

## **BONNYRIGG & LASSWADE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Meeting Held on 26 August 2010 within Sports Pavilion, King George V Park Bonnyrigg at 19.30 hrs**

**Present:** Ian Baxter (Chair), Stewart Renwick (secretary), Elaine Ferguson (Treasurer), Cameron Scott, Ruth Scott  
Eddie Ramsay, and Gilbert Scott,

**In attendance:** Councillor Bob Constable, Councillor Jackie Aitchison, Dawn Morrison, Elizabeth Storrie, Susan Windsor

**Apologies:** Dorothy Innes (Vice Chair), Councillor Derek Milligan

**Welcome:** Chairman welcomed all to meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Proposed Eddie Ramsay Seconded by Gilbert Scott

#### **Matters Arising:**

##### *February Meeting*

Filter at Toll — JA has requested that the planners look again at providing a filter at the toll, for traffic turning right out of the high street. There was further discussion regarding the traffic problems and possible solutions such as re-widening the road. DM and BC both agreed to make it a priority to try and find a solution

*To widen the road all facilities will require to be moved a preliminary report on costs is being prepared.*

##### **Ongoing**

**ACTION: DM/BC**

##### *June Meeting*

There has been no twinning grant. *IB contacted Bob Atack each twinning association will receive a grant of £100. Cleared*

Pavement Repair — are pavements were being repaired at the same time as the roads. The paths in the Broomieknowe estate were very bad after the winter. BC will check. *CS contacted MC where he was informed that there was no budget available. The pavement repairs are being prioritized with the worst receiving attention. Ross Nicholson will visit Broomieknowe area to assess the paths.*

*JA informed the meeting that there were budgets of £1.5m for roads and £1m for paths. It is done to a points system. To repair to present day standards would cost £55m. With MC one of the smallest councils the specialist equipment is not part of MC holding, thus other contractors are used.*

*The main are requiring urgent attention is the bottom of Park Road. It will be a major problem in that the road will require closing removing access to the leisure centre. Cleared*

John Hilton — John Hiltons travel expenses will be met by B&LCC from our Twinning account.

*JH phoned IB to thank the CC for the contribution to his trip to St Cyr. Cleared*

#### **Moffat Avenue:**

This item is additional to the agenda. Elizabeth Storrie and Susan Windsor apprised the meeting of a problem which is affecting many of the residents in the area. There are very large Leylandii trees on the boundary of their properties in an un-developed plot of land. There are thousands of starlings roosting in the trees causing major mess with their droppings. The trees are so large they are overshadowing all the properties adjacent. The residents have unsuccessfully attempted to have the trees either removed or pruned to an acceptable level. Repeated attempts to communicate with the owner have been unsuccessful. The council cannot intervene. After detailed discussion BC and the CC offered to mediate with the owners if they can be contacted. Other suggestions included examination of house insurance as there may be the possibility of the insurance company acting to protect the properties, from the roots. The CC asked to be kept informed of developments and to be contacted if there are any other actions they could do to assist. Mrs. Storrie and Mrs. Windsor left the meeting at this point.

#### **Financial Report:**

Current Account:

As at 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	£1,143.02
As at 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2010	£1,022.39

Transactions

Debits

Cheque £355.63 (Abbey Print for newsletter)
Cheque £35.00 (Information Commissioner Data protection)

Credit

£270 (income from Newsletter)
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No Interest is being added to this account as it is a flexible current account.

Twinning Account:		
	As at 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	£1,862.77
	As at 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2010	£1,612.15
Transactions	Debits £50.00 (Gift for St Cyr)	
	£200.62 (To MC for John Hiltons Airfare to St Cyr)	
	Credits None	

BS asked if it was possible for the CC to make a donation to the boy suffering from a tumour, which was the main front page story of the Midlothian Advertiser. After discussion it was agreed that the CC could only look at local community and as the boy was from Lanarkshire we could not contribute to the cause.

**Police Report:** There was no police report

BS asked the Councillors what impact the cut backs would have on the police manning. JA informed the meeting that MC were hosting the Lothian and Borders Police board and MC would be asking if there was a freeze on recruitment as they contributed £500K to staffing.

**Midlothian Councillors' Report:**

Councillor Aitchison

Canopies Polton Street and High Street — these are in a very poor state of disrepair; the ones in the high street are condemned. If the premises owners do nothing MC will act.

Bonnyrigg Primary School — from the 8<sup>th</sup> of September new play equipment will be installed.

Midlothian Community Hospital — the project is coming to a conclusion and the hospital will be occupied during the first weeks in September.

JA asked if the CC would donate a tree to the hospital. During discussion it was felt that if it was a possible a bench for patients and friends to sit on would be a suitable donation. To determine costs ER will contact Mayshade garden centre.

**ACTION: ER**

Budget — £24m will require to be cut over the next 4 years. So far £3.5m has been found, by losing senior management. It will be the revenue budgets which will have to find £6m per year.

Hillend Snow centre — MC Councillors will be deciding what will be done with the ski slope tomorrow (27 August).

Councillor Constable

Dalkeith Twinning — BC attended a celebration, at Woodburn club, of Dalkeith twinning with Jarnac.

Mavisbank — Historic Scotland is still prevaricating on Mavisbank. The trustees are keen to have the grounds open to the public ASAP.

Elmbank planning appeal — BC wrote to John Swinney in opposition to the appeal. The appeal has been dismissed.

**Planning:**

The only item of interest is the change in the use of the Gourlaw water filters to a car hire business.

**Transport:**

Service 49 — this service has moved from every 20 minutes to every 15 minutes. IB was critical of the services supplied by FirstBus in comparison to Lothian buses improving services.

Service 31 — The article in last weeks advertiser in which Loanhead CC were advocating that the 31 service could be re-routed through Loanhead to improve the transport links between Bonnyrigg and Loanhead was discussed at length. In summary it was felt that the additional time added to a journey from Bonnyrigg to Edinburgh would deter the public from using the service. It was anticipated that Lothian busses would want to re-join the route prior to the Murrays, the only road available is the Lang Loan which was not felt suitable for double deck buses especially in the winter. The service which we should be targeting for improvement is the Firstbus 141 which is cross-county and could provide a good link to the administrative centre of Dalkeith. It would also provide a service to the new community hospital which is now open at Bonnyrigg.

It was agreed that we should work with Loanhead CC to obtain an improved service particularly the 141. IB to contact P Kenny Chair of Loanhead CC and also to contact Bill Campbell Lothian Buses Operation Director to ensure that we are included in any discussions regarding the 31 service.

**ACTION: IB**

**Twinning:**

A visit to St Cyr took place over the weekend of 26/27 June to take part in events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of General De Gaulle's radio appeal from London following the fall of France during the Second World War. IB represented the Community Council, Depute Provost Margot Russell attended on behalf of Midlothian Council and John Hilton from Bonnyrigg Ex-Servicemen's Association. Representatives of St Cyr's German twin town, Butzbach, also attended. The highlight of the weekend was the laying of wreaths at the statue dedicated to General De Gaulle outside St Cyr's town hall.

John Hilton has since contacted us to record his thanks to the Community Council for contributing the cost of his travel to St Cyr and to say that he had a very enjoyable visit.

**Lasswade High School Project:**

The New Lasswade High School Campus is progressing following the design workshops held in June 2010. A report of the consultation has been drafted by the design team. It is now available on the 'Learning and Libraries' section of Midlothian Councils Website. This will be available for people to look at, at the school, sport centre and Bonnyrigg Library, prior to the next consultation stage that is programmed for late August. At this stage the design team will come back with design concepts for the new school.

In addition, the project team are organising another consultation, on the type of swimming pool for the new high school. This time the project team are going to use "Viewpoint". It's a computerised system that allows the public to input their views into the questionnaire. The survey is very simple, giving three options. The plan is for the terminal to be in the following places at the following times. The project team would be grateful if you could let as many people you can know about it.

Bonnyrigg Leisure Centre (9th – 15th August)  
Lasswade High School Sport centre (16th – 22nd August)  
Lasswade High School entrance foyer (23rd – 29th August)

**FairTrade:**

The formation of a steering group is being targeted for Bonnyrigg.

**Newsletter:**

The next edition will be October.

John Ritchie from Gorebridge CC who helps run Black Diamond says BDFM wants to put a (paid) ad in future issues. Advertising is looking up again and we've got a banner ad for the bottom of the front page for next time.

**Correspondence**

**Midlothian Moving Forward** — Report by Supt Jacqueline Conway Chair of the community planning group

**Midlothian Council**

Minutes presented 29 June  
Minutes presented 24 August  
Consultation Managing Waste Comments by Friday 10 September  
Travel Team Newsletter  
Equalities Training

**LHS** — Results on Library group consultation

**PPF** — Minutes June and July meeting

**Edinburgh & Lothian's Greenspace Trust** — Newsletter

**Strategic Plan Local development plan** — Copies of the a3 copies of the exhibition boards.

**Scottish Natural Heritage.** — Summer Magazine

**SEPA** — Sepaview summer newsletter

**Access Forum Minutes** — July Meeting

**Email**

**John Chant Centre** — Presentation on The closure of the John Chant Centre.

**Taylor Wimpey** — Email explaining that they have now submitted to the council planning application to build 106 new 2,3,4 and 5 bedroom houses.

### **AOCB**

John Chant Centre — IB read out the following from David Hunter of i-MPACT (independent- Midlothian Parents And Carers Team)

We are looking for all the support possible to attempt to campaign for a reasonable outcome for the approximate 150 Day Service Users, whose lives will be upset, should the proposed "Modernisation Plan", go ahead in it's current form as intimated to us, their carers, at recent meetings organised by the S.W.D. to inform us of those plans. We, a newly formed embryo carers group called i-MPACT (independent- Midlothian Parents And Carers Team), have got together to attempt to influence this plan before it is too late.

Summary:- Their plan is to close the JOHN CHANT CENTRE(already agreed by council!), decanting it's lower functioning users into CHERRY ROAD CENTRE, and 'decanting' the Higher functioning groups from both centres{ The SWD have already decided that the users can be classified into 3 distinct groups for their purposes !}, out to various HUBS(church halls, guide huts etc). This will destroy the community that IS JOHN CHANT! It would also radically change the function of CHERRY ROAD, from that of a vibrant community of mixed ability users, whose interaction provides such a pleasant, friendly and stimulating environment for all, (especially those of lesser abilities), to a very much degraded, less active, duller, un-stimulating, more institutional / hospital-like facility. This is classed as "Modernisation of Day Services"!!!!

Surely COMMON SENSE, must be applied to prevent this travesty?

We do not oppose change if it is –

(a) To achieve improvement (as gauged by us, their parents and carers, and the few of the users themselves who are sufficiently high functioning enough to be capable of understanding the differences)!

(b) Done gradually, carefully, and sensitively, to minimise trauma to the users who need their stable routine and sense of community maintained.

(c) The gradual change must always be trialled and measured and most importantly, to ensure a reversionary/contingency policy is in place should their plans cause any problems or difficulties to those they are serving, which would of necessity, include the retention of the John Chant facility for as long as needed.

(d) We of course would welcome change, as long as that change is an improvement on the current provision. Unfortunately we see the proposed "MODERNISATION" change as very much the opposite, with the loss of the MDC owned John Chant Centre being at the heart of the plan, the savings from that, to mainly cater for an SWD funding reduction but also a vastly inferior alternate provision of 'HUBS', a motley selection of halls, generally in poorer condition and in less suitable locations, with NO COUNCIL TENURE!, and no guaranteed longevity of use, with no permanent recreation facilities for our service users and requiring capital expenditure to upgrade toileting facilities to "Changing Room" status to cater for their needs.

That expenditure could be lost, should the owners of those halls decide to change their use/sell the land etc.

Why? When all of the required facilities and most of the desired facilities exist already at the 2 existing (REAL) Hubs, which ARE already within 2 of Midlothian's communities?

There is a glimmer of hope now, since receiving a positive and supportive initial hearing from a meeting with our MDC leader Derek Milligan, so I eagerly await his next communication.

Councillor Aitchison was asked if he wished to reply but declined, other than to say that he was due to have a meeting with this group.

After a brief discussion the general feeling was that whilst we are concerned about the implications of the changes proposed, none of the members felt sufficiently close enough to the issue to form a view. It was agreed to invite David to come to a future meeting. IB to contact him

**ACTION: IB**

Scottish Water — There was an invitation to attend a public meeting, at Haddington on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. GS and RS will attend

**ACTION: RS/GS**

Eskbank Amenity Society — BS had discussions with members of the society and the feeling was that it would be advantageous to have a joint meeting at some point.

**Next Meeting:** 16 September 2010, (Agreed after meeting) Sports Pavilion, K G Park at 19.30hrs.