**POLTONHALL AND HOPEFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF ZOOM ONLINE MEETING 10 FEBRUARY 2021**

Present: J Aitchison, Chair, F Warner, D West, J Cameron, J Bernard,

Attending: J Irvine, Cllrs D Milligan and D Alexander

Apologies: P Atkinson, H Taylor, D Easton, T Sime, Cllr J Lay Douglas,

**1. Chair’s Remarks**

1.1 Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of Meeting held on 12 January 2021 and Matters Arising**

2.1 Minutes were approved. Proposed by DW and seconded by JC.

**3. Finance Report**

3.1 No figures currently available.

**4. Secretary’s Report**

4.1 Notification was received from Handicabs Lothian that they would be offering free transport for people with mobility challenges to get their COVID vaccine. Information about that was posted on the PHCC website.

4.2 Information was received about a Proposal of Application Notice and site plan for a development at Polton Street/Moorfoot Place, Bonnyrigg. The proposed development involved a new build Intermediate Care Facility and new Extra Care Facility and alterations to existing Annexe to provide Day Care Services at the Dundas Buildings at St Mary’s School Site.

4.3 Correspondence was received from Zurich Municipal regarding the renewal of PHCC’s annual liability insurance from 1 April 2021. Copies of the invoice would be submitted to Midlothian Council for to arrange payment. **Action: FW**

4.4 It was noted that there would be an increased frequency on East Coast buses 139. It would be increasing the Monday-Friday daytime service from hourly to half hourly from Monday 15 February 2021, subject to the Traffic Commissioner’s approval. There would be no changes to the current Saturday timetable. The 139 would not be in service on Sundays.

**5. Associated Member’s Report**

5.1 The club still had its 121 counselling on offer. There were abut to start a project with Lasswade High School providing Mental Health First Aid Training for staff and sessions were being delivered for S5 and S6 on managing stress and anxiety. They were also looking to provide an online session for families with a view to parent understanding and helping their children with motivation and sleeping. The cub would be working again with Health in Mind for suicide prevention for young people.

5.2 The club’s Menshed project would be starting in a couple of weeks. It was also hoped to create a comfortable outdoor space where people could sit and have a hot drink.

**6. Police Report**

6.1 During the month of January 2021 in the beat areas BD01 and ME02 – Bonnyrigg, Lasswade, Poltonhall and District – there were 61 recorded crimes reported, of which 39 have been solved to date, with a solvency rate of 64%. During this period, there were 256 calls to Police Scotland.

**6.2 Incidents of Note**

Between 5pm on Wednesday 30 December and 12.20pm Friday 1 January a window of a business property was smashed by unknown persons. Police enquiries were ongoing.

About 5pm on Sunday 3 January on Rosewell Road there was a breach of COVID-19 Regulations. The party was dispersed by officers.

About 12.30am on Tuesday 5 January on Golf Course Road, unknown person(s) attempted to break into a garage. Police enquiries were ongoing.

Between Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 January on Lower Broomieknowe two males broke into a garage and stole two mountain bikes. Both males were charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 2am on Saturday 9 January a male attempted to break into a property in Eldindean Terrace. The male was traced Police, charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 11pm on Saturday 9 January threatening calls were made to an address at Waverley Crescent. A male was traced by Police, charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 11.30pm on Saturday 9 January a vehicle was stopped by officers due to the smell of cannabis. Both persons were issued with Police Warnings.

Between the evening of 7 January and early morning of Friday 8 January an unknown vehicle damaged another vehicle on Polton Street. Police enquiries were ongoing.

About 7.20pm on Saturday 16 January Police stopped a vehicle on Dobbies Road for a proactive drugs search. Police recovered £560 worth of controlled drugs. Two males were charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 9.20pm on Saturday 16 January Police stopped a vehicle in the car park of Lasswade High School. Police searched the vehicle and found a small amount of cannabis. The driver of the vehicle was issued a Recorded Police Warning.

About 1pm on Tuesday 26 January on Burnbrae Road there was a breach of COVID-19 Regulations within a house. The numerous persons were dispersed by officers.

About 8.30am on Friday 29 January on High Street, Bonnyrigg officers noted a vehicle to not hold valid insurance. The vehicle was seized by officers and the driver of the vehicle was charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 3.45pm on Saturday 30 January in Park Crescent two males were fighting and one male had a knife in his possession. One male was arrested and charged. A report was submitted to Procurator Fiscal.

About 11.20pm on Saturday 30 January on Waverley Crescent a male was witnessed to damage three tyres on a Nissan van. Police enquiries were ongoing.

There have been numerous calls relating to COVID-19 breaches in the Bonnyrigg area particularly within Burnbrae Primary School and Lasswade Rugby Club where large groups have been playing football. Police have been pro-actively patrolling these and other areas in response to this.

**If any person** **has any information about the incidents listed above, or indeed any other crime, please contact your Community Policing Officers PC Jonny Cassidy & PC Chris Howarth** **via 101 or email:**

**Jonathan.Cassidy@scotland.pnn.police.uk****Christopher.Howarth@scotland.pnn.police.uk**

**7. Midlothian Councillors’ Report**

7.1 With reference to current bad weather Cllr DM reported that there were 46-48 roads staff and a group of apprentices had been taken on. In addition, staff from the leisure side, joiners and plumbers have helped too. It required 18 drivers to run the service 24 hours per day. Currently almost half of the 46 staff available were working on the gritters with 100 staff working today and 146 tomorrow. Although there was additional staff there were no extra vehicles. New community grit bins were ordered and would be placed strategically where they would be the most effective. The Council had managed to keep main roads open although the by-pass had been closed for a short time and the buses were now operating again. It was considered that it would be helpful if the bus companies would give Midlothian Council prior notice of their plans for re-routing buses.

7.2 It was noted that it was hoped to begin work on the new care facility this year depending on the planning process. JC asked if the new facilities would replace Highbank. Cllr DM said that Highbank was no longer up to standard with dated facilities. The new care home would be bigger than Highbank.

7.3 There was a query about the plans for the land opposite the Co-op on the High Street and Cllr DM said might be for adult social care as well as an intermediate care facility too. It might be amenity and supported accommodation.

7.4 Cllr DA said that the reports she received were about education. A meeting was held with the Director of Education every week and with the Director of Children’s Services. Cllr DA was fulsome in her praise of how people had kept services going and said they had gone way beyond anything expected of them.

 7.5 There was a question regarding cancelling work of secondary pupils this year and Cllr DA said that grading for 5th and 6th year students would involve 4 pieces of work being looked at. It was noted that young people had not had any physical teaching and were being self-taught. It was noted that live teaching had been agreed and should be going on line shortly. Money was being made by the Scottish Government for Saturday morning catch up clubs which would be rolled out soon.

7.6 Cllr JLD was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report. LFD Rapid Testing Kits had been delivered to schools. Return to school on 22 February would include ELC, Primary 1-3 and part time for a small number of senior S4, S5 and S6. LFD Test Kits were used for those without symptoms of the virus and had now been delivered to allow educational staff including catering, cleaning, school crossing patrol. It would be a three-week supply with twice a week testing and tests done at home 3-4 days apart before attending the work place or school. S4, S5 and S6 were classed as adults and so would also be offered test kits. All participation in testing would be voluntary. A negative result would be reported to the NHS while a positive result would be reported to the school/workplace and would require a PCR test to be done. Two void results meant that a PCR test had to be booked. Collection points were being set up and areas of storage at around a temperature of 2 to -30 degrees. The British Red Cross and Sport and Leisure might help with the processes. There was a great deal of work done around revised risk assessments and signage. There was concern that colleges were not reopening at the same time as schools and there was a worry there would be an inequity in the system for young people from different backgrounds and with broadening curriculum offer through partnership arrangements. A number of young people do not have access to practical activities.

7.7 A catch up meeting took place with the Director of Place and Operations Manager to discuss the winter plan, resilience groups, roads, budgets and how the additional staff resources had been used during lockdown with questions on how that looked when staff resumes their usual roles. There was also a focus on how workers could be reskilled to do more than one role to help flexibility of resources including those who applied for future positions. The Council had made lots of effort to keep the public informed but it was agreed that more could be done to information share and communicate with communities. There was a suggestion of using QR codes on grit bins to help with speedy refill. The Conservative group had a recent motion in Council hoping to change the financial accounting for potholes.

7.8 Cllr JLD was part of the poverty grants scoring panel that included 2 other cross party elected members, Council staff, a representative from the voluntary sector and the Community Council. Applications were discussed and scored for available grants of £5k to £20k. There would be a cross party meeting the flowing week with 2 other elected members and the Director of Place to discuss glyphosate weed killer to try and reach a common ground prior to a paper going to the Council in March.

7.9 The Business Transformation Group met to discuss budgets and a proposal of freezing Council Tax, all preparation discussion in advance of Council meeting.

**8. Any Other Business**

8.1 Confirmation had been relayed to Catherine Duns about the agreed merger with Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council (BLCC). A legal order now had to be passed. It was suggested a joint article from PHCC and BLCC be sent for inclusion in the Advertiser.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Zoom on **Wednesday 10 March 2021**