

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 17 April 2008 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg at 7.45pm.

Present: Neil Stewart (Chairman), Ian Baxter (Vice Chairman), Stewart Renwick (Secretary), Dorothy Innes (Treasurer), George Birrell, Cameron Scott, Ruth Scott, Gilbert Scott.

In attendance: Councillors Derek Milligan (from 8:30) & Jackie Aitchison (Midlothian Council), Tracey Murray (Advertiser), PC Rod Stewart (Lothian & Borders Police), Billy Peacock (Midlothian Public Partnership [Part meeting]) Elaine Ferguson (Midlothian Tenants Association).

Apologies: Councillor Bob Constable, Brian Scott

Amendments: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting: These were proposed by George Birrell, seconded by Cameron Scott.

Matters arising:

Bus shelter Waverley Court Cockpen Road, Bonnyrigg — it is due to be erected on or soon after the last Monday in April 2008.

Twinning — Now that the school holidays are over Neil Stewart will be contacting Albert Jaster, (Head Teacher of Lasswade High School), to try to set up email links with schools in St Cyr l'École.

Action: NS

Post Office — the move to Polton Street will be 2/3 May

Bonnyrigg Health Centre car park being used by commuters — councillor Aitchison reiterated that the car parking was not the responsibility of the council. The car park is owned by, and the responsibility of, the three practices in the health centre. PC Rod Stewart will ask the traffic wardens to monitor the parking on double yellow lines.

Action: RS

Litter strewn around the proposed Cockpen conservation area— Councillor Aitchison informed the meeting that a special up lift had been carried out on the area from Cockpen crossroads to Dalhousie, to clear the litter.

Midlothian Community Hospital:

Billy Peacock chair of the Public Partnership Forum (PPF) gave an update on the new Midlothian Community Hospital.

- The Public Partnership Forum is a network for anyone in Midlothian interested in health, and to ensure Midlothian people are involved in planning and decision making about local health services.
- The site for the new Midlothian Community Hospital has been secured (land opposite Mayshade). The development is now moving forward.
- The new Community Hospital will be on levels and provide 88 beds, 40 will be for frail and elderly, continual care beds, 24 assessment beds for older people with mental health problems.
- It will also include a day hospital for older people with mental health problems, an out-patient department, including x-ray services, child health clinic, physiotherapy and a range of other health services.
- Free car parking, cycle paths and walkways leading directly to the hospital site will be provided.
- First bus will provide buss access to the front door.
- During construction, the area around the hospital building will be landscaped to soften the outlook and pleasing to the eye.

- Roslinlee and Loanhead hospitals will be closing with the patients moved to the new community hospital.
- Construction is due to start September 2007 with completion June 2010
- The health board is financing the hospital.

Finance:

Current Account	£1632.49
Twinning	£1730.27

Police Report:

PC Stewart gave the following report:-

Crime	Recorded	Solved
Violent	1	1
Sexual	1	0
Dishonesty	10	1
Vandalism	29	3
Miscellaneous	8	8
Totals:	49	13
Solvency Rate 27%		

The overall solvency rate for the year April 07 to March 08 is 53%

Councillor Aitchison enquired to the activity of the drug scene in the area and was advised that it was relatively quiet at present.

Midlothian Councillors' Report:

Councillor Jackie Aitchison –

- Plans have been lodged for 31 flats to be constructed on the Scot-mid site and should generate 46 parking places.
- Plinth adjacent to Pia's (fish & chip shop) – this has now been manufactured and will be installed with summer plantings.
- The Hopefield/ Campview housing development is progressing well – a specialist company has removed Petrol / Diesel tanks.
- Polton House – a business company, (James Henry), has now moved into the premises. The company operates large commercial vehicles, believed to be contrary to current planning permission. Midlothian Council's traffic officers are currently addressing the situation.
- NHS dental practice in the old Bonnyrigg Health Centre – this will consist of five chairs; four for NHS Midlothian patients; one orthodontist treatment for children. The centre will also include a day care for acute mental care. Planned opening is mid-June.
- Sixty Bed Gorebridge Care Home is almost complete with the final snagging now in progress. Full emergency evacuation practice will be carried out prior to the facility opening.
- As there has been significant completions of projects in housing, schools and care homes a special issue of Midlothian News is being published to highlight these achievements.
- The developers at Cockpen have listened to the protestations and are moving the SUDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) ponds further back. They are surrounded with metal fences, which allow neighbouring houses to view the ponds. This is believed to be best practice for safety.
- The Community Action Team are proving successful however the main test will be during the summer nights. The new licensing laws are also having an impact
- The gas board will be carrying out major maintenance work in the Bonnyrigg area over the next two years which will cause major disruption.
- Gilmartins are again working in the high street outside the Masonic hall attempting to rectify the flooding problems.

Ian Baxter asked if there was any update on the introduction of the bus tracker system. It is believed that there are problems due to week signals. Midlothian Council has offered the use of there monitoring facility in Dalkeith to assist.

Cameron Scott asked if it was possible to have the toll traffic lights enhanced with a filter to turn right, as there are constant delays in the traffic progressing along the high street due to traffic and in particular the service buses turning right into Polton street. Councillor Aitchison advised that Midlothian Council traffic department were investigating if this is possible.

Planning:

Development at 51b Bonnyrigg High Street behind Garfee's café — Brian Scott has written to the planning authority detailing the community councils objections raised at the previous meeting(20 March2008)

Development 81 to 83 Bonnyrigg High Street (Scot-mid building) — Proposed plans have been received regarding this development. Discussion on these plans raised concerns regarding inadequate car parking, a walkway through the development that had a gate shown at one end only and the height of the development in relationship to the surrounding buildings. Brian Scott to write to the planning authority.

Action: BS

It was agreed to invite Muirs who are the developers to our next meeting (15 May2008) to brief the CC on the development.

Action: SR

Planning application has been submitted to build 55 houses at Hopfield / Sherwood Crescent

Transport:

Changes to the X78 and 79 bus services operated by First Edinburgh with effect from Monday 9 June 2008.

The 79 is being withdrawn in its current form, to be replaced by a new service 78 which will run from Rosewell via Polton Mill, Bonnyrigg, Eskbank [not calling at TESCO], Dalkeith, Gilmerton, Cameron Toll, the Bridges and Princes St to Haymarket. The X78 route is not changing [it will continue to operate direct from Eskbank Toll to Gilmerton, not via Dalkeith] but there will be some adjustment to the timings of individual journeys.

The new 78 route adds a direct service from the Rosewell-Dalkeith section through to the Gilmerton Road corridor into the city that has not been possible on the current network without changing buses in Dalkeith.

Twinning:

An invitation to walk the West Highland Way with the Chairman of the Heinsberg Twinning Association was extended to all. No CC members were able to take up this offer.

The twinning association have a European event on Thursday May 8 at 8pm. The format is addresses from consul and one on European integration and unity by a representative of the European commission followed by wine tasting. Tickets available from Neil Stewart.

Annual General Meeting — This will take place in the Scottish Mining Museum Newtongrange on Monday 26 May 2008 at 7pm. Neil Stewart will be attending.

Visit to Komarom -Esztergom September — the cost will be in the region of £700 plus airfare.

Newsletter:

Ian Baxter presented proof copies of the newsletter, for the CC to comment on. All agreed that it was very good. The newsletter will be printed by Abbey print who will produce it within a

week of receiving it which is anticipated in the next two weeks. Ian Baxter will distribute himself with delivery to start 6 May in the Poltonhall area prior to their Gala day. If there are any difficulties in distribution, all members of the CC will assist. Ian will report on progress at the next meeting (15 May)

Action: IB

George Birrell proposed a vote of thanks to Ian, Cameron and Neil for their efforts in producing a professional newsletter.

Correspondence:

Neil Stewart has prepared a folder containing this month's correspondence that will be passed around all members of the CC and returned to Stewart Renwick, for preparation for the next meeting.

- Esk Valley Trust AGM 13 May 2008 — It was agreed to again donate £60 to the trust to maintain our connection with the trust. Neil Stewart will respond.

Action: NS

- Midlothian Council Minutes
- Spokes newsletter
- Letter regarding presentation on Community Service Officers to be held in June.
- European Heritage Days - Midlothian "Doors Open Day" 2008 [Saturday 13th September 2008]. we have been invited to suggest some other places that could be approached by Midlothian Council, with a view to getting them to opening their doors to the public. Neil Stewart will respond

Action: NS

- Midlothian Council – Midlothian Core Paths final draft. Any response to be submitted by September 2008.

Any Other Competent Business:

Local Cleanup — Ian Baxter suggested that B&LCC should promote a clean up of the local area. He envisaged involving other organisations, obtaining equipment etc. from the council, with the action taking place next spring. Ian is prepared to lead this project and contact other organisations. The CC agreed that this would be a good idea and careful selection of the area is made to gain maximum impact.

Visit to Parliament — Cameron Scott suggested that B&LCC take up Rhona Brankin MSP offer to provide a tour of the parliament. It was agreed to arrange a visit.

Action: SR

Street sign Eskbank Road — George Birrell raised the problem that the only sign identifying Eskbank road is situated at the roundabout at Tosco with no identification where the housing starts in Bonnyrigg. Councillor Atchison will raise this item with the relevant department.

Action: JA

Cemetery Grass Cutting — Neil Stewart enquired if the council were responsible for the grass cutting the local cemeteries. He was informed that this was the case but due to the poor weather the council was only now commencing cutting grass.

Dundas Street traffic congestion — Elaine Ferguson raised the problem of congestion of traffic in Dundas Street particularly when buses are passing. It is particularly bad where vehicles park outside Cost cutters whilst the owners are shopping, with vehicles even parking on the pavement. Another area of problem is at Waverley Court if two buses are stopped on opposite side of the road, when traffic is stopped in both directions.

Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 15 May 2008
(Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg) at 7.30 pm.