped the old Spar could be made available for this. DV commented that Cockpen Church Hall may become a community asset transfer. BMacD said it was not for sale. DM added that it was not easy to run a community hub. It has to be run as a business and be funded properly. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **6** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DA. |  |
| Noted | (i) | She had met with the roads’ officials. 8km of new roads had been put down.  |  |
| Noted | (ii) | She was keen to promote cycle sheds and had received feedback that people wanted them. She also wanted to promote places where people can go and get tools and advice on fixing their bikes. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | £51,000 was available for new bins in town centres, especially outside shops and bus stops. All bins will look the same to encourage people to use them. BMacD asked if bottles could be put in the new bins. DA confirmed this was permitted. He described the amount of rubbish left in the grounds of Cockpen Church Hall and the necessity of a bin in that location. He was advised to contact Matthew Kelly in Environmental Health about this. |  |
| **ACTION** | **(i)** | **BMacD to contact the Environmental Health and request a bin.** | **BMacD** |
| Noted | (iv) | The Green Spaces teams were weeding and tidying up paths.  |  |
| Noted | (v) | DA had asked SR not to resign as Secretary of BDCC, following the acrimonious meeting with planning officers. She also arranged a further conciliatory meeting with SR and the officers to resolve the situation.  |  |
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| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DV |  |
| Noted | (i) | He had been busy with end of the year reports from different areas.  |  |
| Noted | (ii) | While the roads service was making good progress, the roads plant was still underutilised outside the normal working week. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Library membership was up 15%. A lot of work had been done on enhancing library services. There had also been investment in the facilities at gyms and tone zones, as a contribution to preventing ill health. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | He was working on a tranche of income generation ideas, including increasing facilities at Vogrie Country Park. |  |
| Noted | (v) | He was keen to get the Council in a stronger foot financially. With an aging population the costs of social care were increasing. The Council and Lothian Health Board fund the IJB, which was running at a deficit this year.  |  |
| Noted | (vi) | DH had a query for DV about the need for a pedestrian crossing at Burnbrae Primary School. DV said active travel officers had been onsite at the school and not witnessed any incidents. He wondered if bad parking was also a factor. He suggested the school should report any near misses to the Council and also inform the Police. |  |
| Noted | (vii) | The reduction to 20 mph was to be discussed at the Council’s June meeting. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Additional update from DA |  |
|  | (vi) | DA added items she had omitted in her update – Vogrie House was in a poor state. A new nature venture for young children, called the Bubbling Toad, had been launched at the Country Park. She was very impressed with it. There was also a possibility that motor homes would be permitted to stay overnight at Vogrie, to further increase revenue. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Update from DM |  |
| Noted | (i) | He reported that adult social care needed £4.5m above the usual contribution. If the IJB overspends, it goes back to the Council to ask for more money. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Midlothian, for its size, had built more social housing than other council areas. There were 2,500 on the original housing waiting list, now there are 6,500 applicants. Families can’t afford private rents and there had been a growth in single parent families. There were 7,000 council houses in Midlothian. Planners were aware of the need for more affordable houses. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | 30% of home care is in the Council hands. Highbank will be refurbished, or sold, once the new care facility in Bonnyrigg is open. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **7** | **BDCC Groups and Associated Member reports:** |  |
|  | **a** | **MFCC** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DW reported the 800 bus from Pathhead to Penicuik would be free for 6 months. If it is deemed successful and continued the usual fare would be levied. SY asked if there had been any consultation on the route of the bus. DW replied none within BDCC area, but from outlying community councils. SY had hoped the distributor road would be included. |  |
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|  | **b** | **MTRaP** |  |
| Noted | (i) | The 20-mph speed limit was likely to be brought in soon. Council officers were unable to attend recent MTRaP meetings, but should attend the next one to give an update on the work. |  |
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|  | **8** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Congestion at Bonnyrigg Toll – traffic planners were considering reducing the width of the pavement at the High Street to create an additional lane to improve the right turn into Polton Street. This would result in the loss of 2-3 parking spaces on both sides of the High Street and causes issues with deliveries to local businesses.JC said traffic cameras or a traffic filter was required. JA liked the idea of filter lights and felt this should be explored first, to see if it was viable. He added there was a minimum standard for the size of a footpath and he didn’t want there to be problems for buggies or wheel chairs. DM said the main problem was that buses were much bigger now. A filter would impact the traffic flow, as it would be like a 3-way light and traffic would back up along the High Street. The pavements had been built out deliberately in an effort to slow the traffic. JS said if the size of the pavement were to be decreased, there would need to be increased time given to pedestrians crossing. GN said that would be taken into consideration. |  |
| Noted  | (ii) | Primary school refurbishment – GN was pleased to report that Lasswade Primary School was to have work done to improve the building. |  |
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| **ITEM**  | **9** | **Planning** |  |
| Noted | (i) | No new items to report. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Following the last meeting BDCC had objected to the access road and 2nd house planning application at Wadingburn. There was concern this was development by stealth, especially as there was an access road already into Wadingburn Road.  |  |
| Noted | (iii) | JS asked about the proposed development of the old carpet factory in the High Street. There was no further news on this. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | The A7 urbanisation work would start on 7 July between the Tesco and the Melville Dykes roundabouts. |  |
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| **ITEM**  | **10** | **Point of order** |  |
| Noted | (i) | JA raised a point of order, about DA getting time twice to provide her update and repeating some of the comments already made by DV. Should time be granted in such a situation? It was agreed this was at the discretion of the Chair and it was useful guidance for him, should a similar situation arise in the future. |  |
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| **ITEM**  | **11** | **Date of next meeting**  |  |  | Thursday 13 April at 7 pm in Lasswade Library. |
|  |  | Thursday 14 August 2025 in Lasswade Library at 7 pm. |  |  |  |