

BROXBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes 29th April 2013

Held in Broxburn Old Town Centre, at 7pm

Present: Tom Roy, chair; Steve Dowd; Jack McLaren; Murray Kane; Dorothy Knox, treasurer; Ellen Glass, secretary.

Members of the public: Sylvia Roy; Harry Ferguson; Neil Swanson; George Swanson.

Councillors: Diane Calder; Janet Campbell.

Apologies: Councillor Tony Boyle. PC V Manning.

Minutes approved for 25th March 2013 subject to item 3a: Should read Mrs Dickson and not Mrs Swanson as stated.

Proposed by: Steve Dowd **Seconded by:** Murray Kane.

Matters arising:

1. Family Unit in West Main Street: The light will be set to the correct times and they will adjust the angle of the light.

2. Police Report. Report for February was read out but has previously been displayed with last minutes. Please see attached report for March. To check on contact information permitted. - DK

3. BMX Track:

Construction: The first 300 tonnes was fine baize ordered/delivered first was insufficient. Second load is not crushed blaze but it is settling. A further 300 tons of finely crushed red blaze or whin dust is needed. CB can maybe guide about cost. The track is being well used. Some modifications have been made and will continue to be made. It has been suggested that we may ask for contributions from business e.g. Hunters for blaze/whin dust, and Keyline for a whacker etc. Apart from this shortfall the track is finalised. **Action Cllr Calder.**

Local resident who thinks the course is excellent, are slightly concerned about young children not being in view. It was agreed the parents have a responsibility for their children. HSE should also be contacted. It has already been requested by TR that a barrier be erected to help prevent children at the canal end of the path overshooting it. Not a lot can be done to make the track visible from the houses.

There is some concern about the mistakes the architect has made which has led to the building of the track not being as per the guidelines, and also taking three weeks longer than it should which has also led to the full completion of the track not being as instructed/directed, but there is great praise for the work done by Bryce McLaren and his team on construction although they were not the main contractor. **CB to be asked about this and the money involved by Cllr's Campbell & Calder.** The track is useable and will be improved over time.

There is a need for **rubbish bins**. **Action: TR to contact CB.**

Signs have to be erected about wearing protective clothing, especially a helmet.

Contact Albyn Football Club to explore about affiliation between the two prior to applying to other governing bodies for recognition.

No container required for storage as it would encourage break-ins. Albyn Football Club may have somewhere we can store bikes (Action GS) or possibly the Sports Centre.

Flying fox has still to be installed (was erected wrong way round!). Matting has to be made more secure.

There are two types of BMX, **freestyle and racing**, both styles are welcome but coaching will be available for those interested in racing.

Now we need advertising in papers and internet etc. Courier, Edinburgh Evening News (Dale Miller), ensure CB put on WLC web site. **Action GS. JC**

W.L. Health to be contacted and made aware about keep fit and exercise. It is an Olympic Sport. If recognised by the Governing Body, WL Sports Body it helps towards grants. Each Councillor can also give a donation from the disbursement grant once they are registered. Cllr will forward form to GS who should then return it when completed. Suggested Heritage Lottery Fund, but there is one for families and children regarding health from the Lottery Funding. West Lothian Sports Council is given quarterly.

Donation: It was proposed by J McL; 2nd SD, that we give £150 to the club for cleaning material and general start-up. Vote was unanimous.

Manual Starting gate is all that is required to teach starting gate technique. Suggested Regeneration Grant should be applied for.

Seats are missing from the area. Agreed to ask the council for this. Action EG.

4. Halls of Broxburn Regeneration:

The next meeting will be the last one, but nothing released yet about how it is being distributed etc. £29.5 million allocated from Scottish Government (£2m allocated for food and drink) which could be used by WLC to buy it for the people of the area. Smaller amounts from this fund of £10k and others for £5k will be available but the distribution and categories have to be announced soon.

Rumour has it that equipment has been removed and the premises at Vion will be flattened. It is also rumoured that dem-master are on site. Cllr Calder stated that the land is contaminated with asbestos; arsenic from DCL plant which was ploughed and covered; and more. The old fuel tanks are still underground. The mound at the back is contaminated. Demolition people only go a foot deep and they would need to go deeper which would cost a lot of money.

A Consortium are producing a Business Plan to open/start up pig production plant again. Cllrs Campbell and Calder asked WLC to halt any works meantime till this can be looked at. Vion may not permit competition. He wants WLC to buy the factory with all machinery including abattoir and hire it back to him. Biggest rumour is Tesco are taking it over. Cathy Muldoon is Executive Councillor and hasn't responded to requests to meet the Councillors. It is requested that she, the leader of the council and local MP come to our next meeting. It was suggested that the Vion site could divide into small units. E-mail CM and ask 'Is it the Council intention to purchase the land at Vion's that could be developed for creating jobs for west Lothian'. EG will look at Executive Development and Transport department meeting minutes.

From the meeting we attended in December we, the Community Council, have not been kept updated.

5. Greendykes Road. We believe the premises have been bought by West Lothian Council (WLC) from Regeneration Grant to make an advice shop. Two Halls ex employees are volunteers with Credit Union which is hoped to be accommodated in there. It is not known if there will be any employment opportunities or if it is purely relocation of existing Council staff. It would seem WLC have no idea what it has cost for PACE to be in Halls or Strathbrock, or how successful it has been. Planning for change of use has to be applied for.

Other competent business:

1. Tesco Section 75 to be confirmed as signed although planning permission still not granted. The developer will have 6mths to investigate contamination. Once this is done, development must start within two years. (excluding site investigation and fencing). There is no restriction on the time it may take to build the supermarket. It will take 9-10 months to erect. The whole site has to be decontaminated before the houses are built. Tesco meantime have stated that they are pulling out of USA, some of the land-banked sites and not building large supermarkets. They want to concentrate on smaller stores.

2. Report West Lothian Association of Community Councils (WLACC). Meeting held last week where Eric Burton of Rural Connect based at Oatridge College was guest speaker. Rural Connect advertise in the Courier each week and work over much, but not all, of West Lothian. Currently they are looking for historic background information about Bathgate. They give skills training in various matters of a Heritage nature. For example how to work with specific machinery such as a chain saw; sharpen and maintain a lawn mower etc. drainage and more ambitious projects such as allotments and raised flower beds. They will teach these skills but will not do the work for anyone.

Presently they are encouraging various towns to suggest medal walks. That is they are from a set start/finish point over fairly flat ground. Bronze walk is 15 minutes; silver walk is 30 minutes and gold walk is 1 hour long.

Farm Open Day on 26th May 2013 at Oatridge College where you can see what is on offer and some examples of their work/projects.

St John's Hospital was discussed, mainly the children's ward where they have got a new doctor starting in June and they have offered other international doctors but it takes time for them to be appointed. It is hoped the ward will not close this summer. Orthopaedics is the biggest buyer of alternative care to get waiting lists down. A decision will be made re the future if orthopaedics will be based at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary or repatriated to St John's.

WLACC are partners in the armed West Lothian Armed Forces Community Covenant which provides funding for projects to integrate members of the armed forces, veterans, and their families into the community. Armed Forces day is 29th June 2013.

The WLACC meetings are being held monthly and they hope to have a speaker on alternate months. In order to encourage people they may start earlier and hold a Buffet but there is more discussion required. Members of the public can sit in on these meetings but not take part. Community Council members are welcome, numbers are unrestricted but only one from each CC can vote on any matter. WLACC are keen to hear of any problems/complaints that other Community Councils are experiencing and they will look at it and act on it if appropriate.

The next meeting of WLACC 7pm in the Chambers of the Civic Centre, Livingston: on Thursday 23rd May 2013. Other dates are on their web site which has been recently updated www.wlacc.org.uk

3. Heritage Lottery Funding. Outcomes for people with their investment will have: developed skills; learnt about heritage; changed their attitudes and/or behaviour; had an enjoyable experience; volunteered time. Investment from HLF will be better managed; in better condition; better interpreted & explained; identified and recorded. For communities the investment from hlf will reduce environmental impacts; involve a wider range of people who will have engaged with heritage; your local area/community will be better place to live, work, or visit; your economy will be boosted; your

organisation will be more resilient. Various applications and amounts are available. Funding is available for schools, places of worship i.e. to keep wind and water tight rather than full rebuild. Website – www.hlf.org.uk Sign up for an e-bulletin.

4.NHS/St John's Hospital. Community Council can meet with West Lothian Council every three months. The Liverpool pathways, is developing a 'nearing end of life arrangements/care plan which is discussed with relatives, drawing up a plan and keeping it updated regularly' every four hours. This is about giving people choice. Paediatrics have people interested, four from Burma were interviewed by phone but would not be here for some time (red tape) and then require 3 months supervision. Both doctors at the hospital, who are husband and wife, will want to go on holiday together again. This causes concern that we may lose the ward when the new Children's hospital is built in Edinburgh. There are two new wards in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary to be built. It was asked why 'can we not have St John's utilised more?' The Astley Ainslie, The Royal Victoria and Liberton hospitals are all being closed. Money from the Government has kept the operating theatres at St John's Hospital working seven days a week to reduce the waiting lists. Burns unit have now moved into ward 19 and apparently working well. The nursery will continue to run with the clients they have but will not take any more new ones as there are plenty in the community now.

Correspondence-

1. **Harlequin telecommunication equipment upgrade** at East Main St Industrial Estate; Holmes Farm Lane; Illingworth Brothers, Greendykes Road. No objections received provided just an upgrade.
2. **Planning SPG developer contributions** to denominational secondary school. Due to down turn in housing, educational numbers have had to be reassessed between Winchburgh and St Margaret's In Livingston. May need done again if there is an upturn.
3. **Community Council Funding.** SPG is set at £750 maximum. There is now no limit to the number of applications up to that figure for CC's. The accounts must have been passed at the AGM before being sent to WLC and they must be audited and signed by two authorised signatories who are not members of the Community Council. No limit on the donations provided for community.
4. **Community Jobs Scotland.** Passed deadline – **will ask for feed back DK**
5. **Data Protection Form** has been submitted.
6. **Update on Winchburgh & Linlithgow.** The Burghmuir development has been withdrawn in Linlithgow but they are bringing forward the other phase with 200 houses. Development and archaeology. Historic relics were unearthed at Glendevon and behind the Beatly School in Winchburgh. This was reported to WSAS after WLC were informed but the contractors had it covered over by the following day.
7. **Update on various planning applications:**
 - 0027/FUL/12 Dobbies Car Wash: Passed at committee 14th June 2012. Additional application to remove some car parking spaces passed by officer on August 3rd. Last update- e-mail 27th August given 3 months to fill in an area. ? if this is done. Currently advertising the Hand Car Wash Franchise as original franchisee never opened.

- Andrew Bennie – current application for screening
 - 0582/EIA/13 Old school in West Main Street. WLC were examining the buildings for structural security. Permission for demolition applied for and passed. There appears to be some confusion about what is being demolished. Scottish Executive are examining this application at present. Contact RD case officer DK.
 - 0443/FUL/12 Masonic Lodge to Polish Deli. Granted permission 30th August 2012 by officer not uploaded until 7th March 2013. Broxburn Community Council objection/observation and request to have building examined not uploaded. Given run around about decision. No structural assessment from surveyor; building standards or environmental health uploaded re the crack through the lintels and sills plus down wall on east side and bowed wall on west side. There is still no mention of structural supporting wall being removed inside as on plan; or fire escape route from back of upper landing. The cracks have worsened since first reported. The building is presently for let.
 - 0038/FUL/13 Public Toilets to salon. This has now been changed to class 3 a shop, and passed by planning officer.
 - 0455/HZ/13 Diageo for increased Ethanol storage. HSE report not sent to us as promised despite being told BCC was a consultee. Permission granted by planning officer 20th March 2013 provided it is kept within certain parameters.
 - 0212/FUL/13 Change of use from Club premises to 3 flats. 12-14, West Burnside. Following the flood prevention work the applicant has stated will heighten floor inside. No objections.
 - 0219/FUL/13 Camilty Wind Farm. This covers a large area. No comments.
 - 4 Greendykes Road has been bought by the Council with regeneration money to redeploy their staff to an advice office with Credit Union; Heritage Lottery etc.
8. **Upcoming Community Council elections** – 31st October. Training after elections.

OCB. Signs for last Fridays march were not put up high enough at Buchan Lane and vehicles were catching on it. Can they please either put on wall or up higher.

NEXT MEETING;

**27th May 2013.
The Old Town Hall,
Broxburn 7PM.**

www.broxburncc.org.uk

*The meeting will be recorded unless someone wants to discuss a personal problem in which case it may be switched off if requested.