

BONNYRIGG AND LASSWADE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

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| 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>Midlothian Council Consultation</p> <p>21/00056/MSC Next stage of HS10 Erection of 103 dwelling houses, access roads, car parking and associated works (approval of some matters specified in conditions 3 and 4 of 16/00712/PPP: some of the conditions had been dealt with in 18/00538/MSC).</p> <p>MC made a response to the consultation regarding recreational facilities. Playparks for small children good</p> | |

and an activity trail but no facilities for older children. Parking for visitors did not seem generous.

NEW Applications for Planning

21/00088/PAC St Mary's Primary School site. This application is about the nature of the Pre-Application Consultation. Approved the week later. The PAC has not yet been set up.

21/00103/CL 6 Staiside Court. Application for Certificate of Lawfulness to turn shop into restaurant. Applicants do not believe they require a Change of Use PP as the classes included within the original planning permission.

21/00161/PPP 76 High Street, Bonnyrigg. (Building between Co-op and Bonnyrigg Parish Church where the Settlement Project has a Charity Shop). Application to refurbish building with a small extension at the rear and new door at front (converted window, flu and ventilation equipment). This to become offices on first floor and restaurant/café on ground floor with usual kitchen/toilets etc.

Not had real chance to study this as new today, Tuesday. Community Council need to discuss at next meeting.

Updates

20/00867/DPP Lasswade Park Pavilion. Transportation had responded and said if given permission an extension of the car park should be considered. But now the application has been withdrawn as it has been decided that no planning permission is required. It is to be hoped (and perhaps we should write) that the Car Park will be enlarged or some other traffic mitigation can be put in place as conditions of the tenants lease.

20/00589/DPP 70 High Street, Bonnyrigg. Change of use from retail to café. Application withdrawn.

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| | | <p>20/00527/DPP Elm Row, Lasswade. Application approved. All details not finalised but a row of town houses with parking at either end. Conditions on contamination (removal of petrol tanks always a big issue).</p> <p>21/00014/DPP Kennels Cottage, Gilmerton Road. Erection of a dwelling house as replacement for derelict Kennels. Renovation of Kennels rejected about 10 years ago as a house in the Green Belt. Basement and 2 floors. New house may be better than wreck but still contrary to Green Belt policy.</p> <p>20/00151/PPP Dalhousie Chesters, New objections regarding noise from Coachworks.</p> | |
| Noted | (i) | Concerns raised about the existing temporary post office at 76 High Street. | |
| Action | (i) | Proposal for 76 High Street to be put on Facebook page to engage community response. | DE |
| Action | (ii) | Going forward meeting will start slightly earlier to facilitate planning discussion at the start of the meeting and allow the Councillors to join the meeting later. | DE |
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| ITEM | 3 | Minutes of last meeting 11 February 2021 and matters arising | |
| Agreed | (i) | The minutes were proposed (RM) and seconded (BM) as an accurate reflection of the meeting. | |
| Noted | (i) | Objections received for Sherrifhall roundabout so will go to a public inquiry. | |
| Noted | (ii) | Merger consultation for the community council proposal will run until end of May 2021 and no objections have been raised so far. | |
| Noted | (iii) | BM noted that the White Rose Group issues will be discussed at Lasswade High Schools Rights to Respect Group. | |

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| Action | (i) | Next Federation Meeting will be in few weeks and Chair and DE will report back. | Chair/DE |
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| ITEM | 4 | POLICE REPORT | |
| Received | (i) | Report previously circulated. | |
| Noted | (i) | Attempted break in was not at Church as reported it was at the Church Hall. | |
| Noted | (ii) | JL-D mentioned that Police Scotland have received 2 calls regarding youth disorder in Bonnyrigg, but the community are encouraged to call Police Scotland if needed. | |
| Noted | (iii) | That there may be a delay in officers responding to youth disorder, this could be raised with the community police officers. | |
| Noted | (iv) | Scam phone calls/messages/digital crime are on the rise. | |
| Noted | (v) | That there have been several reports of van/car break-ins and vandalism in the Cameron Crescent area, more visible police patrols would be a deterrent. | |
| Action | (i) | JL-D to raise reports of van/car break-ins and vandalism in the Cameron Crescent area to community police officers and request more visible police patrols. | JL-D |
| Action | (ii) | JA to forward the information he receives from Neighbourhood Watch for the regarding digital crime. | JA |
| Action | (iii) | DE to look at the options for reporting scamming on our social media outlets to raise awareness. | DE |
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| ITEM | 5 | REPORT FROM MIDLOTHIAN COUNCILLORS | |
| Received | (ii) | Written update from DA received Questions to Leader I was delighted at the lovely words Derek gave in response to asking him to congratulate Debora Kayembe on her election to Lord Rector of Edinburgh University. Debora is a Bonnyrigg resident, she is a human rights lawyer who came to Scotland in 2011 as a refugee, when she had to flee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She has served on the board of the Scottish Refugee Council and is a | |

member of the office of the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Court Bar Association. She has also been honoured by becoming the first African to her portrait erected on the wall of the Royal Society of Edinburgh to honour her achievement and contributions. She recently launched the Freedom Walk campaign, a civil rights movement promoting social reforms, racial justice and community harmony.

I asked Derek about the risk to Midlothian should anything happen to the convoys of nuclear weapons passing through Midlothian and resting overnight in Penicuik. This was in response to a question I asked him about a year or so ago, to write to the Ministry of Defence, and ask if all safety measures had been done to safeguard the people of Midlothian should anything happen to the convoys. As far as I am aware Derek has had no response to those multiple requests. It very much worries me that these weapons of mass destruction travel through Midlothian or that they travel by road at all through our country. If anything did happen the MOD would expect first responders such as fire, and police, and NHS staff to take care of the public. It is my concern, above that of the damage that would happen; how would such responders know how to deal with such a catastrophe, no matter how well trained, when they are dealing with a close by cargo of high explosives combined with radioactive material, which they do not know if it was leaking or whatever. It is my understanding they would have to send to Torness for equipment before they could even begin to deal with anything. Probably the most they could do would be to close roads, but where does that leave the public and children in school etc.

Motion to Council asking that the Council recognise there is no place for racism, sectarianism, and other forms of discrimination. That we agree to establish a cross party working group to review street names, statues, buildings and property to recognise their history and context, not to change them or knock them down, but how that impacts on Midlothian's people and beyond today and build that into our curriculum. The hope is that we understand the history of racism, sectarianism and other discriminations, and that will help to understanding, and removal of all types of discrimination and its lexicon. I hope this will lead to an enlightening and exciting experience especially for our young people, but also for everyone.

Motion I asked that Council recognises that local businesses be encouraged and helped to register with Excel Scotland so we can make it easier for them to provide services to the Council, thereby reducing our carbon footprint, boost our economy, and provide much needed employment for our communities.

Portfolio. Education. 15th of March will see more children going back to school. All I think will hugely welcome this. It will not however be back to normal just yet and will depend on 'R' numbers etc., however it is encouraging. It will also mean a huge amount of work for head teachers and senior staff, and others we don't even think about. Risk assessments, social distancing, reporting, I cannot even really begin to write all that is involved. We must thank all of our school staff for all their efforts. Digital learning is progressing with council agreeing a financial plan going forward. This is for me a hugely exciting way forward. Not only will be it beneficial if we encounter further pandemics as is predicted; it is massively beneficial to those with learning difficulties. I know as a profoundly dyslexic person just how liberating using computers and digital technology is. But it will also allow

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| | | <p>inter school curriculum sharing, thus opening up the curriculum to really almost unlimited courses. It also has the potential to open education to classrooms outside Midlothian, and the UK, but that is all in the future however far that may be.</p> <p>Cycling incident. I finished a long walk around Rosewell, around 10K, along the walkway. You will understand my wee dogs were sitting well behaved and close to my heel when I stopped for a few moments to chat to a lady and her little girl. A cyclist sped through between us; there was no warning signal given. Unfortunately, my wee dog who had probably seen the cyclist and decided that sitting on my right hand side would be safer padded to make this move just as the cyclist sped through running over my dog's neck in the process. Fortunately, I think it was only the front wheel that ran over her, and fingers crossed she seems none the worse. We need to do something about having etiquette rules for all using the walkways. It is becoming more dangerous for people with pets and children to make casual enjoyable walks and cycle runs along them. Monday nearly ended in tragedy for my wee dog, and it was very upsetting for me, the wee girl and her mum who was very kind and helpful, and for the youth who ran over my dog. Derek has agreed the 3 Councillors meet with officers to come to a solution to this problem before a tragedy of greater proportion happens.</p> <p>I am always willing to help, advise or whatever, just contact me through my email: dianne.alexander@midlothian.gov.uk</p> | |
| Received | (ii) | <p>Verbal update from JL-D, remaining pupils returning to school in a blended learning capacity and outdoor contact sports and organised groups can also begin. Concerns from Education Department about staffing</p> | |

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| | | especially in the early years, for example for pregnant/vulnerable staff. Covid safe restrictions such as social distancing are being re-introduced on an education setting. Lots of work going on behind the scenes to facilitate a return to education. | |
| Received | (iii) | Verbal update from DM, continuing to liaise with Police Scotland and Midlothian Council regarding cyclists at speed on the railway walk but it was noted that unless formal regulations and legislation are put in place there is limited options available. DM confirmed that the path is designated as a walk/cycle way and is a core path. Budget setting for Midlothian Council have begun, with cross party input, with growth stimulus such as school and council house building brought forward to start this year. Monies from developer contributions is partly finding this growth and infrastructure and education provision. Scottish Government funding is also funding the growth, particularly the building of housing allocation and road improvements. | |
| Noted | (i) | Cyclists at speed may be breaching the peace this can be raised with Police Scotland | |
| Action | (i) | DE to raise the issue of cyclists at speed with Police Scotland for advice on any laws that may be being broken. | DE |
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| ITEM | 6 | MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC, ROADS AND PATHS [MTRAP] UPDATE | |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DE and RM, sub group looking at active travel is being set up between Eskbank and Edinburgh primarily to promote safe cycling. Several streets in the area are being resurfaced over the next few weeks. Speeding issues were discussed, several hot spot areas, this is being progressed. Proposal to introduce a 20 mph limit through Midlothian has been put on hold until April 2021. Core paths may be blocked/locked by landowners and this is not actively | |

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| | | been addressed by Midlothian Council, this will be progressed by RM. | |
| Action | (i) | RM to compile core path access issues and take forward with Midlothian Council. | RM |
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| ITEM | 7 | FINANCIAL REPORT | |
| Received | (i) | Pre audit approval accounts previously circulated and it was agreed that funds from Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council will be transferred into BLCC account when the merger is completed and the account name changed to reflect the merger. Noted that banking alerts can be set up to advise of any bank withdrawals and that BM has been checking the bank balance regularly. | |
| Action | (i) | Constitution for the merged community councils has been amended and will be circulated to the Chair for input. | JA |
| Action | (ii) | JL-D to confirm with Midlothian Council if she is able to audit BLCC accounts. | JL-D |
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| ITEM | 8 | SECRETARY'S REPORT | |
| Received | (i) | Verbal update from DE, still attending Federation and MTRAPP meetings, merger proposals are now in the public domain and have been published on social media and in the written press. | |
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| ITEM | 9 | AOCB | |
| Noted | (i) | That 30mph stickers are available from Police Scotland for community use. | |
| Noted | (ii) | Licensing and parking for Broomieknowe Golf Club discussed and agreed that DE will contact the Licensing Board to say that BLCC have no formal objection to the proposed hours. | |
| Noted | (iii) | Concerns raised about parking at Lasswade Pavilion and the funding available to possibly extend the car park which will need to be privately funded by the new leaseholder. | |

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| Action | (i) | Chair/DE to contact Licensing Board to say that BLCC have not formal objection to the proposed hours. | Chair/DE |
| Action | (ii) | Chair to confirm with Midlothian Council if the Lasswade Pavilion lease has been granted. | Chair |
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| ITEM | 16 | DATE OF NEXT MEETING | |
| Noted | (i) | Next meeting will be 8th April 2021 via Zoom. | |
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