

Bonnyrigg & Lasswade Community Council **Constitution. (Revised November 2007)**

1. Name

The Council shall be called Bonnyrigg & Lasswade Community Council (hereafter referred to as BLCC).

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Council shall be

- 2.1. to create a sense of community amongst the people of Bonnyrigg & Lasswade and to further the aims and interests of that community by discussion and debate.
- 2.2. to provide a means of consultation with statutory and other external organisations.
- 2.3. to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to Midlothian Council and other public bodies, the views of the community about matters for which those bodies are responsible; and
- 2.4. to take such action in the interest of the community as appears to its members to be desirable and practicable.
- 2.5. the retention of the identity of a Community amongst people living in an area and the safeguarding of their interests;
- 2.6. the encouragement of co-operation among the various community organisations in the area;
- 2.7. the fostering of a strong community spirit in the area and the maintenance of historical and traditional links; and
- 2.8. the continuation of all local customs and events.

3. Boundaries

BLCC will operate within the boundaries as defined by Midlothian Council.

The Boundaries of the Community Council area are as shown in the attached map.

The Community Council boundary commences-

“at Sheriffhall where the Midlothian boundary meets Old Dalkeith Road, and then proceeds in a southerly direction along the A68, along the former Waverley line, along the River North Esk, along the western edge of Eskbank Nurseries, along Lasswade Road, along the eastern and southern edges of plot 8055, along the eastern edge of Broomieknowe Golf Course, along the western edge of Bellfield Nurseries, across the A6094, along the unsurfaced road leading to Hardengreen, along the former Waverley Railway, along the River North Esk, and along the Dalhousie Burn until it reaches the junction of the B704 and the C5 at Cockpen Bridge.

It then proceeds in a north westerly direction along the B704 to Parsonspool Bridge, through the built up area of Bonnyrigg along the former Burgh boundary to Polton Road, along the track leading to the Printing Works, along the western edge of plots 0033 and 9033, along the River North Esk, along the north western edge of the path leading to Glen Kevoek, along the western edge of the properties fronting Kevoek Road, along Wadingburn Road, along the track leading to, and western edge of Haveral Wood Sand Quarry, along the south eastern edges of plots 8824 and 9378, along the north eastern edges of plots 938 and 7029 and along the northern edge of Edgefield Toll Farm until it reaches the Midlothian boundary.

It then proceeds in an east north easterly direction along the Midlothian boundary to the point of commencement.”

4. Membership

- 4.1. Membership of BLCC shall be open to all persons aged eighteen or over who reside within the defined boundaries of the Community Council and who are on the electoral register within that area. No elected member of Midlothian Council may be a member of BLCC. BLCC shall consist of fifteen members. Each member shall be elected to serve for one year, retiring at the end of that period but be eligible for re-election, with no time limit.
- 4.2. Members may be co-opted:-

- 4.2.1. to fill existing vacancies on agreement of a simple majority of voting members present.
 - 4.2.2. to obtain the benefit of the knowledge or expertise of any individual by his election to the Council by a simple majority of members present and voting for a particular defined purpose. Each member so co-opted for the said purpose shall be entitled to enter into the discussion and to vote only in relation to the purpose for which he was co-opted. The number of such co-opted members shall not at any time exceed one-fourth of the number of the total membership of the Council.
- 4.3. Any member, who is absent from three consecutive meetings without apologies presented, will be contacted to confirm if he or she wishes to continue as a member.

5. Frequency and Method of Election

Elections will be by secret ballot at a public meeting annually in the month of March. Nomination papers signed by the nominee and the proposer and seconder with the relevant addresses will be deposited no less than 20 days before the date of the Election with the Returning Officer. BLCC will itself appoint a Returning Officer who must not be a candidate or a proposer or seconder of a candidate or a relative of any candidate. If the number of persons so nominated for election to a Community Council does not exceed the number of members, prescribed in paragraph 4.1 hereof the persons so nominated shall be held to be duly elected as members without further process.

6. Office Bearers

BLCC shall elect from its membership a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom shall have voting powers at meetings.

It shall be competent for BLCC, if so desired, to appoint a Secretary/Treasurer of BLCC from persons who are not otherwise members in the event that no member is considered suitable for the appointment. The Secretary/Treasurer in that situation shall not be entitled to vote at meetings.

The Chair of a meeting of the Council shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

7. Meetings

An AGM shall be held and in addition a minimum of six meetings per year. A quorum for meetings shall consist of five members and include one office bearer. All BLCC meetings shall be public meetings.

On its formation, BLCC shall lodge with the Chief Executive of the Council a return showing the names and addresses of their members and office-bearers. In addition, any change in such membership or office-bearers shall also be notified to the said Chief Executive.

The AGM will be held in the Month of March each year.

8. Expenses

The Secretary of BLCC will be given an allocation, of money for stationery and all other expenses, which will be reviewed annually. All other members shall be entitled to claim reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of BLCC. These expenses must be submitted to the Treasurer and approved by the Chairperson.

9. Finances

A statement of income and expenditure will be prepared and submitted to the Council in February in any year.

10. Accounts

All monies received by the Community Council shall be lodged in an account in name of the BLCC with a clearing bank, building society or other reputable financial institution. All withdrawals from such accounts shall be authorised by the signature of at least two of the Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Community Council.

11. Annual Audit

The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts for the calendar year (first of January to thirty-first of December) and shall forward these accounts for audit by Auditors who shall be appointed at the AGM.

12. Committees

BLCC shall form sub-committees as the need arises and may appoint members to serve on other committees as appropriate.

13. Emergency Meetings

Emergency meetings may be called with the consent of one-third of the membership, providing that fourteen days notice is given to the Secretary.

14. Guest Speakers

The Chairperson shall invite Midlothian Councillors, Officials, or others to BLCC meetings to discuss particular items that may arise.

15. Amendments to Constitution

Any proposed amendments to the Constitution must be notified to a meeting of BLCC for discussion at the next full meeting. Any alteration of the Constitution shall be subject to the agreement of two-thirds majority of the voting members present at the meeting and ratification by Midlothian Council.

16. Standing Orders

The business of the meetings of BLCC shall be carried out under approved standing orders.

17. Dissolution

BLCC may be dissolved by a resolution carried by a majority of two-thirds of the voting members present at a meeting called for the purpose.

Notice of such a meeting shall be given

17.1. to the public in a locally circulated newspaper and

17.2. to Midlothian council not less than fourteen days before the date of the meeting. BLCC will be considered dissolved if no properly constituted meeting has been held for a period of six months from the date of the last constituted meeting. All property and funds vested in BLCC shall be applied to any purpose for the benefit of the people of Bonnyrigg & Lasswade, as approved by Midlothian Council; Provided that preference shall be given in any event to the transfer of such property and funds to a successor Community Council elected in terms of paragraph 18(f) of MIDLOTHIAN DISTRICT COUNCILS SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Map showing BLCC boundaries.

