

BONNYRIGG & LASSWADE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on 21 April 2011 within Sports Pavilion, King George V Park Bonnyrigg at 19.30 hrs

Present: Ian Baxter (Chair), Dorothy Innes (Vice Chair), Stewart Renwick (secretary), Elaine Ferguson (Treasurer), Ruth Scott, Brian Scott, Cameron Scott and Gilbert Scott,

In attendance: Councillor Derek Milligan, Councillor Bob Constable, Councillor Jackie Aitchison, PC Jill Taylor, PC Sue Akers, Sarah Anderson (Social Worker Family Placement Team)

Welcome: The chairperson welcomed all to meeting. He introduced Sarah Anderson who gave the following presentation to the meeting.

Foster Care and Adoption. Sarah wanted to inform the CC regarding the need for foster carers within the community as there is a shortage in Midlothian. 10 years ago there were 34 children in foster care, now there are 93. This means that children are moved from Midlothian and their locality. Sarah informed the meeting that children entered foster care not because they were bad but in most case to protect them from neglect abusive homes etc. The age of foster carers is from 25 to 60. It is paid £122 to £300 per week plus an allowance for clothing, etc for the children. It is a 6 week training course, with an assessment by a social worker at the finish. They are looking for respite carers (weekend) full time and temporary carers. Sarah asked if there were any bodies that it would be beneficial to them to contact. RS suggested that the local school parent councils would be a possible source of support. JA informed the meeting that we would see strategic areas advertising. It is an advantage to everyone if we know of anyone is interested. DM intimated that Midlothian is one of the higher lists in Scotland and the highest at risk register per capita.

IB thanked Sarah for her presentation.

Police Report:

Total Crimes Recorded: 59

Total Crimes Solved: 16. 27.12% solvency (This YTD 37.39%, Last YTD 45.98%)

Break down as follows:	Received	Solved
Violent Crime	1	0
Sexual Crime	1	0
Crimes of Dishonesty	31	5
Vandalism	17	3
Other Crime	9	8

• There have been 346 calls received to the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade area for the month of March.

INCIDENTS OF NOTE

- Following on from the report of Vandalism at Bonnyrigg Leisure Centre on the 18th February, as a result of extensive enquiries 6 youths were identified, interviewed and two of the group, a 17 year old and 15 year old male, both from Bonnyrigg, subsequently charged with vandalism.
- Off road bikes continue to be a problem in the Poltonhall area. The number of calls has dropped to just 6 for the month but this could be as a result of a step up in patrols and 2 prolific offenders being caught on Polton Road West whilst riding a moped without helmets. In addition to this we have a description of two persons, each on a bike wearing a red and white helmet and the other a green and white helmet
- Between 2300hours on 05/03/11 and 0930hours on 06/03/11 the garden shed at an address in Gordon Avenue was forced open and two black BMX Bikes stolen. They are both distinctive with one having orange wheel trims and the other blue swirls on a black seat
- Between 1650hours on Monday 07/03/11 and 0930hrs 08/03/11 persons unknown attempted to gain entry to a house under construction at West Mill Road Lasswade. No entry was gained although there was damage to the rear patio doors as a result of their efforts. Unfortunately there is no description of person/s responsible
- On Wednesday 09/03/11 about 1800hrs two separate reports were made regarding the sound of 4 gun shots being fired near to Polton Cottages, Lasswade. No gun was seen and no further incidents were reported. Area searched at the time with no trace of persons responsible
- Between 2000hrs on Thursday 10/03/11 and 0400hrs on Monday 14/03/11 persons unknown have attempted to hotwire and steal a Suzuki RG250 motorbike whilst it was parked and unattended in the front garden of a house in Eskdale Drive. This offence came to light when the complainer found the ignition cable had been cut. This is the 5th incident of a similar nature reported in Bonnyrigg since the start of 2011
- Between 0005hrs and 0400hrs on Friday 25/03/11 the garden shed at Polton Gardens was forced open and a Kawasaki KX60 off road motorbike was stolen. The motorbike is very distinctive and will be easily identified. It has a green frame, purple side panels. On the handlebars there is a purple foam sleeve with RENTIXAL in white writing. Black and purple handle grips and the clutch lever is half missing.
- About 0300hrs on Sunday 27/03/11 a group of males were reported being boisterous and causing damage to property in Stevenson Place, Lasswade. Officers attended and identified one 18yr old male who was responsible for damaging a garden fence. Officers issued this male with a fixed penalty for vandalism.

- Throughout the month of March various off-sales licensed premises were visited in our area as part of Operation Epsilon. I am happy to report that the test purchasers were all challenged for id before being refused drink by the shopkeepers.
- Finally, Reports were received regarding some monkey business taking place at Lasswade High School. On Constable Akers investigating she discovered a male in a gorilla suit and two assistants advertising their company, a mobile phone service provider to the children. All three were checked out before being sent on their way.

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above or indeed any other issue please contact your Community Officer or Bonnyrigg Police Station. PC 3912E Ian Hutchison PC 11372 Sue Akers
E-mail EDivCBOPKGroup@lbp.pnn.police.uk Telephone: Bonnyrigg Police Station 0131 663 9221 or Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Operation Esplanade targeted young people who were consuming or in possession of alcohol. All the hotspots were targeted, within Bonnyrigg. It was run in conjunction with the CAT teams and Fast Forward, a youth support or organization. When they were challenged the alcohol was confiscated and their parents summonsed to Bonnyrigg police station. The shops in Bonnyrigg are not selling alcohol to young people they are getting it from elsewhere.

CS asked what age groups were involved. Females 13 and Males 16. GS asked where they were getting the alcohol if not from the shops. Unfortunately irresponsible adults and 13/14 year olds mixing with 18 year old teenagers who have alcohol.

BS highlighted the problem at the top of Dundas Street with an 8 wheeler truck parked on the wrong side of the road at the newsagent. The configuration of the yellow lines is in appropriate as the single in between double. SA agreed that there was an issue down that area of Dundas Street and also behind Pia's where again there are double yellow lines which are ignored. PC Taylor will alert the traffic warden that it is still a problem area.

Apologies: PC Hutchison

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Proposed Ruth Scott Seconded by Dorothy Innes

Matters Arising:

August meeting 2010

Hard Wood Bench —ER will contact Mayshade again. It was agreed that we would spend £200 **Ongoing**

ACTION: ER

October Meeting 2010

Gourlaw Committee Grants —John Blair preparing report that we have requested a copy once it can be issued to the public. No action until report released by MC

IB read out a letter from Abbey Grange solicitors who are acting on behalf of Derek Milligan, regarding alleged comments made by Cameron Scott. "We act on behalf of Derek Milligan and have been consulted by him in connection with recent comments made by Cameron Scott, who was purportedly speaking on behalf of the Lasswade and Bonnyrigg Community Council. We enclose a copy letter which we have sent to him for your attention. Obviously you will note that our client is taking this matter particularly seriously given that he is considering raising proceedings in the Court of Session for defamation, and for interdict.

Can we ask that you put the terms of this letter, and address the comments made by Mr Scott to the Community Council and have your assurance that if any of your members should act in this manner in the future that appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken by you."

A copy of a letter sent to CS was attached and is included in communication for all to read.

IB read the proposed response

"I refer to your letter of 23 March 2011 and copy of your letter to Cameron Scott of the same date. At our community council meeting of 17th March, the allegation was made by your client that Mr Scott had made an approach to Mr Taylor on behalf of the community council. As chair, I gave Mr Scott the opportunity to respond to this and he denied that he had done so and his denial was accepted by the community council.

Following receipt of your letter I have asked Mr Scott to confirm his assertion that he did not purport to act on behalf of the community council and he has done so.

Unless we are presented with evidence which contradicts this, I propose to take no further action in this instance.

I can confirm that I have impressed upon community council members on more than one occasion that they should not speak on behalf of the community council when the views they express are personal, and will continue to do so if deemed appropriate. As an example, I enclose a copy of our January 2011 minutes with the relevant section highlighted.

This was accepted as an appropriate response to the letter.

DM declined the opportunity to comment.

IB closed this part of the matter and we will wait on the release of the report.

DM informed the meeting that the report had been submitted to the audit committee on Tuesday 19 April 11, although he could not attend, the press office had informed him, that the matter has been passed to the police to see if there was any wrong doing and a copy of the report has been sent to Audit Scotland, who had a representative at the meeting.

JA on behalf of JA BC and DM read out a communication, from their communication manager, on the subject. "Midlothian council said that an internal investigation into this matter has been completed with information passed to Lothian and borders police. A number of areas of concerns in the council processes have been identified and work is currently under way to strengthen these. As a police investigation is underway no further comment is possible." None of the councillors can now comment on the subject until the police investigation is completed.

Newsletter delivery — It was suggested that it may be possible to have the newsletter delivered with the Midlothian News. IB will contact Kenneth Lawrie. IB has emailed as is waiting a reply. **Ongoing**

ACTION: IB

November Meeting 2010

Lights in the High Street— CS felt that the lights in the High Street were very poor in comparison to park road. JA explained that they increased in illumination, as it got darker. SR offered to email the specialists who had carried out the testing to ascertain what is the minimum specification JA to supply email address **Cleared**

April Meeting

Lasswade Primary School Entrance — As the existing line indicating that the exit is a junction vehicles are leaving and going into the school without giving priority to the cars which are coning down the main road (Pendreich Terrace.) Ricky Moffat to be contacted. This has now been passed for action by Ricky Moffat **Cleared**

Financial Report:

Current Account:	As at 21 April 2011	£ 1,823.29
Transactions		
Debits	Tea & Coffee	£12.25
	Flowers (George Birrell's wife)	£28.99
Credit	None	

No Interest is being added to this account as it is a flexible current account.

Twinning Account:	As at 17 th March 2011	£1,713.55
Transactions		
Debits	None	
Credits	Interest 28 February	£0.13
	Interest 31 March	£0.15

Bill submitted to be paid for the domain name

Midlothian Councillors' Report:

Councillor Aitchison

All councillors are busy due to their involvement in the election on 5 May. Councillors are also busy working on next year's budget, which is a long and laborious process.

Roslin Glen Road — the work has commenced on the Roslin Glen road. The land is still slipping on the Rosewell side of the road. The drains on this side of the road are being dug out at present, given that there are no major problems encountered with this it is hoped that it will open mid August.

Lasswade Bridge — the damage to Lasswade bridge happened during the bad weather but it is not known who had the accident. All the CCTV has been checked and it has not been possible to identify who had caused the damage. MC is therefore now responsible for repair.

Fire, Police and Health boards — DM invited Police Chiefs and their association along with the chief fire officer and their union talks. They do not see any evidence for one board. The council will discuss it at the full council meeting on Tuesday to produce a MC view on the subject.

Springfield Farm — the local review body visited to view the area as a planning application had been submitted for a house and stables. The application was rejected.

Councillor Milligan

Dalkeith Advertiser — DM had been informed that the Advertiser was moving out of Midlothian into the Scotsman offices in Edinburgh. This was a disappointment and it could not consider its self as a local paper.

Shared Services — Discussion with East Lothian for sharing Education. Looked easy until all the laws and regulations regarding employment are considered. They are looking initially at the backroom supports to schools and this could make savings of upwards of £3m. This is not including the schools. It should have no impact on

the schools. An interesting statistic which has come to light is that there are more promoted teachers than ordinary teachers. This is being redressed over 3 years reducing the promoted teachers over this period.

Planning – DM toured Bonnyrigg with planning officer observing what the developers have delivered so far and what should have been delivered such as playgrounds etc. There are problems due to the stop-start of the construction industry over the last year.

Councillor Constable

Seminars— there have been seminars on not only the police and fire boards but on housing and the next local plan.

Jarnac visit— a party of 47 children from Jarnac had visited the chamber.

CS asked if the reports in the newspaper regarding premises for CC meetings would affect B&LCC. There are no implications, but organisations will be grouped in premises to save money on heating and lighting.

Planning:

There had been an application in principle for Kevock Vale development. There were many small domestic applications for decking extensions etc.

Meeting with Bonnyrigg Rose: Item on the agenda as it was not formally talked about at the last meeting. The CC felt that no meeting should be arranged until the audit report is released.

Transport:

BS raised the inadequacies of the chicanes in the road. This is an ongoing problem and meetings have taken place over the last year. The MC traffic department has stated that they are adequate and should not be removed, as accidents had reduced.

Twinning:

Nothing to report.

LHSC

The competitive dialogue phase of the procurement process has just completed. The contractors now have a month in which to pull together the final financial bids. Following return of these bids we will have a further month or so of analysis by our consultants and then all going well we will be in a position to appoint a contractor.

Fair Trade:

No Report

Newsletter:

Going to plan, should be ready for next meeting.

Correspondence:

Midlothian Council
Minutes presented 22 March
Midlothian News
Midlothian Development plan No 3 March 2011
Traffic Team Newsletter

Newbattle Abbey
Celtic festival 21 May

PPF
Minutes of March Meeting.
Various sub committee minutes

Scottish Natural Heritage
Spring Magazine

Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SEPA view

Abbey Grange Solicitors
Letter

Midlothian association of Community Council
Letter to Council Leader and Chief Executive. Asking that all councillors attend their CC meetings. B&LCC agreed with the letter.

Email

The Big Lunch

The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many of the 61 million people in the UK as possible to have lunch with their neighbours for a few hours of community, friendship and fun. This year's event will take place on Sunday 5th June and a record number of people are expected to take part. Since starting in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all kinds of communities and the best part of a million people has taken part each year. A Big Lunch can be anything from a few neighbours getting together in a garden or on the street, to a full blown party with food, music and decoration that quite literally stops the traffic.

Tenant Participation officer.

Event list and Estate walk about schedule

AOCB

CS highlighted the success of Mike Leslie's son finished as runner up in under 21 snooker championship. CS wants the CC to write a letter to him congratulating him. It was agreed that we register his achievements in our minutes.

Lasswade rugby clubs achievements this year are also to be recorded. They have retained the SRU Shield and National League One Winners 2011

Community payback order – BS attended a meeting on community payback orders along with 9 others B&LCC were the only CC represented. There was no conclusion on how it would function as this was the first meeting. The next meeting is in early June. JA MC still has to have meetings and consultation to discuss this subject further.

Next Meeting: 19 May 2011, Sports Pavilion, K G V Park at 19.30hrs.