

## **Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on 15 January 2009 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Neil Stewart (Chairman), Ian Baxter (Vice Chairman), Dorothy Innes (Treasurer), Stewart Renwick (Secretary), Brian Scott, Elaine Ferguson, Ruth Scott, Gilbert Scott, George Birrell, Benny McIntyre, Eddie Ramsay

In attendance: Councillor Bob Constable, Derek Milligan, PC David Shirley ([part meeting] Lothian and Borders Police), Karl Vanters ([part meeting] Principal Officer - Public Transport, Midlothian Council, Commercial Services)

**Welcome:** The Chairman Welcomed all and in particular Karl Vanters who was attending to address the CC on the Regulation of Bus Services Bill (ROBS bill)

#### **Karl Vanters Regulation of Bus Services Bill (ROBS bill)**

A summary of the discussion follows

The Bill aims to:-

- Amend the procedures specified in the 2001 Transport Scotland Act, to make it easier, quicker and less expensive for Councils to respond to market failure in local bus markets by developing the statutory Quality Bus partnerships and Bus Contracts provided for in the 2001 Act.
- Authorise free bus travel for anyone in receipt of the lower rate of Disability Living Allowance, and their carer or escort.
- Extend the current concessionary scheme to include community transport organisations, which operate bus services in predominantly rural areas where there are no commercial services, improving public transport access for older and disabled people and encouraging increased bus travel
- Have an accompanying Policy memorandum to bolster the Employment Rights of Bus Workers affected by it through a Protocol to be agreed between the Scottish Government, COSLA and Trade Unions, similar to the protocol of 2002 which bolstered the Employment Rights of workers affected by PPP projects.

IB asked what would happen when the grants ceased on a number of the existing routes where the 3 year period is coming to an end. KV informed the meeting that the bus companies had to continue for one year after the cessation and this time ends in September.

All buses will require "low floor" by 2017. Lothian buses are very close to 100% already and are expected to meet the requirement next year. First bus is on schedule to meet the deadline.

GB asked if vandalism was covered in the bill. KV no but it is the view that vandalism is decreasing particularly since the introduction of CCTV in the buses.

EF asked who was responsible for changing routes. KV replied that it is a commercial decision by the companies unless it is a MC funded route.

The chair thanked Karl for his very interesting participation in the meeting.

IB will provide a response, on behalf of B&LCC to the consultation document

**Action: IB**

**Apologies:** PC Rod Stewart (Lothian & Borders Police), Councillor Jackie Aitchison,

**Amendments:** Elaine Ferguson did not attend the November meeting. Minute changed

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** These were proposed by Gilbert Scott and seconded by Ian Baxter

**Matters arising:***June Meeting*

- Drinking fountain — the fountain is 100 years old and CS felt that the date should be marked in some way. Elaine Richardson to investigate possible improvements.

**Action: JA (Carried Forward)***September Meeting*

- Secure post Box within Spar— waiting response from the Post office.

**Action: IB (Carried Forward)***November Meeting*

- Rubbish on Cockpen Glen Road — JA will ask council department to contact landowner

**Action: JA (Carried Forward)**

- Twinning — Email to be sent to St Cyr by IB. NS to inform Midlothian twinning association of problems. Very positive communication has been received from St Cyr and a visit from their representatives is being organised for February. **Discharged**

- Dalkeith to Penicuik walkway — Letter to commercial services supporting the application to WREN **Discharged**

- Broomieknowe Gardens Walkway — Information passed onto appropriate council department

**Action: JA (Carried Forward)**

- Cockpen 20mph signs — Information to be passed on to council department

**Action: JA (Carried Forward)****Financial Report:**

Current Account	£1,135.25
Twinning	£1,738.56

Cheque outstanding for £150

Our application for a grant from Midlothian Council requires to be processed. The CC agreed to apply for the £600. This will cover our main yearly expenditures.

**Action: DI**

The accounts are to be audited.

**Action: DI****Police Report:**

PC David Shirley gave the following report;

Crime	Recorded	Solved
Violent	0	0
Sexual	0	0
Dishonesty	29	21
Mal Misc	17	3
Other Crime	5	5
<b>Totals:</b>	51	29
Solvency Rate 57%		

The above figures give a year on year reduction in 11%

There is an ongoing investigation into a fatal accident which occurred in November.

“Free running” is prevalent in the Bonnyrigg area and as it very dangerous the Police wish that any activities of this nature are reported to them, and are asking for our support.

Visits have taken place to licensed premises, in Bonnyrigg, by undercover police in November. There was a marked improvement since their last visit in August.

Test purchasing is ongoing with the outlets being warned in advance. One major store has been reported.

DM informed the meeting that the Community Activity Team has been active in visiting house of residents who are under curfew. This has been productive.

**Midlothian Councillors' Report:****Councillor Derek Milligan —**

DM stressed to the meeting that MC council were going to switch off street lights as reported in the advertiser. They were trying to educate the staff to turn off lights when they leave the building, saving costs on unnecessary electricity consumption.

Midlothian is advocating bringing the house build program forward by two years, to take advantage of cheaper building costs and to help employment.

The capital budget is affected by the building of new schools where £25m is already committed.

The revenue budget is a major problem, with some unpalatable decisions to be taken. Some front line services will be affected, such as the free grass cutting which has been stopped. It is still possible to obtain a grass cutting service but there will now be a charge.

DM intimated that the Bonnyrigg fun day was unlikely to start this year due to the financial climate and the difficulty in obtaining sponsorship.

SR asked when the Director of Commercial Services and Director of Strategic Services would report back on the safety of Lothian Street (between the Waverley Cres and Eldindean Rd junctions) following the fatal accident in November. DM replied that there were difficulties in where to provide a safe pedestrian crossing. DM informed SR that he would have a meeting with him, and the relevant people at the site soon, possibly within the next two weeks.

**Action: DM**

BS asked for an update on the distributor road from Rosewell. BC informed the meeting that a major issue was the proximity of the street lighting columns to the road. It is hoped that it will be open to the public by the end of February

### **Councillor Bob Constable —**

The new recycling plant has opened at Stobhill Road Newtongrange.

There will be an Orange walk in Bonnyrigg on 27 June starting 9.00 at Douglas Crescent ,then via Lothian Street, Polton Street, Rosewell Road, Polton Avenue Road, Pentland Road, Eskdale Drive, Pryde Terrace, Dobbies Road to the War Memorial and disperse at the Leisure Centre car park. It will comprise a band and 160 marchers.

### **Planning:**

There is a planning application for 24 dwelling houses and parking the site of the old Poltonhall Labour club.

### **Transport:**

There are minor changes to the route 31 timetable.

### **Twinning:**

There is now a new twinning committee in St Cyr and they have made contact with Midlothian Council and IB through email. There is a delegation coming on the 26<sup>th</sup> February. They are keen to setup links with the school and matching organisations who are interested in twinning. Midlothian twinning will host an event to involve organisations. We need to resell twinning to the community after the number of years that the link has been dormant.

**Action: IB/NS**

The organisation contact list is out of date and needs to be updated. SR will attempt to pull the information together.

**Action: SR**

### **Lasswade High School:**

Original building construction is now causing concerns. The Fire service would not enter the building if they new that there was no danger to life. Heating is a major problem with many days having to close the building due to lack of heating. Toilets are original and are way below standard £22k per year from school budget for repairs.

What the school would like from a new building:-

- The ideal for the new building would be to build next to original so that it remains within the community.
- Needs a swimming pool so that staff can control when swimming is available
- The transport infrastructure needs to service the school.
- Good classroom size
- Natural lighting
- Low heating costs
- Large assembly Hall
- Good IT infrastructure
- Maximum capacity 1500
- First year class size max 8 x 30 i.e. 240

We agreed with Albert Jaster to use our newsletter to provide a pro-forma for the public to write to their MSP

### **Community Council Elections:**

The election if required will be held on the 19 March 2009.

Councillor agreed to act as returning officer. The election packs will be made available on the WEB site (IB) and in Bonnyrigg library (SR) as well as from Councillor Constable's office.

**Action: SR/IB**

### **Correspondence:**

#### **Public Partnership Forum**

PPF Steering group minutes for November.

Paper on disclosure checks regarding PPF

November current requests

#### **Midlothian Council**

Civic Government (Scotland) act 1982 Taxis — Demand for Services of taxis in Midlothian

Questionnaire for citizen Panel in relationship to the demand for the services of taxis being unmet.

Please take a questionnaire tonight if you want to take part in the survey as the return date is 26 January

#### **Community Planning Team Scottish Government**

From: Anna.Gilbert@scotland.gsi.gov.uk[mailto:Anna.Gilbert@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 17 December 2008 16:04

Subject: Summary of responses to CCWG Consultation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CommunityCouncils/ComCounCon>

#### **Midlothian Travel Team**

Newsletter for November and December

#### **Internet Access speed**

We have received an email from a resident of Royal Scots Medway (New development at Poltonhall)

Concerning poor availability of high speed internet connection, due to poor infrastructure i.e. copper cable from exchange at Eskbank. Also quoting European Union meeting of December 2008.

Exchange upgrade to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards completed March 2009.

Economic growth

SR respond suggesting BT is contacted for future plans. SR to contact Rhona Brankin.

**Action: SR**

#### **Midlothian Council**

New traffic order Bonnyrigg Distributor road, introducing a 40mph limit on Rosewell road and part of the distributor road from 12 January 2009.

#### **Midlothian Voluntary Sector Forum**

Minutes of August meeting.

#### **Scottish Natural Heritage**

Magazine

#### **Midlothian Economic Development Plan**

The Midlothian Economic Development sets out the vision for the next decade.

#### **Midlothian Transport Strategy**

Transport Strategy for 2007 to 2010.

#### **Midlothian Minutes**

Minutes presented to Midlothian council on 25<sup>th</sup> November and 28 December

**Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday 19 February 2009

(Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg) at 7.30 pm.