Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 17th May 2007
in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg at 7.30 pm.

Present: Ian Baxter (Vice-Chair), Cameron Scott, Brian Scott, Gilbert Scott, Ruth Scott (Secretary), George Birrell, Stewart Renwick.

In attendance: Tracey Murray (Advertiser), Councillor Derek Milligan, Councillor Jackie Aitchison, Councillor Bob Constable, Community Constable David St Clair-Gunn, Inspector Neil Simpson (Lothian Borders Police), Residents from Scollon Avenue, Bonnyrigg.

Apologies: Neil Stewart (Chair), Dorothy Innes (Treasurer)

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Proposed Brian Scott, Seconded Gilbert Scott.

Financial Report:

Current Account £1,034.08 Twinning Account £1,712.04

Cheques Paid:

Neil Stewart - £25.00 (reimbursement for retirement gift presented to Margaret Workman – in recognition of her years of service to the Community Council).

Esk Valley Trust - annual donation (Associate Membership) - £60.00.

Police Report:

As the meeting was attended by residents from Scollon Avenue, regarding the recent youth disorder and vandalism problems suffered in the area, the discussion opened with a progress report on policing. Ian Baxter then read out the letter that Neil Stewart had written to the Divisional Commander in support of the Scollon area residents. It was noted that the police had been out with the Community "A" team at the week-end following the last Community Council meeting.

The residents from the Scollon Avenue area asked the Midlothian Councillors if it would be possible to have the children's play area moved further away from the houses.

Inspector Neil Simpson covers Bonnyrigg, Lasswade and Penicuik and he reported on a recent initiative in Penicuik which had met with some success and he hoped to introduce a similar one here in Bonnyrigg. He said that the Queensway, Penicuik area had a particular problem with youths and Midlothian Council Leader Adam Montgomery and the police had sent letters to Penicuik residents highlighting the problem and had used CCTV at Queensway to help identify those involved. A team of twelve special constables subsequently rounded up the offenders. The Inspector had also telephoned parents on the matter and had met with a good response. He said, however, that ASBOs are very hard to get for those aged less than 16 years old. Councillor Milligan suggested a dispersal order but the Inspector could not fund such an order.

Constable David St Clair-Gunn reported on the crime solvency statistics as follows:-

Crime	Recorded	Solved
Violent	1	0
Sexual	0	0
Dishonesty	21	8
Vandalism	47	26
Miscellaneous	12	12
Totals:	81	46
Solvency Rate 56%		

Drug figures: 2 possessions recorded with intent to supply.
1 possession recorded for personal use.

Reports from Midlothian Councillors:

Councillor Milligan reported that the first full meeting of new Midlothian Council following the May elections, had been today (17/05/07).

Councillor Aitchison had also contacted Inspector Borthwick (L & B Police) and had asked him about available police resource in the area.

It was noted, however, that youth crime is a national problem .

Councillor Bob Constable reported that Lasswade & District Civic Society had recently carried out a landscape clear-up at Lasswade and Polton.

Transport

Nothing new to report. Brian Scott spoke of the need for another bus stop to be sited opposite the new flats on Cockpen Road, Bonnyrigg. Councillor Aitchison agreed to raise the matter with Midlothian Council.

Community Council Web Site:

Ian Baxter reported that the recent problems with the new web server had been resolved.

Planning:

Nothing new to report.

Correspondence:

The meeting noted the following correspondence that had been received during the month:-

* Traffic waiting restrictions outside Midlothian schools.
* SEPA monthly newsletter
* Letter from Councillor Jim Muirhead regarding Community planning.
* Midlothian Council Meeting minutes.
* Midlothian Voluntary Sector minutes.

Any Other Competent Business:

* Viridor/MacGlass plant - Ian Baxter had been contacted by Radio Scotland and Neil Stewart had also been contacted by the media, concerning reports from the Cockpen Association of glass dust appearing near the glass recycling plant. Ian advised that the only body empowered to act on the matter is SEPA.

* Area opposite Pryde Terrace, Bonnyrigg – It was reported that vehicles had been left abandoned and that there were garages with roofs off. The responsibility for the site rests with Melville Housing and Councillor Derek Milligan offered to pursue the matter with them.

* Roslin Glen – Gilbert Scott asked if the recreation leaflet on Roslin Glen, supplied by Midlothian Council was accurate, as it stated that fishing was not allowed. He did not believe this to be true. The councillors took it as an action to find out.

* George Birrell reported on the quality of the resurfacing work at Dobbies Road. He was informed that the utility companies were responsible and that the matter was difficult to control.

As there was no further business, Ian Baxter closed the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 21st June 2007 at 7:30pm Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg.