**BONNYRIGG AND LASSWADE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2022, via Zoom**

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| Present: | (Acting Chair) Diane Easton |
|  | (Treasurer) Bill MacDonald |
|  | Marnie Crawford |
|  | Jammy Gracoeiro |
|  | Jan Irvine |
|  | (Minutes) Liz MacDonald |
|  | Kirstie Malley |
|  | Rhona Matthews |
|  | Sheila Metcalfe |
|  | Owen Proudfoot |
|  | Dougie West |
|  | Paul Whyte |
|  | Cllr Janet Lay-Douglas |
|  | Cllr Derek Milligan |
| Apologies: | Cllr Dianne Alexander |
|  | John Atchison |

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| **ITEM** | **1** | **Welcome and Apologies** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DE welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies noted as above. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **2** | **Election of Community Councillors and office bearers** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Two new community councillors elected, Jammy Gracoeiro and Paul Whyte. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DE assumed Acting Chair role when JI had to stand aside in 2021 due to illness. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | DE stood aside as Acting Chair to enable DW take temporary chair role and organise election of office bearers. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | MC nominated DE as Chair, seconded by BMacD. DE nominated LMacD as Secretary, seconded by SM. BMacD to continue as Treasurer until someone else is found. The Treasurer is in post for 2 years. |  |
| Noted | (v) | DW passed chair role back to DE. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **3** | **Introduction and welcome** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DE was delighted to welcome the two new community councillors, Jammy Gracoeiro and Paul Whyte and introduce them to everyone. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **4** | **Minutes of 11 February meeting and matters arising** |  |
| Noted | (i) | MC asked for the 1st two comments on the planning section to be removed. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DE to amend and recirculate February minutes** | **DE** |
| **Action** | **(ii)** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Youth shelters to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.** | **DE** | | **DE** |
| Noted | (ii) | The motion to approve the February draft minutes, subject to the amendment above, was proposed by MC and seconded by SM. The minutes were duly adopted as an accurate reflection of the February meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **5** | **Police Report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | No police report had been received. DE will forward when it is received. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DE to circulate police report.** | **DE** |
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| **ITEM** | **6** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DM. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Budget set, but council is underfunded. He made representation to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy, Kate Forbes, as Midlothian is one of the fastest growing council areas, but no additional funds were made available. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Council tax collects £58m across Midlothian, yet the teachers’ salary bill alone was £60m. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Additional early years was a popular initiative, but only 76% of the money for that was provided. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | Edinburgh Council want to bring in a low emission zone, to reduce vehicles that are medium to heavy polluters in the city. A lot of businesses, including LRT don’t yet have low emission vehicles. A fine would be levied on high emission ones. |  |
| Noted | (v) | Work place parking charges are to be introduced in Edinburgh. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | Renewed talk about introducing a congestion charge in Edinburgh. Charge likely to start low, but would increase. No-one who stays in the Edinburgh Council area would be charged, but anyone who lives outside would. This would be particularly hard for Midlothian residents in the health or hospitality sectors, who need transport during antisocial hours. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Verbal update from JL-D |  |
| Noted | (i) | She was not standing for re-election, as she had moved away from Bonnyrigg. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | She had enjoyed working with DA and DM, believed the education cross party group was a real success and hoped this work would continue. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | JL-D congratulated DE in taking up the role as Chair, wished the new community councillors and the continuing ones, well for the future. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Written update from DA received after the meeting and incorporated in the minutes |  |
| Noted | (i) | Midlothian Council's education and children's services were working extremely hard to accommodate and ensure all children as far as possible that are coming from Ukraine are welcomed and made safe and happy in their new homes. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | She has asked about safety measures for Lothian Street. It needs to be made pothole free, and something is needed to make parked cars, travelling cars, and emergency vehicles safe along with pedestrians. This is an ongoing issue. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **7** | **Visitor Matters** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Concern re car parking on Golf Course Road close to the junction with Hillhead Road. A resident had asked for yellow lines to be added. |  |
| Action | (i) | DM agreed to ask the transportation inspectors to investigate and determine if there were a safety need for these. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | RM opposed potential introduction of yellow lines, pointing out it was illegal to park within 10m of a junction. She believed it was a temporary problem, as one householder was getting work done, plus some people who lived on High Street parked on Golf Course Road. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Temporary closure of the distributor road and parking restrictions on Lothian Street were causing issues. A complaint had been received from a disabled person, unable to park near their house and from the mosque. DM had escalated this to the Executive at the Council. An allowance had been made for the disabled parking space. It was felt additional parking spaces in various areas of Bonnyrigg were available for mosque users. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | DE concerned re the much heavier traffic in Lothian Street, especially when the schools resumed and queried if a traffic management system could be put in place. DM believed the increased number of cars would slow the traffic and reduce danger. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | DW, on behalf of Poltonhall and Hopefield CC, thanked DM for his input in resolving a problem with a bin. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **8** | **Midlothian Traffic, Roads and Paths [MTRAP] Update** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DE. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Funding of the Residential Streets Programme granted for a further two years to improve the roads and footpaths. £2.5m set aside each year. The Waverleys are next on the list. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | It is hoped a new JCB can be purchased to facilitate work. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | National shortage of bitumen because of the situation in Ukraine. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **9** | **Midlothian Federation of Community Councils update** |  |
| Noted | (i) | RE reported the Federation had an objection to the Sheriffhall roundabout plan and an emergency meeting was called for week of 25 April, plus the usual one in May. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DW explained the Federation lodged the objection, but a lot of the people on the Federation were unhappy about this. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | JI keen that the improvements should proceed. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **JI to attend next MFCC meetings and report back** | **JI** |
| Noted | (iv) | DE described a presentation on the proposal for a 20-minute neighbourhood, where everything that people needed should be within 20 minutes of their home. |  |
| Noted | (v) | DM commented that the refusal to have a pharmacy in Rosewell was counter to this proposal. He was concerned the appeal against the refusal had been rejected. To have a functional 20-minute neighbourhood, all the services should be convenient. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **10** | **Update on proposal to merge with Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Merger proposal was not presented at the March meeting of Midlothian Council for the necessary formal approval. It is hoped this will go forward to the first meeting of the new Council after the local elections, likely to be the third week in May. Once approval granted, a date can be agreed for the new combined community council meeting. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DW to open up the new website to the two new councillors once he gets their email addresses from DE, so they could investigate it and provide feedback.** | **DW** |
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| **ITEM** | **11** | **Financial Report** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from BMacD. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Balance of £4,928.52 in account at 31 March 2022, including two payments from Midlothian Council. One of these was unexpected and would be investigated. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **12** | **Secretary’s Report** |  |
| Noted | (i) | LMacD had nothing to report. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **13** | **Report on Residents’ Info Forum: Bonnyrigg and Lasswade** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from Kirstie Malley. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Rules for Residents’ Forum had been simplified, with less repetitive post permitted and exclusion of offers to give away items. The branding had also been changed. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | KM confirmed she was happy to continue in the coordinating role. It takes a bit of time each day, but she has a team of four volunteers. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | JI queried if the name of the community forum would need to change following the merger and KM agreed this was on the to-do list. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **14** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted | (i) | OP asked if in-person meetings would be resumed. He preferred them in-person, but was concerned re getting to them after work. LMacD said she could give him a lift. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Zoom meetings put some people off attending, while other people may still have concerns re the virus and be wary of intending in-person. SM keen to resume in-person meetings. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | DW had used Poltonhall Playing Fields Pavilion and found it a successful location. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | DM said the Lasswade Centre was not yet available, but should be in a few weeks, when Covid restrictions were lifted. He asked to be informed if there were any problems gaining access to council premises. |  |
| Noted | (v) | Facilities at Poltonhall and Lasswade Centre would be investigated. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **15** | **Planning** (following departure from meeting of the Midlothian councillors) |  |
| Received | (i) | Written report from MC, plus verbal update. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Little to report over the past few months. MC believes it is unfortunate the Midlothian councillors no longer attend our discussions on planning. The situation arose due to a problem in the past. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DW commented the Gilmerton Road site is now up for sale. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Dandara estate at Eskbank – all the affordable houses are to be on one side. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | Work will start soon on new local development plan for Midlothian. |  |
| Noted | (v) | OP concerned about the amount of development and new houses in Midlothian. MC agreed, especially in relation to the Hopefield extension. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **16** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Discussion on whether to have future meetings on the 2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month. Consensus was for the 2nd Thursday. Thus, next meeting to be on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 7pm.  Venue: online Zoom platform. Zoom link will open at 6.50pm. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DE to issue Zoom details and open next meeting** | **DE** |