

## **Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on 16 October 2008 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Neil Stewart (Chairman), Ian Baxter (Vice Chairman), Stewart Renwick (Secretary), George Birrell, Brian Scott, Elaine Ferguson, Ruth Scott, Gilbert Scott, Benny McIntyre, Cameron Scott.

**In attendance:** Mr E Ramsay, PC Rod Stewart (Lothian & Borders Police [part meeting]), Councillor Bob Constable, Councillor Jackie Aitchison, Paul Thomas (MD Scotland East First Bus [part meeting]), Brian Peat (Commercial Manager Scotland East First Bus [part meeting])

**Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed Paul Thomas and Brian Peat to the meeting. He then asked Ian Baxter to give some background to Paul's attendance at our meeting.

#### **First Bus Presentation:**

Ian Baxter informed the meeting that Paul Thomas had contacted him after there had been a number of articles in the local paper criticising the performance of first bus. At the meeting which was quite effective Paul had offered to attend one of our meetings.

Paul Thomas:

Paul intimated that he was glad to be at the meeting and informed the meeting the he had moved from National Express to head up First bus.

Paul's presentation in summary was that First Bus had a number of measurements in place measuring their performance these include mileage and Punctuality. The tram works were a major problem and First bus is discussions with the council and TIE. Major problems are caused when facility companies dig up roads as First bus do not get notification and often it is only when a bus encounters a problem is the first time that First Bus know if the problem.

Cleanliness of buses was identified as a major problem. A project (fresh start) is in progress engaging with cleaners and training of staff. Also PPC training for drivers is high priority, including customer care, conflict management; training is carried out at Livingston.

The replacement strategy for First bus is cascading buses down through various regions. High priority is London (Olympics) and Glasgow (Commonwealth Games). The priority is for low floor vehicles. The average age of the present fleet 7.5 to 8.5 years. Connection to bus tracker is possibly 18 month away.

There had been a fare increase in the middle of this year, the company is looking at next year and fuel cost is the biggest issue regarding costs.

Neil Stewart thanked Paul for his very comprehensive presentation.

The Chairman then took item 7 as the next item of the agenda.

#### **Police Report:**

PC Rod Stewart Gave the following report;

Crime	Recorded	Solved
Violent	1	0
Sexual	2	2
Dishonesty	38	12
Mal Misc	20	0
Other Crime	8	7
<b>Totals:</b>	69	21
Solvency Rate 30.43%		

A new Midlothian action team will be in operation from the 4 November 2008. This team will be split across Rosewell and Loanhead.

CS Informed the meeting that Broomieknowe neighbourhood watch had been disbanded due to lack of interest. PC RS made the meeting aware that the police would attend neighbourhood watch meeting if they were asked for help, but priorities had change from the time when they were very proactive in neighbourhood watch schemes.

GB thanked PC RS for the increased activity Polton Gardens.

There is a Halloween initiative contacting retail outlets to be aware of over purchase of eggs. Letters will be dropped off to all retailers in the area.

The police are awaiting a fire report on the case of the fire at Bonnyrigg Rose football ground.

PC Stewart left the meeting.

**Apologies:** Dorothy Innes (Treasurer), Rhona Brankin (MSP)

**Amendments:** None

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

**Matters arising:**

*June Meeting*

- Disappearance of materials from improvement work at Eskdale drive. This material was the property of Lovell's, therefore Midlothian council have no knowledge of any issues. **Discharged**
- Drinking fountain — the fountain is 100 years old and CS felt that the date should be marked in some way. The cost of finding where the source of water would be high, BS suggested that it could be a recirculation system. The ownership is unknown. Any changes would have to be carried out by a specialist company. Could be improved by old taps and drains, council will look at this through Elaine Richardson.

**Action: JA (Carried forward)**

*September Meeting*

- New dental facility — what services will be provided. A total of five new, purpose-built dental surgeries will be situated within the former Bonnyrigg Health Centre. Two of the surgeries will provide emergency and short courses of treatment for unregistered patients. The additional three surgeries will accept patients on referral for special care, frail older persons and paediatric services. **Discharged**
- Cockpen Glen rubbish — **Discharged**
- Midlothian Community Hospital — is a bereavement suite planned. There will be this facility. **Discharged**
- Reinstatement of dropped kerbs in Eskdale Terrace. This is being done **Discharged**
- Walkway — very overgrown Ongoing **Discharged**
- Problem parking in Dundas street — Police to be emailed **Discharged**

**Finance:**

No change since last month	
Current Account	£1,230.70
Twinning	£1,735.63

**Midlothian Councillors' Report:**

**Councillor Jackie Aitchison —**

The community hospital — is delivery is getting put back. At the end of this month (October) Falkirk CH will be finished and all the plant will then be transferred through to Hardengreen site. The schedule for build is 17 months i.e. 2010

Dental Centre — this is now open and provides emergency services to the public. They will treat non-registered patients as an emergency and will assist in finding a NHS dentist.

Wadingburn speeding — is a major problem there has been a meeting with residents and police in an attempt to try and reduce the speed limit to 30mph. GB stated that the use of Lasswade green as a rat run was dangerous.

New Litter bins — there is a design problem with the catches for the lids and are to be replaced.

Special Olympics GB Summer Games — 6 ladies from Bonnyrigg are taking part in these games which are being held at Leicester in July JA is pushing for subsidy for these ladies.

Coal Fund — the meeting to distribute this fund allocated £25k for a car park at the Bonnyrigg rose FC ground, with a road in via the Calderwood entrance. This would be public parking during the week and used by the football club on a Saturday.

An allocation was made to Bonnyrigg church for repair to the roof of the town clock. Further funding will be requested from WREN, who now considers places of worship for allocation of grants.

A notice board for PHCC was granted funding of £640, to be located in the public library.

BS asked if the Rose were covered by insurance. The answer was no and they had lost everything. JA intimated that there is a meeting on Sunday where a change to a community club will be considered to allow access to other funding.

**Councillor Bob Constable —**

Distributor road — it is hoped that the road will be opened October / November. The opening is dependant on a successful safety audit. Two have already been carried out. The final audit is carried out by the police and is the responsibility of the developer to complete this task. BS commented that he believed it would be quite easy to crash into the SUDS ponds. He also suggested that if there is to be a prolonged delay the emergency services should be able to use it.

Springfield site — this is now nearing completion.

Terrorism seminar — took place, Midlothian not considered a target but training would be carried out.

**Planning:**

Recent planning documents listed that the restaurant situated in the old mill site in Lasswade had been granted permission to the owners to demolish.

BS had written to the planning department objecting to the building of a hotel at the Eskbank golf range. He cited intrusion into green belt, further rural disturbance, and the existing number of licensed premises.

There is planning submission for Dobbies to expand their office facility.

Janice Neil Eskbank Amenity Society felt a meeting with B&LCC would be advantageous. BS to contact in the first instance.

**Action: BS**

**Transport:**

Nothing to report

**Twinning:**

Still waiting to hear from school.

**Lasswade High School:**

SR to contact the high School to set up meeting to brief the CC on the problems.

**Action: SR**

**Remembrance Service:**

BS will represent the CC at Lasswade and NS would attend Bonnyrigg.

**Action: BS/NS**

**Correspondence:**

**Travel Team**

New Letter and updated Night Bus N31 timetable

**Association of Scottish Community Councils**

Notice of their conference on Saturday 22 November at the Scottish Parliament. Registration closes 18th November.

**Midlothian Children's Panel Advisory Committee**

CPAC have a vacancy for a member. If anyone is interested there are contact details on the letter.

**Viridor**

Minutes of the 24th September meeting.

**Midlothian Public Partnership Forum**

Minutes of September Meeting

Agenda for October Meeting

October Newsletter

**Post Watch Scotland Newsletter**

This is the last one as Post Watch have merged with Energy Watch and National Consumer Council to form a new organisation called Consumer Focus

**Gavin Brown MSP**

A copy of his annual report is included in the correspondence folder.

**Midlothian Community Plan**

Midlothian moving forward is the new community plan for Midlothian and outlines the strategic direction for joint working in the next four years. Copy for all

**Christmas Lights**

A letter was received from Bonnyrigg Community Events Committee requesting sponsorship for the Christmas lights in Bonnyrigg. It was agreed that the CC would sponsor to the same value as last year. DI to send cheque, SR will contact DI

**Action: SR/DI**

**AOCB:**

**Post BOX**

BM raised the problem of no secure post box since the post office had moved into Spar. IB who has been corresponding with the Post office agreed to write requesting a post box be established inside Spar.

**Action: IB**

**Digital Switchover**

SR attended a meeting on Digital switchover run by Digital UK who is responsible for managing the change over, on behalf of the CC. Copies of the information leaflets were made available to all councillors.

**Town Centre Rejuvenation**

BS attended a meeting on this subject on behalf of CC. It was very poorly attended with only 18 attendees. There was wide and varied discussion in which Bonnyrigg does not appear to be too bad in comparison to places such as North Berwick. Parking in town centres is an issue. There was broad discussion on law and order.

**Broomieknowe Community Watch**

CS intimated that the community watch organisation had £70 in funds. The remaining office bearers had agreed that this funding should go to the church roof repairs. It was agreed to minute this in the CC minutes as a record of this decision.

**Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday 20 November 2008  
(Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg) at 7.30 pm.