**BONNYRIGG AND LASSWADE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022, via Zoom**

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| Present: | (Acting Chair) Diane Easton |
|  | (Treasurer) Bill MacDonald |
|  | John Atchison |
|  | James Cameron |
|  | Marnie Crawford |
|  | Jan Irvine |
|  | (Minutes) Liz MacDonald |
|  | Rhona Matthews |
|  | Sheila Metcalfe |
|  | Dougie West |
|  | Cllr Dianne Alexander |
|  | Cllr Janet Lay-Douglas |
|  | Cllr Derek Milligan |
| Apologies: | Owen Proudfoot |
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| **ITEM** | **1** | **Welcome and Apologies** |  |
| Noted | (i) | James Cameron from Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council welcomed to the meeting. Apologies noted as above. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **2** | **Planning** |  |
| Received | (i) | Planning Report for Feb from MC, plus her draft response re proposed plans for Sheriffhall South. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Facebook comments following consultation on the Bonnyrigg Residents’ Forum favoured retention of the Green Belt and opposed opening of a Costa Coffee venue. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | 2008 Midlothian Local Plan had the Sheriffhall South area zoned for Class 4 development only, smaller business units, offering some employment, not for Class 6, big commercial enterprises or industrial units. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Will be difficult fighting Class 4 development, but may have success objecting to Costa. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | Agreed Sheriffhall roundabout should be upgraded before any further units were developed. |  |
| Noted | (v) | DW pointed out the Facebook objections had not transferred to the planning part of the council website, which was unfortunate. |  |
| **Action** | **(vi)** | MC to send copy of Facebook responses to the 3 councillors, plus a letter outlining concerns. | **MC** |
| Noted | (vi) | SM said proposed lighting columns at Broomieknowe Golf Course car park were not very tall and could catch car doors. |  |
| Noted | (vii) | Upper Dalhousie Sand Quarry application to extend time for completion and restoration – RM attended communication meeting. Work is closer to Rosewell and has more impact there. She felt it was worth monitoring to see how long the work will take. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **3** | **Minutes of 13 January meeting and matters arising** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Minutes were corrected to include further update from Councillor Lay-Douglas and subsequently re-circulated. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Matters arising were on the agenda. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | The motion to approve the January draft minutes was proposed by RM and seconded by BMacD. The minutes were duly adopted as an accurate reflection of the January meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **4** | **Police Report** |  |
| Received | (i) | Report for January previously circulated. |  |
| Noted | (i) | BMacD alarmed at the amount of youth disorder reported, including 30 youths fighting, whilst using weapons, on the Rosewell Road. Would be helpful to hear the outcome of the multi-agency meeting on youth disorder. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DA had previously queried the amount of police foot patrols in comparison with vehicle ones. An audit showed there were far fewer foot ones. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | BMacD advocated revisiting the proposal to install youth shelters, which would need to be properly planned and involve all relevant parties, referring to positive reports from Thames Valley Police. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | JL-D commented youth disorder and knife crime was a national problem. The free bus passes mean that young people are also travelling to other areas and causing trouble. She suggested sport and keeping fit were important for youngsters and the Small Grants Committee could perhaps introduce other sports into the area to help divert their energies. |  |
| Noted | (v) | DA had tried to get a youth shelter in Bonnyrigg, but there was difficulty finding an acceptable place for it. There were many different factors to youth crime and there is a need to engage with young people. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | DM said youth shelters had been installed before and unfortunately had had to be removed. He believed the lead had to come from BLCC to identify a site and do a public consultation, not from Midlothian Council, as people would object. Downside to the bus passes meant crowds of youngsters congregate on them, but the upside was they can get to more places. The CAT team need to be in cars to be able to follow up problems quickly. |  |
| Noted | (vii) | JA had seen proposals for youth shelters and felt they were a good idea, but they need to be in the right place. |  |
| Noted | (viii) | LMacD queried if the police report was published anywhere. DE explained it was on the website but agreed it should be publicised more. |  |
| **Action** | **(vii)** | **Youth shelters to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.** | **DE** |
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| **ITEM** | **5** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DM. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Back at work after 3 months off ill. The budget was set, except for council tax, which would be a challenging cross-party debate. There was no money for pay rises or green energy, it will be hard to protect services and will have impact on future years. The Cabinet Secretary did not want the level to be higher than inflation. DM suggested 4.7% increase. Decision to be made at a meeting on 15 February. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Work had commenced at the old St Mary’s School and the new facility should be open within 18 months. Highbank needed to be vacated as soon as possible. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Onsite work in Hopefield for additional houses and a new Co-op due to start in 6-8 weeks. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DA |  |
| Noted | (i) | Contacted Colin Beattie re the problems with pharmacies in Bonnyrigg. The problems also exist elsewhere in Midlothian. Colin had spoken to the pharmacies and a GP. She hopes this will encourage the pharmacies to work together to provide a better service, otherwise it will be referred to Scottish Government. The pharmacies are commercial businesses, but have a duty to provide a good service for the NHS and the local population. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Colin Beattie had been working with the Post Office and local shops to try and get a Post Office up and running. It would have a 3-hour slot on a Monday in Startastic. It was not ideal, but a step to getting more of a service. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Attended a City Deal meeting and heard we are putting in a bid to have a passive house factory in Midlothian. She fully supports this bid as, if successful, it would bring high level factory jobs to Midlothian. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | There is to be a new school at Shawfair by 2031, with an outdoor pond for wild swimming. |  |
| Noted | (v) | The City Deal has also given money for holistic family learning to help improve the lives of the whole family and not just one member. The idea being to ensure the family thrives. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Verbal update from JL-D |  |
| Noted | (i) | Emails received from constituents about lack of access to Lasswade Leisure Centre and inability to use the facilities. Explained this was not restrictions placed by Midlothian Council, but due to instruction from Scottish Government. She hoped these would be relaxed from mid-February. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Angry email received about a planning application for land for food. She had a list of people with small holdings. Small plots were to be used for fruit trees or planters. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Used some of her environmental funding for a bike project at Lasswade High School (LHS). A new storage container was in place, with tools and a bike trailer. A “Big Bike Give Away” was due soon, when 30 bikes would be given to those most in need. She monitors the expenditure to ensure funds are spent on what has been agreed. DE wondered if there was a way for BLCC to be involved too. JL-D explained the main reason for funding was to connect the school better with the community. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | JC commented that the café at LHS had been closed for a long time. JL-D said all public access to the building was strictly limited because of Scottish Government guidance. The café could not open because of the need for extensive cleaning. |  |
| Noted | (v) | Covid experience had shown the problem of community access to shared facilities in schools. DA confirmed the new Shawfair School will have separate entrances to ensure both school and community access can be maintained. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **6** | **Midlothian Traffic, Roads and Paths [MTRAP]** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DE. |  |
| Noted | (i) | No update on the potential introduction of 20 mile per hour speed limit, as this needed consultation. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Community grit bins have been sent out, but there are still some left. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | “Fruit and nut” scheme had been resurfaced, but no road markings added yet. No further road work was planned for Bonnyrigg in 21-22 year. Sherwood was due in 22-23. SM queried if Golf Course Road was on the list and DM said no. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | DE commented Eskdale Terrace was particularly bad with potholes. She had sent photos to DA re this. |  |
| Noted | (v) | DW said there was talk of bringing white lining in-house and queried if this would happen. DE said the meeting minute stated “in process of bringing a team in-house”. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | JA raised the problem of parked cars and access for emergency vehicles, especially from Bonnyrigg Toll down towards Gigis. DM said he had already made a formal complaint to the police re this. JC said there was a similar problem at the Tesco Express with people parking too close to the junction, near the pedestrian crossing, primary school and nursery. DE commented people also parked on double yellow lines on the bend near LHS to take children to the new nursery. Originally the church car park was to be used but it now has a barrier across it. BMacD commented people parking without due care could be convicted for careless driving. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DE and RM to attend next MTRaP meeting on 21 February** | **DE/RM** |
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| **ITEM** | **7** | **Midlothian Federation of Community Councils update** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Concern expressed re the ongoing problem with local pharmacies. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DE to attend next MFCC meeting on 16 Feb and report back** | **DE** |
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| **ITEM** | **8** | **Update on proposal to merge with Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council** |  |
| Noted | (i) | JI was surprised neither BLCC nor PHCC were on the list for allocation of grant funding. JA said he had not been given an application for funding. Other CCs hadn’t applied either, so there must have a problem in receipt of communication from Midlothian Council. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | JA confirmed details of unanimous vote at PHCC for merger had been sent to C Duns for the legal department at Midlothian Council. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | DW said the website subscription would be due for renewal in the next few months. As soon as the merger is in place the subscription can be transferred to the new combined website. He confirmed the website is a single page which the public can see. He needed opinion on what it should include. |  |
| **Action** | **(iii)** | **DW to email all BLCC members a login, so they could investigate the website and provide feedback.** | **DW** |
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| **ITEM** | **9** | **Financial Report** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from BMacD. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Petty cash was £34.92 and bank account £4,957.30, making a total balance of £4,992.22. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Zoom payment was the only regular outgoing. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **10** | **Secretary’s Report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | LMacD queried if she should send the minutes to everyone, but DE said she would include them with the papers and Zoom invitation for meetings. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | JI asked how the Duck Race went. BMacD confirmed her duck had won, the amount raised for Children 1st was £1,580.30 and thanked everyone who had supported the event. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **11** | **Any Other Competent Business** |  |
| Noted | (i) | SM asked if Midlothian Council would provide financial help towards installation of the new linked fire alarms. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DA believed there was a fund available. She would investigate and report back.** | **DA** |
| Noted | (ii) | LMacD queried when Bonnyrigg public toilets would re-open. She had noticed lights on, but the doors were locked. DM explained only Dalkeith toilets were open. The problem was ensuring sufficient cleaning. He would check re the light. |  |
| **Action** | **(ii)** | **DM to get the lights in Bonnyrigg public toilets checked.** | **DM** |
| Noted | (iii) | DE asked should we return to face to face meetings. JC was keen to reinstate these, but finding a suitable location was an issue. JI wondered could we meet in Poltonhall, while JL-D suggested using a space at LHS. DE had previously used 2 places in LHS, but neither was ideal. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **13** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Thursday 10 March 2022  Time of meeting: 7pm.  Venue: online Zoom platform. Zoom link will open at 6.50pm. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DE to issue Zoom details and open next meeting** | **DE** |