

## **BONNYRIGG & LASSWADE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Meeting Held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010 within Sports Pavilion, King George V Park Bonnyrigg at 1930 hrs**

**Present:** Ian Baxter (Chair), Dorothy Innes (Vice Chair), Stewart Renwick (secretary), Ruth Scott, Gilbert Scott, Cameron Scott, Eddie Ramsay, Brian Scott,

**In attendance:** Councillor Derek Milligan, Councillor Jackie Aitchison, PC Stewart Morrison (Lothian and Borders Police), Dawn Morrison (Midlothian Advertiser).

**Apologies:** Councillor Bob Constable, Elaine Ferguson (Treasurer)

**Welcome:** Chairman welcomed all to meeting and commenced proceedings at 1930 hrs.

The chair intimated to the meeting that George Birrell had written tendering his resignation from the council. He has commenced advanced further education and would not have the time to properly serve as a community councillor. IB asked that the secretary write to thank George for his long and valued membership of the CC

**ACTION: SR**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** were proposed by Cameron Scott, seconded by Ruth Scott as a true record of the meeting.

#### **Matters Arising:**

##### *January Meeting*

Pedestrian Crossing-- Lothian Street. *DM had distributed to all members the Safety audit report for the crossing. He pointed out the two options and that option one was the preferred option of the audit team. The chair then asked the meeting for any comments. SR asked if there would be a bus shelter at the new location and DM replied that it would be a cantilever type. BS commented that the new location would improve the junction of the Waverley exit which in his view was dangerous at present due to existing bus stop. After further discussion agreeing with the location the meeting was unanimous that the preferred option should go ahead as soon as possible. Cleared*

##### *September Meeting*

Water Fountain — *as part of the clean-up JA suggested a plaque should be mounted to commemorate the fountain. History Society has been contacted.*

Street Name— BS requested if it was possible for a street to be named after David Dunn *A street will be named in the Hopefield development Cleared*

##### *November meeting*

Parking Golf course road — to provide fixture list, when available, to community police. *Ongoing*

**ACTION: SR**

Parking in Dundas Street — GL will contact the traffic wardens **Cleared**

Bonnyrigg Christmas lights— agreed sponsorship of £200 **Cleared**

Bonnyrigg Primary School update *\_ IB reported that faults reported, as suggested at the previous meeting, were on a snagging list. IB had received an email from Louis Provan (MC) giving a very detailed report on all the issues at Bonnyrigg Primary school. The majority of which have been resolved. The rest are being attended to and some (landscaping) will not be dealt with until the spring/ summer. There is to be an open day held to allow members of the public access. DM stated that it was a pity that the school now felt let down by the community council after the article which appeared in the Advertiser. IB was surprised at the comment as it had not been the community council that had approached the press about the problems. IB had been asked for comment and had said that the problems were snagging problems and he had received the email for MC which confirmed that most of the problems had been addressed and the snagging would continue until they were fixed. DM again stated that damage had been done between the community council and the school board. He also stated it was a pity that the head teacher retired after many years of service with a banner headline like the one in the advertiser. SR pointed out that at no time in the letters to the editor from the school organizations was the community council mentioned only one member who had had a letter published the previous week to the article. IB will contact each group or person personally to ensure that they know the correct facts and the CC is supportive.*

**ACTION: IB**

#### **Financial Report:**

As EF was unable to attend IB reported on her behalf that there had been no change in the figures since last month.

Current Account:

As at 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2010: £1,256.98p  
Twinning Account:

As at 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2010: £2,072.56p

IB will work with EF to produce a new format report for the AGM. DI had received the application for the 2010 grant  
**ACTION: EF**

NS had submitted the invoices for the twinning gifts

JA agreed to audit the 2009 accounts

**Police Report:**

Stewart Morison provided a set of crime figures. Due to a computer problem he will supply full details via email.

Quad Bikes \_ these are now in operation, and proved very effective during the recent bad weather.

Community Action Team \_ There are 12 officers in the community action team sited at Bonnyrigg Police Station.

CS asked where the quad bikes were located. They are garaged at Penicuik. SM informed the meeting that the police are willing to bring the quad bikes to any event.

**Midlothian Councilors Report:**

Councilor Aitchison

Scotmid \_ almost closed MARC has moved to North Wynd Dalkeith

Budgets \_ MC working on budgets where there will be a huge deficit, there are therefore a number of difficult decision to be made.

Cold Weather – JA gave a detail of how MC operated during cold weather. The source of salt for the roads is a Cleveland mine, with the deliveries via coastal cargo ships delivering to Leith docks in 500 ton shipments. The storage is located at Fushieridge where there is a dome which holds 3,200 tons when it is filled to the roof. Normal prices are £22 - £23 per ton. During the recent bad weather big authorities who did not have sufficient supplies were bidding up to £100 per ton, this is when the government stepped in to ensure a fair distribution. There were complaints that some roads were not being cleared, but the council had to prioritise the main arteries of the county were kept open. The employees worked through both Christmas and New Year to ensure that the main routes were kept open. DM as leader of the council gave authority for any company to assist in clearing paths and roads. MC will have to bear the brunt of the extra costs. MC has requested a full report on the operation during the period so that any lessons may be learned for the next time. The consequences will be noticeable for a while yet as will the cost as the pot holes now appearing in the road network will require to be repaired and there is no budget.

Roslin Glen Road – DM met with colleagues from East and West Lothian along with Edinburgh. Part of the discussion was the Glen road, which is still slipping and how it is a major problem in attempting to transverse the county.

IB asked what had happened to the grit bins that used to be at various locations. DM they are still there.

DI had been asked to raise the issue that the staff in the out of hours surgery had difficulty in getting staff and cars out of car park to attend patients. DM intimated the car park would have been gritted, but due to the weather there were times when gritting could not be carried out as it was below the freezing point of even salt.

DI asked what is happening to Scotmid now that Marc has gone. JA informed the meeting that it had been leased to Edinburgh University who were going to carry out a similar operation to Marc

Litter – BS raised the issue of litter on the B6392 in the vicinity of Dalhousie dairy. It is from a business as it is pizza boxes and oil drums. BS contacted MC (Mrs Lauder) who had the rubbish lifted within 24 hours.

Councillor Milligan

Budgets – It is expected that there will be £12m cuts over the next 3 to 5 years. Education and support services take the majority of the budgets. All councils are the same. All council services will be cut and this will include core service. These are cuts and cannot be seen as improved efficiencies

Hillhead Lights – These have been causing problems for sometime and it is a Scottish power problem but due to the weather they have not been able to commit resource due to other priorities.

IB asked if the puffin crossing at the Bank of Scotland could be speeded up. There is a very long delay after pressing the button.

**Planning:**

The majority of the planning applications are for new doors, Windows and Conservatories, and other domestic activities such as tree pruning.

There is to be a major development at Kevock Caravan Park changing the accommodation to "mill Style" housing. An exhibition of the proposal will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> February IB will attend.

BS will attend a training session on the new planning procedures on the 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Transport:**

N31 – bus are being withdrawn during the week. MC discussing with the bus company regarding the festival period.

BS asked why sleeping policemen were not used on Polton road. DM responded that speed humps had been fitted in the centre of the chicanes.

**Twinning:** Nothing to report.

**Lasswade High School Project:**

The council held a pre-application consultation on a New Lasswade HS Campus from 19<sup>th</sup> November until 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The consultation seeks views from the community on aspects of the new facility. Some of the proposals being consulted on are to re-locate Bonnyrigg Library, Bonnyrigg leisure centre and Bonnyrigg community and public halls in the new facility. The idea being to create a hub of community activity where users benefit from adjacent and shared facilities. Traffic concerns have been highlighted at the current facility and it is hoped that direct access from the main road can be achieved for the new building.

A Public Event was held on the 19 November, there were 15 minute briefings at 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, and 7pm, leaflets and displays. Leaflets were available in council buildings, public buildings (Libraries and Leisure Centre), Lasswade HS, and distributed to pupils and parents of Lasswade High School, catchment primary schools and local nursery schools. The leaflet was also available on-line. In addition an email address was provided for email responses. In addition to the public event, leaflets and email responses the council have met with relevant community groups and user groups. These include Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council, Poltonhall and District Community Council, The Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Seniors forum, Bonnyrigg Library Users Group, Lasswade HS Sportcentre Users Group, Bonnyrigg Rose Boys Club and staff from the various facilities including teachers and staff from Lasswade High School.

The response has been generally supportive of this community facility approach, members of the public and user groups seeing the potential of the shared and adjacent facilities. However, the consultation response was poor and therefore a further consultation is proposed. The council are keen to have community/pupil/parents views on the proposed facility, particularly the option to close existing facilities and re-locate them on to the new campus.

Further consultation questionnaires are being distributed to schools (pupils and parents), Bonnyrigg Library, Bonnyrigg Leisure Centre and Lasswade High School Sports Centre. This is a tick box questionnaire and we are accepting completed questionnaires at schools, the library, Leisure centre and Sportcentre, hopefully this and a further push from staff at these facilities will result in a higher response rate.

Once the consultation period is complete, a report will be compiled of all the information and comments received and this will accompany the 'Planning in Principle' application. The report will inform the Council of public priorities and concerns and will form the basis of decisions about the facility that will be built.

In conjunction with East Renfrewshire Council (partners in this joint project), design teams have been invited to express an interest in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of design work. There was a good response and the councils will decide on 6 teams that will progress to the tender stage this week. It is hoped to have a design team in place in February 2010 progressing initial designs.

The consultation information and decisions based on this will be passed to the design teams and further consultation will be conducted throughout the design phases of the project.

DM informed the meeting that the Scottish Government were only providing funding for 1200 pupils where as it has been identified that it needs to be for 1400 pupils. The government money only covers the school and not any leisure or community facilities

**Newsletter:**

Next edition mid May already have advertisers asking for slots.

**FairTrade:**

Bonnyrigg going for Town status. A representative from North Berwick, who has attained the status, gave advice on how to proceed. LHSC is keen to be active in the project.

**Community Council Elections 2010:**

All existing members are willing to stand again. Councillor Constable is prepared to act as returning officer

**Correspondence**

**ASCC**

Nomination for area representative

**Lothian and Borders Police Board**

Are currently looking Custody visitors.

**NHS**

Strathesk Practice is splitting between Bonnyrigg and Loanhead. Looking for a view on proposal

Health Link Winter edition newspaper of NHS Lothian

Living and dying well Lothian's Palliative care strategy 2010 – 2015. It is consultation with responses to be returned by 5<sup>th</sup> February. Anyone wish to respond.

**Midlothian Council**

Online planning help documentation

Licensing application variation to Somerfields

Licensing application for the Melville to allow for family function - weddings, christenings funerals etc during their core hours.

Licensing application for Bonnyrigg Sports bar formerly Bonnyrigg snooker club. Response by 7 January.

Minutes presented to Midlothian Council on 24 November and 22 December

**Bonnyrigg Events Committee**

Letter of thanks for our donation plus receipt for Elaine

**Scottish Health Council**

Connect newsletter

**Travel Team**

November and December newsletters

**Email**

**Bank of Scotland Midnight league 2010** at Poltonhall Astro pitches. SFA soccer programme

Please see the attached which is a free diversionary measure for 12-16 year olds run by the Community Safety Partnership and Midlothian Council at the Polton and Penicuik Astro turf pitches. This will run for 10 weeks each Friday and Saturday from the last weekend in January to the first weekend in April.

Very much turn up & play and very successful.

**Transport Scotland**

Borders rail link tender Process has commenced. The contract notice has been lodged Official Journal of the European Union (OJUE).

**MIDLOTHIAN ACCESS FORUM**

GS on committee. Minutes

**Strengthening Communities**

Invite to meet the Kenneth Lawrie Chief Executive of Midlothian Council on his vision for the future of Midlothian Unfortunately it was tonight.

**Planning Aid Scotland (information in book)**

Invitation to you for a Community Council Cluster Training event organised by Planning Aid for Scotland (please find flyer attached) at Dalkeith Arts Centre on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010 from 9.30am-3.30pm.

Booking for this event is on a 'first-come-first-serve' basis.

**Rhona Brankin**

Site meeting on Polton road traffic problems. IB is attending.

**ACTION: IB**

**Police**

Postal Scam details in book.

**AOCB:**

ER raised the state of the bins in the centre of Bonnyrigg. JA informed the meeting that MC was in conflict with the suppliers.

RS informed the CC that the meeting with the chief executive had been moved to 18<sup>th</sup> February. Again this conflicted with our meeting so we would not be able to attend.

**Next Meeting:** 18 February 2010, Sports Pavilion, K G Park at 1930hrs.