

## **Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on 15 May 2008 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg at 7.30pm.**

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

**In attendance:** Councillor Bob Constable, PC Liz Taylor (Lothian & Borders Police)

**Apologies:** Gilbert Scott

**Amendments:** Elaine Ferguson was attending last months meeting as a private individual and not as a representative of Midlothian Tenants Forum.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** These were proposed by George Birrell, seconded by Ian Baxter

#### **Matters arising:**

- Twinning —contact Albert Jaster, NS contacted Albert Jaster who is keen to support the twinning links. The headmaster is also willing to support language tuition in the primary schools where at present there is an un-quantified amount of French and German being taught, depending on teacher expertise. **Discharged**
- Bonnyrigg Health Centre —traffic wardens to monitor the parking on double yellow lines **Discharged**
- Development 81 to 83 Bonnyrigg High Street (Scot-mid building) — write to the planning authority.  
BS informed by the planner that there are a number of issues with the site. **Discharged**
- It was agreed to invite Muirs the developers to our next meeting.  
Muirs did not wish to address the meeting until they had feedback from planning **Discharged**
- Newsletter update — Ian Baxter will distribute himself.  
IB has completed 50%. CC members will split the remainder between them. **Discharged**
- Esk Valley Trust— donation £60 to the trust.  
NS attended the AGM, which was not well attended. The executive members reported on their areas of responsibility. **Discharged**
- Midlothian "Doors Open Day" 2008. **Ongoing Action: NS**
- Visit to Parliament. **Discharged**
- Street sign Eskbank Road. **Ongoing Action: JA**

#### **Finance:**

Current Account	£1567.46
Cheque outstanding for	£455.54
Twinning	£1730.27

#### **Police Report:**

PC Taylor gave the following report:-

Crime	Recorded	Solved
Violent	4	4
Sexual	1	1
Dishonesty	17	3
Mal Misc	28	1
Other Crime	5	5
<b>Totals:</b>	55	14
Solvency Rate 25.5%		

PC Taylor reported that the 4 community officers had carried out an extensive exercise in post coding 500 bikes, and creating bike passport which includes picture, chassis number and description. This allows the police to return bikes when found, many bikes are not reclaimed.

Discussion on parking and the problems caused for traffic, two examples of such problems were given as parking on the yellow lines in Bonnyrigg High Street, which blocks the road due to the volume of traffic, and the other is a caravan parked, long term, in Broomieknowe Gardens causing single file traffic. PC Taylor will email PC Stewart to make him aware of the problems

**Action: PC Taylor**

EF raised the parking and traffic problems in Dundas Street, with cars mounting the pavement to park outside shops, causing danger and inconvenience to pedestrians. PC Taylor will ask PC Stewart to look at this problem.

**Action: PC Stewart**

### **Midlothian Councillors' Report:**

#### **Councillor Bob Constable –**

- Councillor Constable had been very impressed when he had been out with the police in and unmarked police car, to experience police procedure and operations. He also viewed the reception of prisoners.
- The reporters report on the Local Plan inquiry into objections to the Finalise Local plan has been released and accepted.
- The council had held a seminar on reviewing council assets these included
  - The depot in the high street which is unlikely to move.
  - Offices in high Street
  - Orchard centre and Town hall
  - School would require £43million to replace and is amongst the poorer in Scotland
- Core paths – Some path access has been blocked to Mavisbank House
- Parking Seminar – It is intended to hold a parking seminar for Bonnyrigg. The difficulty envisaged is the lack of off street parking and the narrowness of the roads, in comparison to Dalkeith.
- Planning – The planning has been agreed for a large water works at Flotterstone. The main benefactor will be Edinburgh residents. The building will be environmentally sensitive, an example being a grass roof. The pipeline will follow the A701 to Alnwickhill.
- General Purpose Committee – The committee had reached a compromise with the proposed Orange walk in Penicuik.
- Shawfair – the council has agreed to sign off the Shawfair agreement.

EF raised the issue that there has been no allocation of council houses since 1<sup>st</sup> of April as the old allocation system had been stopped prior to the new one being in place and in operation. Councillor Constable will contact the appropriate officials for an update.

**Action: BC**

#### **Planning:**

51 High Street – the planning department have informed BS that they have concerns regarding access to this development.

Dalhousie Bridge – BS asked Councillor Constable if he knew if there were any plans to reopen this bridge. The cost to reinstate the bridge is in the region of £5million, and there are no plans at present to reinstate.

Roslin Glen Road – DI asked if there was any date for the Glen road to reopen. It is envisaged that this is a long term closure.

#### **Transport:**

49 Bus Timetable – on the 8<sup>th</sup> June the 49 bus route will extend to Rosewell on a 20 minute frequency during daytime Monday to Friday and 30 minutes at the evenings and weekends.

First Edinburgh — IB had a meeting with the Mr Paul Thomas, MD of First Edinburgh, to discuss the local services provide by First Edinburgh.

It was constructive and a number of issues were discussed. He did confirm that the 4 buses used on the 79 route will be replaced with newer ones in about a week or so. They will not, however, be Disabled/Parent friendly as yet. He acknowledged that the state of the buses currently running on the route is of an unacceptable standard.

First is actively looking at hooking up to the Bus Tracker system (as part of the exercise to allow the seniors' passes to be read electronically). As part of the discussions IB suggested that some of the routes from Birkenhead and Mayfield could be diverted to service Bonnyrigg.

Mr Thomas was invited to attend a CC meeting in the autumn, which he would like to do

#### **Twinning:**

Europe day— NS attended this function. The evening consisted of talks on the treaty of Rome, entertainment by a mini pipe band from Penicuik and a Spanish classical guitarist, with the evening concluding with a wine tasting session.

High School contact— once the new administration in St Cyr. L'Ecole has established itself and contacted us; an email link will be setup by the high school. No further action will be taken until this is up and running.

Midlothian Twinning association— the AGM for the twinning association will be held on 26 May in the mining museum Newtongrange. NS will attend.

**Action: NS**

#### **Lasswade Post Office:**

A letter was read out from Lasswade Enterprises Ltd, the owners of Lasswade post office, informing the CC that the Post office is under threat to close as it is on the Post Office closure review list confirmation will be given sometime in May 2008. If the post office closes the village shop will not be able to survive due to the loss of revenue from the post office business.

Whilst the discussion was very sympathetic to the possible loss of this facility in the village it was felt that there was very little the CC council could do at this stage in the proceedings.

#### **CONSULTATION ON DRAFT MODEL SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS:**

The Community Council Working Group (CCWG), invite our views and comments on the draft documents, which have been received

These documents have been produced by the CCWG following the recommendations that arose from the review of community councils and responses to the discussion paper, "What can we do to help Community Councils Fulfil their Role?" which was undertaken in 2005/06.

This consultation exercise aims to provide the opportunity for all those who wish to express their opinion on these proposed documents to do so in a way that will inform and enhance them. Responses are required no later than 1 August 2008.

NS, IB and SR will complete the response on behalf of the CC

**Action: NS, IB, SR**

#### **Visit to parliament;**

Rhona Brankin has supplied a date of the 9 June at 6pm for our visit to the parliament. CS, GS, RS, NS EF, BS and SR will attend the visit. SR will forward the names to Rhona to prepare the security passes for the visit

**Action: SR**

### **Correspondence:**

The following correspondence was received and the detailed documents are circulating round the CC members. As there is not the same volume as last months it is hoped that all members will have the opportunity to read this months documents

### **Post Boxes**

"With the transfer of the Post Office from the old Scotmid store to Spar later this week, we will also lose a posting box at this end of town. I would be interested to know if there are any plans to install a replacement?"

The CC view is that there are sufficient boxes in the vicinity of the town centre to meet the needs of the public.

### **Fairer Scotland Fund**

#### **Small Projects Regeneration Fund**

#### **Evaluation of Fairer Scotland Fund Applications**

#### **Calor Village of the Year Awards (Population 5000 or less)**

#### **Midlothian Public Partnership Forum**

B&LCC have joined this forum and will receive regular minutes and updates on the PPF. SR intends to attend the meetings on behalf of the CC.

#### **Association of Community Councils Questionnaire**

#### **The report of Local plan inquiry into objections to the Finalised Midlothian Local Plan received on a CD**

### **Any Other Competent Business:**

Co-option of new member— Elaine Ferguson agreed to join B&LCC her co-option was proposed by GB and seconded by IB

Community Service Officer— The Community services officer will be invited to address the next CC council meeting in June

**Action: NS**

Cockpen Glen— BS raised the subject of the rubbish that was on the glen road from Cockpen cross roads to Lothian bridge. This had been raised in an earlier meeting and action had been promised to clear the rubbish. At the April meeting Councillor Aitcheson reported that there had been a special cleanup done on the Cockpen road up to Dalhousie farm. As there may have been a misunderstanding, Councillor Constable will raise the issue with appropriate council department to clean up the road from Cockpen cross roads to Lothian bridge

**Action: BC**

20 MPH Speed limits— the subject of Council policy on 20 MPH speed limits was raised as there appeared to be discrepancy where it could or could not be used. BC will obtain the policy

**Action: BC**

Fred Mehlsen— the meeting was informed of the death of Fred who had been the owner and publican of the Laird and Dog for a number of years.

Surgeries—Councillor Constable informed the meeting that his surgeries were changing to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month and will be held 6.00 to 7.00pm at Bonnyrigg Public Hall..

**Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday 19 June 2008  
(Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg) at 7.30 pm.