

BONNYRIGG AND LASSWADE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021, held by Zoom

Present:	Jan Irvine, Chair
	Diane Easton, Communications Secretary
	Bill MacDonald, Treasurer
	Marnie Crawford
	Rhona Matthews
	Owen Proudfoot
	John Aitchison
	Douglas West
	Cllr Dianne Alexander
	Cllr Derek Milligan
Apologies:	Sheila Metcalfe
	Ruth Scott
	Jackie Thompson
	Darius Namdaran
	Cllr Janet Lay-Douglas

ITEM	1/2	Welcome and Apologies	
Noted	(i)	Apologies noted as above.	
ITEM	3	Minutes of last meeting 14 January 2020 and matters arising	
Agreed	(i)	The minutes were proposed (BM) and seconded (MC) as an accurate reflection of the meeting.	
Noted	(i)	Chair noted that some Community Councillors had left the last meeting before Planning discussion and appealed to them to remain in future if possible.	
ITEM	4	POLICE REPORT	
Received	(i)	Report previously circulated.	
Noted	(i)	Noted concerns about the volume of drugs-related incidents in the area.	
ITEM	5	REPORT FROM MIDLOTHIAN COUNCILLORS	

<p>Received</p>	<p>(i)</p>	<p>Written update from JL-D received. Education Portfolio Update</p> <p>Return to school 22nd February - ELC, Primary 1-3 and part time return for a small number of Senior Phase S4 S5 S6. LFD Test kits are used for those without symptoms of Corona Virus and have now been delivered to allow Educational staff including catering, cleaning, school crossing patrols. Three week's supply / twice a week testing. Test at home 3-4 days apart before attending work place or school. S4 S5 S6 are classed as adults so will be offered test kits. All participation in testing is voluntary. Negative Result is reported to NHS. Positive Result reported to School/ workplace and must take a PCR Test. 2 Void Results must book a PCR Test</p> <p>Collection Points are being set up and areas of storage at around temp 2-30 degrees. The British Red Cross and Sport & Leisure may help with processes. Lots of work around revised risk assessments and signage. A concern that Colleges not reopening same time as schools. A worry there will be Inequity in 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.</p> <p>Other business. I had catch up meeting with the Director of Place and Operations Manager to discuss the Winter plan, Resilience Groups, Roads, Budgets and how the additional staff resources have been used during lockdown. Questions on how this looks when staff resume their usual roles. Also a focus on how workers could be reskilled to do more than one role to help flexibility of resources including those who apply for future positions. The Council have made lots of effort to keep public informed but it was agreed that more could be done to information share and communicate with communities. We suggested the use of QR codes on Grit</p>	
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		<p>Bins to help speedy refill. Conservative group had a recent motion in Council hoping to change the financial accounting for potholes, happy to share with anyone interested in a letter sent to Scottish Government. I am part of the Poverty grants scoring Panel that includes 2 other cross party elected members, Council Staff, a representative from the voluntary sector and the Community Council. We discussed and scored applications for available grants of 5k to 20k. Cross party meeting next week with 2 other elected members and the Director of Place to discuss Glyphosate Weed killer to try to reach a common ground prior to a paper going to March Council. Business Transformation Group met to discuss Budgets and a proposal of freezing Council Tax, all preparation discussion in advance of Council meeting.</p>	
Noted	(i)	<p>Noted during discussion a belief that pot hole repairs are currently included in the Council's revenue budget and the proposal is to move this to the capital budget. This would add flexibility into how the money is spent.</p>	
Received	(ii)	<p>Verbal update from DA received, noting a response regarding the request to add a crossing at Chesters Court; there are already two crossings nearby and another is not required. Council Officers to liaise with St Mary's Parent Council. Noted update from Education Committee on conditions for pupils' return to school. Noted that the Scottish Welfare Fund is still available to people affected by Covid-19. Noted fewer reports of incidents of anti-social behaviour but DA is continuing to monitor this.</p>	
Received	(iii)	<p>Verbal update from DM, noted the Midlothian Council is focusing on the severe weather, particularly roads gritting and clearing footpaths in priority areas. Priority areas are set in consultation with Community Councils and other community planning partnerships, for example the NHS and bus companies. Council's roads team is 46 staff. Bin men, leisure staff and other staff</p>	

		and contractors have been drafted in to assist. Nine large gritters are working round the clock. Doing their best to refill grit bins. Concerns that bus companies are not contacting the Council quickly enough when there is a problem with a road. Noted that the pre-application consultation has opened for the new care facility on the site of the former St Mary's Primary School. Proposal is to build a 40-bed care home and around 40 flats/houses for people who may need care support. Plan will include keeping the former C-listed infant school as part of the development for leisure facilities for people in the care home and village. DM has proposed to re-name this building after Bill Prentice to commemorate all the work he did for elderly people in Bonnyrigg throughout his life. Noted that the pre-application for the care facility is available for people to view and comment on the Midlothian planning portal. Proposal is for demolition work to start before the summer holidays and for building work to begin at the end of 2021, depending on weather and Covid restraints. Noted that the Scottish budget probably won't be available until mid-March therefore DM will speak about this at the next Community Council meeting.	
Action	(i)	Councillors asked to provide written copy of their reports to DE to allow for detailed accuracy in the Minutes.	DA/DM/JL -D
ITEM	6	MIDLOTHIAN FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE	
Received	(i)	Report previously circulated.	
Noted	(i)	Noted NHS Lothian presentation Covid-19 vaccination programme. Noted volunteer efforts to assist those affected by Covid-19. Noted concerns about lack of transparency surrounding participatory budgeting. Noted a new sub-group has been set up to meet looking at developer contributions; MC and DE will attend. Noted proposed attendance by Police Scotland at next	

		MFCC meeting. Noted discussion with other Community Councils regarding their planning items; consensus is that most planning discussions take place in a separate meeting or in a sub-group.	
Noted	(ii)	That the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 February.	
Action	(i)	JI and DE to provide a report from next MFCC meeting.	JI/DE
ITEM	7	MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC, ROADS AND PATHS [MTRAP] UPDATE	
Received	(i)	Report previously circulated.	
Noted	(i)	Noted a presentation by Council Officer on gritting. This included a proposal to deliver new 1-tonne community grit bins which would be padlocked and the community to take ownership of keys and how they would be managed. BLCC has submitted proposals for three roads to be considered as part of the Council's roadworks capital expenditure programme. Noted a discussion on active travel proposals by Eskbank and Newtongrange Community Councils to introduce new cycle routes into Edinburgh. The MTRaP meeting was attended by Lindsay Haddow, Policy Manager for the Council's Roads Safety Team who confirmed that the Council's active travel strategy had been finalised for this year therefore the proposal could not be considered at this time, but that her team would be happy to offer guidance on additional sources of funding etc. The proposed Sheriffhall Roundabout upgrade has been temporarily put on hold until a number of objections to the proposed plan have been resolved. The proposal to introduce 20 mph speed limits across Midlothian has been put on hold because Sustrans have frozen all bids until April 2021. Once the bid has been approved the Council will begin a public consultation process.	
Noted	(ii)	Next meeting will be on Monday 8 March 2021.	
Action	(i)	Any questions to be raised at MTRAP send them to DE or RM.	DE/RM/All

ITEM	8	UPDATE ON BOUNDARY CHANGE WITH ESKBANK AND NEWBATTLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL	
Noted	(i)	Noted that the re-wording of the boundary change was agreed in principle at a recent Council meeting and is now with the Council's legal team.	
ITEM	9	UPDATE ON PROPOSAL TO MERGE WITH POLTONHALL AND HOPEFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL	
Noted	(i)	Noted that the legal notice has been drafted and should shortly be made available in order to begin the 90-day public consultation.	
Action	(i)	Action - JI and JA to draft a joint statement for the public announcement.	JI/JA
Action	(ii)	Both Community Councils to hold a joint meeting to agree a statement and to put together a feature article for the Advertiser.	All
Action	(iii)	DE to post the public announcement on social media and share it by email to Community Council mailing list	DE
ITEM	10	PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING	
Noted	(i)	Noted that each elected Councillor to receive £40 000 to spend on capital projects in the community. Elected members will go into discussions with local community groups to find out what they need. Previously this money has been spent in schools and nurseries, for example astro-turf surfaces at local primary schools, also restoring a statue damaged by vandalism. The money that Councillors receive must be spent on Council-owned property.	
ITEM	11	FINANCIAL REPORT	
Noted	(i)	Noted one recent transaction: £14.39 payment for Zoom. That there is £3783.90 in the bank account. No recently monthly statement from Bank of Scotland has been received. Noted concerns that the Bank of	

		Scotland Secure service does not appear to have prevented fraudulent transactions on the bank account.	
Action	(i)	BM to contact Bank of Scotland to enquire about statements	BM
ITEM	13	SECRETARY'S REPORT	
Received	(i)	Noted that DE continuing to attend Midlothian Federation of Community Council meetings and MTRaP meetings. Has attended some Neighbourhood Services re-design meetings. Has issued information on Council meetings for anyone who is interested. Has looked into Teams for Community Council meetings but believes this would not be as user friendly as Zoom. Still to look at shared document storage for the Community Council.	
Action	(i)	Look at shared storage for Community Council documents	DE
ITEM	14	AOCB	
Noted	(i)	Noted that BM would like to contact Lasswade High School to share information on the anniversary of the execution of the leaders of the war-time student led White Rose Group.	
Noted	(ii)	Noted the proceeds of the recent Duck Race are £1634.30, an increase of about £100 from 2020.	
Noted	(iii)	Noted an attempted break-in at the cellar of the Cockpen and Carrington Church Hall.	
Noted	(iv)	Noted the Zurich insurance renewal for Community Councils has been received and sent onto Midlothian Council for payment.	
Noted	(v)	Noted fond memories among Community Councillors of the former St Mary's Primary School building.	
ITEM	15	PLANNING	
Received	(i)	Report previously circulated.	
Noted	(i)	Noted that the pre-application consultation for the proposed care facility on the site of the old St Mary's	

		School has not started yet. Community Council looks forward to seeing details of proposal.	
Noted	(ii)	Noted that Sheriffhall South is listed in the local development plan therefore planning consent may be given to some of the proposal. MC anticipates a number of objections to the nature of the development and, because of its complexity, it will take some time before the application is resolved.	
Noted	(iii)	Noted that because of its historical importance to the area, the Community Council should endorse plans to support the Mavisbank Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan consultation . Following discussion it was agreed that MC would send an email.	
Action	(i)	MC to send an email endorsing the Mavisbank proposals.	MC
Noted	(iv)	Noted no known objections to the application for change of use from Storage (class 6) to Car Repair (class 5) and associated siting of 3 storage containers on adjacent land (retrospective) at Unit 1, Sherwood Ind Estate.	
Noted	(v)	Noted a planning application to remove existing 15-metre telecommunication masts on Eldindean Road and Rosewell Road and replace them with 20-metre masts.	
Noted	(vi)	Noted that all Community Councillors should be involved in discussions on larger planning applications. Proposal to hold a short 15-minute planning discussion prior to the full Community Council meeting if required. Proposal agreed by all present.	
Action	(ii)	DE to invite Community Councillors to attend future meetings at a pre-agreed time to discuss important planning applications.	DE/All
ITEM	16	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
Noted	(i)	Next meeting will be 11 March 2021 at 6.45pm, via Zoom.	