

BONNYRIGG AND LASSWADE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2021, held by Zoom

Present:	Chair (Jan Irvine)
	Diane Easton
	Bill McDonald
	Marnie Crawford
	Rhona Matthews
	Sheila Metcalfe
	Owen Proudfoot
	Ruth Scott
	John Atchison
	Dougie West
	Cllr Diane Alexander
	Cllr Derek Milligan
	Chris Hurst
Apologies:	Darius Namdaran
	Jackie Thompson
	Cllr Janet Lay-Douglas

ITEM	1	Welcome and Apologies	
Noted	(i)	Apologies noted as above. Noted that the meeting was being recorded for minute taking and will be deleted when minute approved.	
Action	(i)	DE to delete meeting recording after minutes approved.	DE
ITEM	2	Planning	
Received	(i)	<p>NEW Applications for Planning</p> <p>21/00161/DPP 76 High Street. Following last meeting MC wrote letter to Midlothian Council noting no concerns about change of use. However there are concerns about the loss of Post Office services, the building design, parking issues, the number of takeaways attracting school children, noise issues, and access for deliveries.</p> <p>21/00014/DPP Kennels Cottage – just after Dobbies. Following last meeting MC wrote letter to Midlothian Council noting although Green Belt no objections to the idea of developing the old Kennels Cottage concerns that the proposal would be too high and prominent on this Green Belt site.</p> <p>21/00241/DPP 51 High Street, Bonnyrigg (land behind Pitcairn Centre which extends right up to car park beside old Health Centre).</p>	

Application for 23 Flats over 3 floors. This is a resurrected development (08/0009/FUL 15/01006/DPP). Previous applications in 2008 and 2015.

Proposed development is for one block of 23 flats over 3 floors. Provision is made for 3 car parking spaces, possibly to allow for disabled parking. Noted concerns over parking, particularly in light of separate planning proposal for the restaurant at 76 High Street and the probability of a new development of flats on the vacant site directly opposite. MC to study the proposals further and write a letter to Midlothian Council.

21/00227/DPP 21/00228/DPP 21/00230 HS11 Bellway Homes applying on 3 separate applications for 30, 37 and 27 Houses. They are starting at the end closest to Cockpen Church and the Cemetery. This site has permission for 248 homes. Everything that was in the original application for planning in principle is now changed in the detailed planning application, particularly with regard to the layout of roads and crossings.

Updates

18/00181/DPP After pictures in the Advertiser at the start of the building of a KFC and Starbucks beside the Tesco Filling Station. This was an application to which Community Council had objected to in 2018. Initially rejected it was granted at Appeal in 2019. The notification of the Appeal Result had gone to the blccchair email and so was notified to BLCC at the time.

20//00869/PPP Sheriffhall/Melville Gate Business Park. Community Council has been notified of a change in this application and there are new documents on the website. One is 63 pages long and the review of wildlife, trees etc. MC will study them but doesn't believe BLCC has any need to comment at the moment.

Midlothian Council's Planning Committee meeting was held on Tuesday. The Committee agreed to give planning permission in principle to residential proposals for more than 57 hectares of agricultural land at Hopefield. Committee discussion around ensuring the new development has a community school with rooms that will be used flexibly for community use.

The Planning Committee approved the pre-application consultation for the development at the former St Mary's Primary School

		South Lodge at Melville Castle. Historic Scotland are holding a consultation to remove the building's listing. Noted that the building has been modified so many times it is no longer original. Removing the listing will permit the Council to step back from maintaining the walls when they start to deteriorate. MC believes the landowner is keen to build houses on the land nearby but this is an issue concerning the green belt rather than the listing consultation.	
Noted	(i)	Noted that the former painter and decorator shop in the High Street is now to be used as a shop for candle making parties and selling candles.	
Noted	(ii)	Noted that planning applications for larger developments can run and run and it can be years for some documents to become available. However, at present the public and Community Council have only 3 weeks at the beginning of the process to respond and only to the original documents which often change over time. Would like to ask Planning Officers if Community Councils would be permitted to comment at later stages of the planning process. An example would be the planning application in respect of 76 High Street; this was originally for planning in principle and is now a detailed planning application. The Community Council agreed with MC's proposal.	
Action	(i)	MC to write to the Director of Planning.	MC
Noted	(iii)	Noted a 'To Let' sign has been spotted at the pavilion in Lasswade Park. It would appear the building will no longer be used by a dance group.	
Action	(ii)	JI to contact Midlothian Council to find out what is happening with the pavilion.	JI
Noted	(iv)	Noted that there don't appear to have been any updates on the development of the vacant site opposite the Coop. The original plans were published when the site was cleared but there doesn't appear to have been any updates.	
Action	(iii)	MC to search planning portal for details.	MC
Action	(iv)	DE to distribute the link to the website for the St Mary's site development	DE
ITEM	3	Minutes of last meeting 11 February 2021 and matters arising	
Agreed	(i)	The minutes were proposed (SM) and seconded (MC) as an accurate reflection of the meeting.	
Noted	(i)	Noted comments in the Planning Report referring to HS12 and the provision of play parks for younger children but nothing for older children. Noted previous attempts to introduce an obstacle course and could the Community Council pursue something like this from developer contributions? Noted that developer contributions are based on a formula per property. Noted comments that developers may be reluctant to include provision for facilities that will attract	

		groups of young people as this is seen as unpopular with residents. Noted also that if the developer makes a contribution towards an obstacle course in a neighbouring area, this could be seen to count that as their formal contribution and the new development may lose out.	
Noted	(ii)	Railway Walk cycling issue. Noted that the three elected Councillors met to discuss and agreed that increasing signage is unlikely to be effective. Noted that Police Scotland and CAT teams have begun patrolling the area on quad bikes; they are stopping and speaking to cyclists who are speaking. This initiative was welcomed by the Community Council.	
Action	(i)	Next Federation Meeting will be on 21 April. Chair and DE will attend and report back.	JI/DE
ITEM	4	POLICE REPORT	
Received	(i)	Report previously circulated.	
Noted	(i)	During the month of March 2021 in the beat areas BD01 & ME02 – Bonnyrigg, Lasswade, Poltonhall & District – there were 51 recorded crimes reported, of which 23 have been solved to date, with a solvency rate of 45%. During this time period, there were 298 calls to this area of Police Scotland.	
Noted	(ii)	Noted the number of people meeting indoors found to be in breach of Covid restrictions.	
Noted	(iii)	Noted a large number of people camping near Polton Road.	
Noted	(iv)	Noted that anti-social behaviour among young people is now a real issue across Midlothian and there is a hope this will settle down after the summer holidays.	
Noted	(v)	Noted that Police Scotland are deploying plain clothes mounted police in some areas and this has been successful.	
Action	(i)	RM to contact Police Scotland to see if a mounted police campaign can be done in Midlothian.	RM
ITEM	5	REPORT FROM MIDLOTHIAN COUNCILLORS	
Received	(i)	Written report from DA.	
Noted	(i)	Schools Burnbrae outdoor space has been planned by the children and incorporated into their learning. Given budget and catalogues with prices, and cost of labour, so they understood what they had to achieve. Achieved the aims of the project without extra cost. High uptake of lateral flow tests in schools. Lasswade 6th year pupils did a video for all pupils to watch to reduce anxiety; they have also set up a mental health committee.	

High levels of additional support needs. Multi-agency work being done to ensure pupils remain in their local school and their individual needs are addressed as they progress through school.

Attended parent teachers evening at Lasswade High School. There has been high engagement with pupils, school and teachers during lockdown. Pupils and teacher all seemed to be on board and excited about the £10.5M digital learning budget. This will greatly change the curriculum bringing exciting new opportunities.

SQA are running information events in schools to demonstrate how the appeals process will work this year.

Numeracy development officer working with nursery primary and S, S2 staff to bring fun and support to those who are having difficulty and to raise attainment, and consistency across schools feeding into Lasswade. This has been so successful that they are bringing on board literacy development officer.

A lot of work has been done by youth workers, teachers and Council CLL staff going out of their way to ensure continuation of learning and health and wellbeing during Covid. Teachers going to extraordinary lengths to engage with pupils. Making huge efforts by arranging safe visits to outdoor activities, going out for walks with vulnerable pupils, and even delivering an engine to a front garden.

Libraries

Library fines have been abolished, so everyone is able now to enjoy the reserve and collect service. Email reserveandcollect@midlothian.gov.uk. The digital library service offers digital books on a phone or tablet. To borrow from our online catalogues, you must first join the library. Sign in to the catalogues using the number on your library card and your PIN number to get access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers, and eComics.

Community

Huge thanks to all the people out clearing litter, weeding and generally tidying our streets. It is fantastic to hear about and helps to reduce our need for poisonous weed killers such as glyphosate.

Concerns about a reported increase in the numbers of dog owners not clearing after their dogs, particularly near children's play areas.

Received	(ii)	Written report from JL-D	
Noted	(ii)	<p>Vaccination Appointments Programme at Midlothian Community Hospital and Gorebridge Leisure Centre. Feedback and comments received and further discussed with relevant Council Health contacts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A few no shows reported. 2. Reports of some people missed off the list. Calls made to Scottish Health help line and appointments received. 3. Vaccine Wastage of concern. Reports from both venues of this. Need to ensure those working in the community ie service workers, teachers, Police or younger local retail workers are given a chance to be vaccinated If product left at the end of the day makes little sense to discard. System should be set up in order to benefit our community. 4. Vaccination cards- small cards with date of vaccination, DOB birth and signed by the vaccinator are given (in the rest of the UK) as a reminder and proof to the vaccinated person. Questions asked why these cards are not given in Scotland, appreciated not a vaccination passport however would be an appropriate measure due to any possible system failure and also gives a person sense of security. 5. Both centres organised extremely well although comments that more vaccinators than public, many stations empty. 	
Received	(iii)	Verbal update from DM	
Noted	(iii)	<p>Noted most of focus is on transition as we come out of lockdown. Noted that two metre rule will no longer apply in schools after the Easter holidays. Schools would not have the room to do this, also the Council could not afford the cost of additional buses and taxis required to transport children to school. Midlothian Council working with Police Scotland to ensure people comply with Covid restrictions. Noted concerns that ageing frontline staff are approaching retirement and there may be a low uptake in replacing them. Noted a small number of Covid clusters in schools. Noted a dramatic reduction in cases of Covid across Midlothian, from 150 to 45 per 100 000 population. All of the Lothian regions are doing exceptionally well, particularly due to continual random testing which is picking up cases where people may have Covid but may be asymptomatic. Hospital inpatient numbers showing a consistent downward trend.</p> <p>Noted progress on vaccination programme. Referred to comments that NHS Lothian is not keeping up to pace. 35% of Midlothian population is over 50 against 47% of Lanarkshire therefore the way that the numbers eligible to be vaccinated are calculated differently. Noted concerns that the vaccine uptake will be lower among younger age groups which will be likely to prolong the spread of the virus. The</p>	

	<p>Council and the Health Board are looking for someone well known in Midlothian who will take the vaccine publicly and encourage young people to take it.</p> <p>Noted that Taylor Wimpey have submitted their masterplan report for a new 1000-housing development [Hopefield 2] to the Council's Planning Committee and some recommendations have been rejected. Council has asked for a community school and other community facilities to be included. Noted that current community facilities at Lasswade Centre are unlikely to be available for a while because the virus is still around. The new school should have community and health facilities in the same building. Noted a stipulation that 25% of the development should be for affordable housing. Asked for urgent talks on a bus route development grant being made available for the new housing development. Hoping to replicate the success of the well-used 31 bus services out of Hopefield and Burnbrae. Has applied to a Sustrans fund launched by the Scottish Government to boost connectivity. Hoping to introduce a bus service from Hopefield to Dalkeith and Mayfield, Gorebridge and Straiton. Noted that developer contributions agreed under the local development plan will be used towards the urbanisation of the A7, providing more pavements, cycle routes and bus stops. Noted however a stipulation that funds towards the A7 urbanisation cannot be made at the cost of local community facilities. This was unanimously supported at the Planning Committee.</p> <p>Noted that a public consultation has been launched regarding the development of the former St Mary's Primary School site. Has stipulated that residents in the surrounding streets should be notified of the consultation prior to it being advertised on social media.</p> <p>Following questions to DM</p> <p>Vacant site opposite the Coop. Noted that the Council has bought the site with the intention of building supported accommodation for adults with learning disabilities. Noted concerns with action by Lothian Buses to withdraw services at short notice because of anti-social behaviour; a new protocol has been implemented and there is greater involvement by Police Scotland. Noted a plan to build a new high school on the A701 is ongoing. This will be a school of excellence connecting with the University of Edinburgh's Biotech Centre. Scottish Government has pledged 50% funding. An appropriate site has still to be identified. Will be the catchment school for areas such as Loanhead, Roslin and Bilston.</p>	

ITEM	6	MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC, ROADS AND PATHS [MTRAP]	
Noted	(i)	Noted that the next meeting will be on Monday 19 April and DE and RM are expected to attend.	
Action	(i)	DE and RM to report back at next BLCC meeting	DE/RM
ITEM	7	Update on proposal to merge with Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update on ongoing consultation • proposed Constitution • new BDCC website 	
Noted	(i)	Noted that Midlothian Council's CLL team has received two emails from members of the public; feedback so far is positive. CLL team will continue to promote the consultation until it ends on Wednesday 19 May.	
Action	(i)	DE to continue promoting the consultation on Community Council media pages.	DE
Noted	(ii)	Noted that the first draft of the constitution is ready to be circulated for review and feedback.	
Action	(ii)	DE to circulate the constitution to all Community Councillors.	DE
Noted	(iii)	Noted that DW is adding 'hidden' pages to the PHCC website. The updates contain information pertaining to Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council. After the merger is complete the new Community Council will decide which website tool will be used and all the information transferred over.	
Action	(iii)	DE to provide a copy of all BLCC minutes on a memory stick to DW.	DE
Action	(iv)	DW to make JI and DE admins of PHCC's website so they can view the hidden pages under development.	DW
ITEM	8	FINANCIAL REPORT	
Received	(i)	Noted that the BLCC statement of account has been approved by Councillor Lay-Douglas in advance of next month's AGM. Only one transaction since last meeting [£14.39 for the Zoom licence]. Noted the current balance is £4140.12; including the recent small grant payment of £385. Noted that the Treasurer has met with staff at the Dalkeith branch of Bank of Scotland to discuss alerts to possible fraudulent activity, however this service does not seem to be available. Noted that some funds are still ring-fenced for small community events as part of an agreement with the former Bonnyrigg Hub. Noted that the Community Council should consider how the remaining funds should be used.	
Action	(i)	DE to forward the invoice small grant invoice to BM.	DE

ITEM	9	SECRETARY'S REPORT	
Received	(i)	Verbal update from DE, noting has been busy preparing for and promoting the forthcoming AGM. Promoting other items of interest on the Community Council's Facebook pages. Noted that the Zurich insurance premium has been confirmed as paid after a few weeks of uncertainty. Has been working on updating the Community Council's web pages. Circulated a bulk email advertising the forthcoming AGM; two residents responded and have been invited to attend BLCC and PHCC meetings and AGMs	
ITEM	10	AOCB	
Noted	(i)	Noted that Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council will hold an AGM just before their next meeting on 12 May.	
Noted	(ii)	Noted a proposal to support some of the new groups engaged in litter picking etc by inviting them to become associate members of the new Community Council. This would enable their activity to be covered by the Community Council insurance. Also find other resources to help them. Risk assessments would have to be done as part of the process to comply with insurance requirement.	
Noted	(iii)	Noted concerns that the next PHCC meeting may clash with the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils meeting.	
ITEM	16	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
Noted	(i)	Thursday 13 May 2021 at 7pm. This meeting will follow the Community Council's AGM. Venue: online Zoom platform	