**BONNYRIGG AND LASSWADE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2022, via Zoom**

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

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| **ITEM** | **1** | **In attendance and apologies** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Those in attendance and apologies noted above. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **2** | **Introduction and welcome** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DE welcome everyone to the meeting and introduced David Virgo, the new councillor. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **3** | **Minutes of 21 April meeting and matters arising** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DE reported that we can use the room we previously had in Lasswade Library for future meetings. She had made provisional bookings for the rest of the year. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Most were happy with this suggestion, although SM was concerned re visitors not being able to access the meeting. DE said a notice would be on the door of the library room and the door of the Lasswade Centre, advising a contact number for access should anyone arrive after the Centre had closed. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | DV queried availability of the room near the community room, which is often used for birthday parties and wondered would it be a suitable alternative? DE felt the community room was smaller and the library room was better. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | DE said refreshments could not be provided. If anyone wanted them, they should bring their own. |  |
| Noted | (v) | DE proposed the discussion on youth shelters be deferred until the two community councils were joined together. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | |  |  | | --- | --- | | DE thanked DA and DM for their support during the traffic problems in Lothian Lothian Street. | DE | |  |
| Noted | (vii) | DE had sent an email to the Scottish Information Commissioner, querying the data protection payment and was told these are dealt with by the UK Information Commissioner. |  |
| Noted | (viii) | DE requested an amendment to item 8, the MTRAP update, as Sherwood may not be on the list for road and footpath improvements next year. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | The motion to approve the April draft minutes, subject to the amendment above, was proposed by MC and seconded by SM. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the April meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **4** | **Police Report** |  |
| Received | (i) | Police reports for March and April had been received. |  |
| Noted | (i) | OP commented on the number of shoplifting problems and the Co-op having to ban school children. JA felt the Co-op should be approached to find out how long the ban is to be. JG said it was only before school and at lunch, during term time. He believed awareness training was needed for the school children. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | JI was alarmed at the number of people found with offensive weapons and wondered what they planned doing with them. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **5** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DM. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Election negotiations were on-going within the council. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Challenges will be massive, as council tax had not been increased to the 4.7% maximum permitted. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Most of the ground works had been done at the former St Mary’s School site. Next stage of the work was due from mid-July. Hoardings will go up soon to reduce impact of noise and dust on nearby houses. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | An all-weather full size football pitch had been created at Poltonhall Recreation Ground, plus two 7 a-side pitches. |  |
| Noted | (v) | The Licensing Board meeting had approved an alcohol sales licence for the new Co-op in Burnbrae Road. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | Complaints had been received about the number of youths on buses, now they have free bus passes. Rude behaviour was frequent towards staff and other bus users. The youths were warm and dry on the buses and used the free Wi-Fi. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DV |  |
| Noted | (i) | He lived locally, relates to the issues discussed and looks forward to working with us all. |  |
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| Received | (i) | Written update from DA received after the meeting and incorporated in the minutes |  |
| Noted | (i) | Has been meeting Council officials concerning roads around St Mary's Primary School and other parts of Bonnyrigg. Has met with an engineer, discussed their proposals and asked to see a final draft of their plans. Will update the Community Council with progress in due course. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **6** | **Visitor Matters** |  |
| Noted | (i) | None had been raised with DE. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | SM raised some issues from Rosewell. She was advised these were not within the remit of BLCC and should be raised with the Rosewell local councillors. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **7** | **Midlothian Traffic, Roads and Paths [MTRAP] Update** |  |
| Noted | (i) | No update yet for May, as meeting on 16 May. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **8** | **Midlothian Federation of Community Councils update** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DE reported that 2 representatives were permitted from each community council. If anyone else wished to go, let her know. JG to attend with her on 18 May. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DE had attended a focus group on what had been learnt from the early part of the pandemic and support provided by Community Lifelong Learning. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | Funding had been made available for a Climate Action Plan, which would link into the 20-minute neighbourhood. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | Objection to the Sheriffhall upgrade proposal will be withdrawn. DM was very concerned that there had been an objection from one person, without discussion with the community. The original objection was re trees and environmental impact and put in several years ago. He asked to see the original minutes of the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils when the objection was lodged. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DE will stress DM’s concerns about the undemocratic potential of one person to derail the Sheriffhall upgrade.** | **DE** |
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| **ITEM** | **9** | **Update on proposal to merge with Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council** |  |
| Noted | (i) | DE emailed Catherine Duns, Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability Officer, to see if the merger will be discussed at the council meeting on 24 May. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DE thanked DW for his work on the new website. The £30 p.a. subscription for the Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council website will transfer to the new site after the merger. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | DE suggested the landing page should have at least one picture of Bonnyrigg and district. JA was editing text on the aims, constitution etc. |  |
| Noted | (iii) | There were lots of web links, but nothing on the David Dunn Fitness Trail, as it didn’t have a specific website. A paragraph was required to describe it. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | RM had requested that the website for Roadworks Scotland be added. |  |
| Noted | (v) | DW had received comments from LMacD and needed to investigate accessibility issues more. |  |
| Noted | (vi) | JA suggested a photo competition be launched on the Residents’ Forum, for something to show the town in a good light. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DE would speak to KM to check she could cope with the amount of activity the competition could generate.** | **DE** |
| Noted | (vii) | JI suggested someone could fly a drone over the area. DW was concerned re the legal aspect of flying over houses. JG said a specific licence was required and the footage could be too large for the website. DV commented intellectual property rights required consideration and pictures without people were better. |  |
| Noted | (viii) | JG stated the website needs to be fresh and dynamic, with local and historical information and useful for residents. |  |
| Noted | (ix) | DW queried how far back he should include minutes of meetings of the two separate community councils, as loading them was time-consuming. As the old websites would still be visible, links to the minutes there could be made. |  |
| Noted | (x) | DE said we should look at the draft constitution at the June meeting. DW commented the constitution file was very large because of all the appendices. The constitution was the most important document. It was agreed appendices could be subsequently added to the website library of documents. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **10** | **Financial Report** |  |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from BMacD. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Less money in the account than we thought, as a payment of £1,382.88 had been paid to BLCC in error by Midlothian Council and had to be returned. The new balance would be £3,531.25 once the sum was deducted. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **BMacD to arrange bank transfer to the Council.** | **BMacD** |
| Noted | (ii) | The £35 data protection fee had been paid by direct debit since 2015. DE wants to get an email from the Information Commissioner confirming receipt of the fee, as this was required for the accounts. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **11** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted | (i) | No other business was raised. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **12** | **Planning** (following departure from meeting of the Midlothian councillors) |  |
| Received | (i) | Written report from MC, plus verbal update. |  |
| Noted | (i) | Virtual nothing new on the planning lists which affects BLCC. |  |
| Noted | (ii) | Discussion on ancillary accommodation application to add a double garage and extra story, with the new building being larger than the original house and separate, not joined to the house. MC believed we shouldn’t check all the extension applications, but wondered where we should draw the line? If we don’t look at them, we could miss something significant. BLCC’s role is to filter through what could have an impact on the town. It was agreed MC will continue to monitor the planning applications. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **MC to write expressing concerns about the scale of the application.** | **MC** |
| Noted | (iii) | The application for Sheriffhall South had been amended to just a coffee shop and Class 4 development, with removal of Class 6 proposals, thought these may arise later. Several other community councils had objected to the Class 6 development. |  |
| Noted | (iv) | JG asked what use was to be made of the old building between the Co-op and Bonnyrigg Parish Church. MC explained a bar/restaurant was proposed for the ground floor, with small offices on the top floor, using a separate entrance. |  |
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| **ITEM** | **16** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** |  |
| Noted | (i) | Next meeting: Thursday 9 June 2022 at 7pm.  Venue: Room next to Children’s Library at Lasswade Centre.  Room booked 6.45 - 9 pm. |  |
| **Action** | **(i)** | **DE to issue agenda, draft minutes and papers in advance of the meeting.** | **DE** |