

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 20 November 2008 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg at 7.30pm.

Present: Neil Stewart (Chairman), Ian Baxter (Vice Chairman), Dorothy Innes (Treasurer), Stewart Renwick (Secretary), Brian Scott, Elaine Ferguson, Ruth Scott, Gilbert Scott, Benny McIntyre, Cameron Scott.

In attendance: Councillor Bob Constable, Councillor Jackie Aitchison, Derek Milligan, PC Derek Frizzel (Penicuik Police)

Welcome: The Chairman Welcomed all to the last meeting of the year.

Apologies: George Birrell, Eddie Ramsay, PC Rod Stewart (Lothian & Borders Police [part meeting]), Rhona Brankin (MSP)

Amendments: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting: These were proposed by Gilbert Scott and seconded by Ian Baxter

Matters arising:

June Meeting

- Drinking fountain — the fountain is 100 years old and CS felt that the date should be marked in some way. The council will not put water into the fountain due to H&S. The council will look at sourcing ornate taps and grills through Elaine Richardson. A face lift will be carried out during the spring by a specialist company.

Action: JA (Carried forward)

September Meeting

- Eskbank amenity society — BS has contacted Janis Neil regarding combined meeting. **Discharged**
- Lasswade High School meeting — meeting organised for 11th December. **Discharged**
- Remembrance Services —NS and BS represented CC there was a good turnout of the towns youth at both ceremonies. **Discharged**
- Christmas Lights sponsorship — DI provided cheque for £150 to Bonnyrigg Community Event committee. Councillor Milligan informed the meeting that the events committee now consisted of 5 members. Preparations for the Christmas Lights are almost complete. There will be a magic show for children 3 to 9 years with the children receiving a "goodie bag". During the day there will be two Santa grottos with stilt walkers, clowns and fire eaters to entertain throughout the day. The lights will be switched on by two pupils from Hawthornden School along with the MEP. The total bill for the event is £5,000. **Discharged**
- Secure post Box within Spar— IB received a holding letter from the Post Office, while their Collections manager looks into the request. **Discharged**

Financial Report:

Current Account	£1,041.16
Twinning	£1,736.32

Cheque for Christmas Lights £150.00 paid on 20/11/08

Police Report:

PC Derek Frizzel gave the following report;

Crime	Recorded	Solved
Violent	0	1
Sexual	0	0
Dishonesty	42	11
Mal Misc	29	5
Other Crime	7	6
Totals:	78	23

The community action team started in October with 6 officers allocated. There are two teams in Midlothian based in Bonnyrigg and Loanhead.

Vandalism is the biggest reported incident and are the most difficult to solve.

2 Quad bikes have been ordered to be used where cars do not have access. The community team are trained on bikes.

JA informed the meeting that Inspector Simpson had produced a questionnaire to allow the public to "have your say" on policing. There had been a public meeting held by Inspector Simpson, to which NS attended on behalf of the Community Council and provided the following brief report. The meeting was very poorly attended. The Inspector highlighted the present priorities are national security, antisocial behaviour, drugs supply, public protection and violence. Locally there had been a drugs raid which had culminated with 33 arrests. Drunks test purchasing is being carried out to reduce the purchasing of alcohol by minors. The inspector believes in high visibility policing.

BMc raised the issue of poor tarpaulins on lorries around Bonnyrigg and on the bypass allowing the content of the tipper to escape on to the road. DF assured the meeting that the traffic department were out on the roads and this issue is one which they pull up offending vehicles. DF advised BMc to phone Dalkeith especially if he could identify the offending vehicle.

**Midlothian Councillors' Report:
Councillor Bob Constable —**

The runway repair and upgrade at Edinburgh airport has been completed and the flight paths will revert to normal during the night.

The Bonnyrigg heating system price has increased to £100 per month, and people who use the system are complaining that it is a flat rate regardless of the size of the property, and there is no incentive to reduce the use of heating and reduce the individual's bill. JA stated that scheme had been started in 1948. He stressed there were thermometers on the individual radiators to control the heating in each room. He also informed the meeting that there were 219 people in the scheme

Councillor Jackie Aitchison —

The council's day to day business had been affected by the visit of HMI and auditors, who were there to examine and ask questions which must answered. This put a considerable additional demand on the council resources.

Councillor Derek Milligan — The current financial crisis is not missing Midlothian Council. The primary budget has a black hole of £20m and revenue £3m. Hard decisions will have to be made, however other councils are in a worse position.

Midlothian are advocating to bring the house build program forward to take advantage of cheaper building costs and to help employment.

The government had provided £25m budget which was divided by COSLA and Midlothian's share being £200K

The council will be hit by home owners defaulting and not meeting their commitments.

Midlothian are about to commission the build of 300 house. If the government matched this commitment it would be great help in these difficult times.

Debate in parliament on the lack of school building, with LHSC in urgent need of replacement, again Councillor Milligan felt that this was the time to commission a school building program.

DI asked the councillors if the financial climate was causing difficulties for council tenants. DM replied that it was very rare that someone would be evicted due to financial difficulties.

BS raised the problem of car tyres on the glen road. JA again reiterated that if the rubbish is not on the public side of the fences, there is nothing that the council can do to tidy it up. JA will have the council contact the land owner in an attempt to have the rubbish tidied up.

Action: JA

Planning:

There has been nothing contentious or significant passing through the planning process.

Transport:

Nothing to report

Twining:

NS is monitoring the St Cyr WEB site and has noticed that the Mayor has been mandated to commence discussion on twinning with a town in Germany. NS has informed Bob Attack. The feeling of the meeting was one of disappointment that there appears to no interest from St Cyr in carrying on our twinning link. It was agreed that IB to write to St Cyr one more time and if there was no response or a negative response and we will reluctantly terminate the twinning with St Cyr. There is a twinning association meeting on Monday evening where NS will inform the confederation of our decision.

Action: NS/IB

Since this meeting there has been significant positive communication regarding a continuation of the twinning with ST Cyr.

Lasswade High School:

A meeting has been organised for the 11 December at 10am with Albert Jaster (Headmaster). IB, DI, SR and BS will represent the CC at this meeting.

Dalkeith to Penicuik Walkway:

The CC has been contacted by Midlothian commercial services department, seeking support for a grant application to WREN. The application is to upgrade 1km of the walkway from Dalhousie Chester to Rosewell. The walkway is to be tarred at cost of £100K the council are applying for 50% from WREN (i.e. £50k). It was agreed to support the application. SR to write.

Action: SR

Co-option of Eddie Ramsay:

SR proposed the co-option and GS seconded. Eddie Ramsay duly co-opted onto the community council.

Correspondence:

Public Partnership Forum

Notes from October meeting.

Information on Current requests for involvement.

Agenda for meeting 20th Nov

Document on Patients Rights

PPF update and Questionnaire on the PPF

Licensing applications

Somerfields, Royal Oak, Anvil, Calderwood, Glorias, Dalhousie Castle and Poltonhall Stores

Midlothian Council

Festive waste collection information on how the council intends to communicate with public.

December 25 will be collected on 27 December and 1 January will be collected on 3 January

December 26 will be collected on 3 January and 2 January collected on 4 January.

Midlothian Council is adopting on or after 12 December the Local plan as modified. This will replace Local plan (2003) and adopted Shawfair local plan (2003) Copies the plan can be viewed at Fairfield House or on the Web site

Post Office

Area Plan decision Booklet.

Invitation from Rhona Brankin

It is to all community councils to visit the parliament in the New Year, to view the building and discuss local issues.

Midlothian Economic Development

New Grant fund (Midlothian Home Coming fund) for events during 2009

Homecoming Scotland 2009 celebrates the 250th anniversary of the birth of our national poet Robert Burns.

It will be marked by a yearlong programme of events running throughout Scotland; starting on Burns Day 25th Jan and ending on St Andrews Day 30th November 2009.

And throughout 2009, Midlothian will host its own series of events which feed into this national programme.

Any organisation can obtain funding from Midlothian **Homecoming Fund**, after it is confirmed that the event can fit in with one of the main themes of Homecoming Scotland

- Robert Burns
- Golf
- Whisky
- Great Minds and Innovation
- Rich Culture and Heritage (ancestry)

Midlothian Travel Team

Travel team Newsletter
31 Timetable for Boxing Day
Bus frequency chart

Lothian and Borders Police

Questionnaire on Public Consultation.

AOCB:

Sports Pavilion King George V Park

The Community council has been invited to control and run the leasing of the pavilion. The meeting declined this offer.

Neil Stewart

Neil Stewart informed the meeting that he is standing down from the community council. His role as a JP was changed and is requiring a substantial increase in his time. As a result he has to cut back on other commitments.

DM commended Neil on the length of service to the community council and the community in general. His commitment over the years had been unstinting and his experience will be greatly missed. The meeting as a whole echoed these sentiments.

Broomieknowe Gardens

IB had been approached by a resident of Broomieknowe gardens regarding the poor state of walkway. Work had been carried out on Hillhead but had stopped feet from damaged walkway in Broomieknowe Gardens. JA to pass on information.

Action: JA

Cockpen Road

There are problems with the 30MPH signs on the Cockpen road. JA will pass on this information

Action: JA

Distributor Road

BS asked if there was any update on when the distributor road would open. The meeting was informed that it had failed another safety audit. The completion of the road is the responsibility of the contractor. The council can only step in after 5 years.

Federation of Community Council

RS and GS attended the meeting of the confederation.

Secretary's Honorarium

The meeting agreed an honorarium of £50 for 2008.

Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 15 January 2009
(Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg) at 7.30 pm.