

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 21st June 2007 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg at 7.30 pm.

Present: Neil Stewart (Chair), Ian Baxter (Vice Chair), Ruth Scott (Secretary), Dorothy Innes (Treasurer), Cameron Scott, Brian Scott, George Birrell, Stewart Renwick.

In attendance: Rhona Brankin MSP, Councillor Derek Milligan, Councillor Jackie Aitchison, Councillor Bob Constable, Community Constable David St Clair-Gunn, Tracey Murray (Advertiser) and Residents from Scollon Avenue, Bonnyrigg.

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the residents of Scollon Avenue to the meeting. He also intimated that item 6 on the agenda - Police report and update on youth disorder, would be covered when Rhona Brankin arrived as she had been delayed at Parliament.

2. Apologies: Gilbert Scott

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Current account minute amended from £1034.08 to £1014.08.

Proposed by George Birrell, seconded by Stewart Renwick.

4. Matters arising

Councillor Aitchison reported on the following points:-

Bus Stop -

Confirmation received that a new lay-by bus stop for the No.31 service to be built when the bypass is complete.

Roslin Glen fishing –

The leaflet is incorrect and fishing is permitted in Roslin Glen. Leaflet will be corrected once the existing supply is finished.

Area opposite Pryde Terrace –

Melville Housing is dealing with this problem.

5. Finance

Current Account	£1016.08
Twinning	£1716.05

Increase in account due to interest applied.

7. Midlothian Councillors Report

Midlothian Council -

The councillors are in the process of forming the various committees, and boards, with consensus between all the parties. These are now bedding in and considering new criteria and pro-forma, set by the new administration.

Police -

Terry Powell has been appointed Divisional Commander of E Division.

The story reported in the press that the “the police budget has £1m short fall” was incorrect.

Planning permission has been refused for a development of flats in Lasswade.

Planning permission for mobile phone mast, in centre of Bonnyrigg, has been refused.

No.31 Bus service route –

The timetable has been prepared ready for extension of the Cockpen service into the new housing area of Hopefield as soon as the first housing is ready for occupation. There is to be an extra am service to Polton Mill.

Waverley line –

Brian Scott raised concerns, that the newly elected executive was delaying the building of the Waverley line. The councillors advised that it was the executive's prerogative to review all major expenditure. Councillor Milligan highlighted that the major plans for developments within Midlothian had the Waverley line as an integral part of the planning and if the line did not proceed, there would be gridlock in the future.

6. Police Report

Constable David St Clair-Gunn reported on the crime solvency statistics as follows:-

Crime	Recorded	Solved
Violent	1	0
Sexual	0	0
Dishonesty	22	10
Vandalism	44	17
Miscellaneous	5	4
Totals:	72	31
Solvency Rate 43%		

Constable Roddy Stewart has joined the team as a Community Police officer for Bonnyrigg and Poltonhall. It is hoped that he will attend the next meeting.

Constable St Clair-Gunn intimated that there were two incidents of bogus callers. There had also been reports from other areas. Constable St Clair-Gunn had issued a number of leaflets highlighting the problems of bogus callers.

Councillor Aitchison highlighted that our community radio, Black Diamond was now on air and would be broadcasting warnings regarding bogus callers etc. Anyone who suspected bogus callers should contact the trading standards team at the council who would carry out checks prior to alerting Black Diamond. There was also a police officer working with the radio station to provide a crime watch programme.

Rhona Brankin asked what the trend of crimes in Bonnyrigg was and how this compared to other areas. Constable St Clair-Gunn felt it was similar across Midlothian with some other areas having a higher call number.

Scollon Avenue Problems –

A detailed discussion took place regarding the problems encountered by the Scollon avenue residents due to large numbers of youths congregating in the Waverley Park around the play equipment. The debate covered the antisocial legislation available, brought in by the last administration, such as dispersal and parental orders. Views were expressed that it was inadequate, however from the discussion; it would appear that this legislation was not being used in Midlothian. Whether this was due to resources in Midlothian or that the need to obtain the consensus of so many agencies was not possible, could not be answered at the meeting.

Rhona Brankin confirmed that other areas had used it successfully and suggested that we invite someone who has experienced the successful use of a dispersal order to come and speak to the community council.

Other issues of concern was the ease which defaulting licensees seemed to be able to use the law to protect their license. Councillor Aitchison informed the meeting that a report (Nicholson report) has been produced, which is recommending that not only the person, but also the premises will be licensed. If these recommendations are accepted, and turned into law, it will greatly improve the control of licence misdemeanours.

From the residents viewpoint the main area of problem is the close vicinity of the play equipment to their houses. Their view is if the equipment were moved to the bottom area beside the pavilion, the problems would be significantly alleviated. Councillor Aitchison pointed out that bottom area had been identified to site seven-a-side playing pitches, of which there is a shortage in the area. He also highlighted that cost justification would have to be carried out even if the move was feasible, as council spending required to be able to withstand robust auditing.

In conclusion, the following action will take place:-

- | Action | Action by |
|---|--|
| • Progress the information/use of a dispersal order | Rhona Brankin |
| • Discuss Police resource with Inspector Simpson | David St Clair-Gunn |
| • Feasibility of moving play equipment | Jackie Aitchison |
| • Letter from Police, Council, and Community Council produced and distributed.
(6223 households in Bonnyrigg, Poltonhall and Lasswade) | Community Council, Police and Council
Neil Stewart to co-ordinate |

George Birrell is also in communications with Albert Jaster (Head Teacher at Lasswade High School), regarding the behaviour of pupils. Mr Jaster has offered to meet with the community council.

8. Transport

Nothing to report

9. Twinning

It is proving impossible to make contact with any interested party in St Cyr L'Ecole. It would appear that the only interest is in the sporting area with the rugby club and school. Bob Atack (Midlothian Twinning Association) has been contacted for assistance.

10. Community Council Website

The website and email contact is working with correct email formatted addresses but there still appears to be occasional problems, suspected to be with the java script.

If any council members hear of someone having problems, can they please contact Ian with the details?

Action: Ian Baxter

11. Planning

There is nothing of any significance for the community council's consideration.

Correspondence advising of the following has been received:-

- Extension of double yellow lines on the North West side of Lothian Street past Douglas Crescent.
- Waiting time restrictions around schools
- Change to restrictions in Lothian Street, at flats to accommodate a helper picking up a resident
- Waiting time in West Mill Lasswade

12. Correspondence

- Wind Turbine development
- Invite from MacTaggart & Mickel to visit their new housing development in Loanhead - Neil Stewart attended
- Lidl intimating they may be expanding into Bonnyrigg
- Letter from Playgroup asking for financial assistance. Responded that B&LCC unable to give any financial support, but wish them success
- Midlothian Voluntary Sector forum newsletter
- Spokes newsletter
- Post watch newsletter
- Scottish Water – advance warning of work on a new water treatment plant at Glencorse.

13. Any Other Competent Business

Cameron Scott asked if the Councillors could request that the conifers in the park in Broomieknowe could be lopped, as the residents are concerned that if they were to be blown down in a storm they are now large enough to reach and damage the housing.

Action: Derek Milligan

Cameron Scott raised the problem in the rush hour of traffic from Bonnyrigg merging on to the Eskbank road, due to the volume of traffic. He asked if the relevant body could consider the installation of traffic lights. The same problem occurs at the junction of Polton road. There was a view that traffic lights should be the last solutions as the majority time there is no issue.

Neil Stewart asked that the B&LCC members consider the following during the summer recess:

➤ *Review the Constitution –*

The community council had commenced a review the constitution, previously, but due to the number of active members, it was felt that it was not the correct time for the review. Neil has electronic copies of both sample and the existing constitution, which he will distribute via email.

Action: Neil Stewart

➤ *Planning Convener –*

With the increased number of members, B&LCC should appoint a Planning Convener. The role requires monitoring planning documents for proposals that will affect the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade area, and prepare possible responses for the community council to consider and endorse.

➤ *Representative for Federation of Community Councils –*

This body meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and is a representative body of all the local community councils. Our representative would attend meetings and provide a short report to B&LCC.

14. Date of The Next meeting 20th September 2007