

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th March 2008 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg at 7.45pm.

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

In attendance: Councillors Bob Constable & Jackie Aitchison (Midlothian Council), Tracey Murray (Advertiser), PC Rod Stewart (Lothian & Borders Police).

Apologies: Councillor Derek Milligan

Amendments: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting: These were proposed by George Birrell, seconded by Gilbert Scott.

Matters arising:

Bus shelter – Councillor Bob Constable reported that funding had been found for the new bus shelter to be located opposite Waverley Court on the Cockpen Road, Bonnyrigg.

Twinning – A reply to Provost Montgomery’s letter had been received from the Mayor of St Cyr l’École advising that local elections would be shortly be taking place and that further contact with the Midlothian Council and the Community Council would be made at a later date. Neil Stewart will be contacting Albert Jaster, [Head Teacher of Lasswade High School], to try to set up email links with schools in St Cyr l’École. Neil Stewart will also write a hard-hitting article for the joint Community Council newsletter to attract support from the local community.

The Bonnyrigg Post Office relocation has been delayed due to problems at the new location at SPAR supermarket. It is understood that the move will now take place in April or May 2008.

Councillor Aitchison reported on the problem of the new Bonnyrigg Health Centre car park being used by commuters. He has spoken to the health centre management regarding the matter.

Finance

Current Account	£1382.46
Twinning	£1730.27

Police Report

PC Stewart gave the following report:-

Crime	Recorded	Solved
Violent	1	1
Sexual	0	0
Dishonesty	4	1
Vandalism	20	2
Miscellaneous	30	31
Totals:	55	35
Solvency Rate 64%		

Planning is in hand for an “open day” during Autumn 2008, supported by Midlothian Council and the Scottish Rugby Union.

Midlothian Councillors' Report

Councillor Jackie Aitchison –

- No plans have as yet been presented to Midlothian Council regarding the future use of the recently vacated SCOTMID building in Bonnyrigg High Street.
- Plinth adjacent to Pia's [fish & chip shop] – It is proposed to construct a focal point containing plants in hanging baskets to be used for the majority of the year [excluding Christmas when a tree will be erected].
- The Hopefield housing development is progressing well. There will also be a storm water treatment plant incorporated.
- Polton House – a business company, [James Henry of Loanhead], has now moved into the premises. The company operates large commercial vehicles, believed to be contrary to current planning permission. Midlothian Council's traffic officers are currently addressing the situation.
- Public meetings are being arranged across Midlothian to promote healthy lifestyles through schools and local groups. A meeting for the Bonnyrigg area will be arranged during May 2008.
- The old Bonnyrigg Health Centre – It was confirmed that an NHS dental practice will open at the location in May 2008.
- Midlothian Community Hospital – Consultation on services is well underway. The new hospital is planned to be open by March 2010.
- Gorebridge Care Home will be handed over shortly from the contractors. It will be 60 bed unit and the first residents will be relocated from the Mayburn Care Home in Loanhead. It will also contain a cafe and hairdressers salon, both of which will be open to the public.

Councillor Bob Constable –

- A seminar on car parking had been held in Dalkeith. The aim is to reduce the impact of commuter parking in Dalkeith and Bonnyrigg.
- Springfield Mill – Work has started to clear the former industrial site and return it to a wildlife site.
- Sherwood Place, Bonnyrigg – Problem had been reported with vehicles mounting the grass. Bob Constable has spoken to Midlothian Council [Commercial Services] who will install a fence to prevent vehicular access.

Newsletter

Ian Baxter reported that the joint Community Council newsletter was progressing well with several articles now being received. Thanks were expressed to Cameron Scott who had raised £235 from local business sponsorship. The deadline for submissions will be Friday 4th April 2008.

Planning

A completed registration document had been sent to Midlothian Council confirming our 'contractor' status for the purpose of receiving Ordnance Survey material contained within planning notifications.

Brian Scott reported on plans to build flats behind Garfee's cafe on Bonnyrigg High Street. The plans allow for an entry via a 4 metre wide road. The closest buildings are 22 metres from the existing buildings, compared to a minimum of 25 metres specified. Parking for 35 vehicles is planned for 23 houses.

Discussion centred on problems of access from Bonnyrigg High Street and the general feeling was it would be too dangerous for the amount of traffic expected. It was agreed to write to Midlothian Council objecting to the proposal on the grounds of inadequate vehicular access and that the current access available is only suitable for pedestrians.

Transport

Still awaiting the installation of the Bus Tracker system at bus stops in Bonnyrigg.

From April 2008, the Lothian Buses No.31 bus service to Polton Mill will be extended to Rosewell, by three morning and evening services.

Correspondence

Lasswade & District Civic Society – Newsletter [AGM is 28th April 2008].

Booklet written by Alyn Smith MEP – European Community funding on town twinning.

Midlothian Council – Minutes of meetings.

Midlothian Council [Strategic Services] – Good Design Awards 2008.

Midlothian Council – Bulky Uplift Service.

Midlothian Council [Education & Communities] – Harmonisation of charges - Annual registration fees are being sought from individuals and organisations using sports and other facilities owned by Midlothian Council. Neil Stewart has responded advising that as a statutory body, currently accorded rent free accommodation by Midlothian Council, that we should remain exempt from any such charges.

Scottish Government – Planning Modernisation consultation.

SEPA – Advice of a seminar on thermal treatment criteria (believed to be incineration), received.

Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC) – Midlothian Council has offered free membership to Community Councils within the county. Neil Stewart has written to Midlothian Council accepting the offer.

Any Other Competent Business

Neil Stewart had attended the recent Association of Community Councils (ASCC) meeting in the Edinburgh City Chambers. Potential changes as to how Community Councils will function, including a proposed new code of conduct were discussed along with a full range of issues.

Neil Stewart had attended an NHS Lothian, [Midlothian Public Partnership Forum], presentation, [which was supported by their appointed architects and building contractors], for the building of the new Midlothian Community Hospital. Plans for the new hospital will be lodged with Midlothian Council within the next six to ten weeks.

Councillor Aitchison advised that a planning application for the re-development of the former Staiside Inn location will soon be lodged with Midlothian Council.

Cameron Scott expressed concern at inconsiderate car parking around the junction of the Bonnyrigg High Street with the entrance to the new Bonnyrigg Health Centre.

Brian Scott expressed concern regarding litter strewn around the proposed Cockpen conservation area. Councillor Aitchison agreed to pursue the matter and report back to the next meeting.

Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 17th April 2008
[Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg] at 7.30 pm.