

BROXBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Monday 30th September 2013

Held in The Old Town Centre, Broxburn at 7pm

Present: Tom Roy, Chair. Dorothy Knox, Treasurer. Ellen Glass, secretary. Murray Kane. Robert Morrison. Jack McLaren. Steve Dowd. Sylvia Milne; Harry Ferguson;

Councillors: Diane Calder

Apologies: Councillor Janet Campbell; Councillor Tony Boyle. Russell McLean.

Our wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to Cllr Campbell. Haste ye back Janet.

L&BP. DNA

Minutes approved for 26th August 2013

Proposed by: Steve Dowd **Seconded by:** Robert Morrison

POLICE REPORT: - awaiting report for August.

Guest speaker: Oatridge College – DNA

Matters arising:

1. Bennie Housing – wrote and asked if they have completed their investigation but still awaiting response.

2. BMX track – would like to widen the track due to volume of children. Colin Bell has to be contacted. Chris Hoy has agreed to come but waiting to hear when. It has been suggested for a Friday afternoon. The club is looking for a new secretary and treasurer which is causing problems financially. The cheque we issued for insurance and/or equipment is due to expire in the next month. It was suggested they are given cash but they have to submit receipts to us first. The insurance is for membership to the governing body. It was agreed DK to discuss this with them. **Cllr DC. re CH.+DK re finance.**

3. Buses:

- First bus has agreed to come to a CC meeting but not to a public meeting. First bus had said they were renewing their fleet but so far there has been no sign of it.
- It has come to our attention from members of the public that on several occasions, especially when schools are in session, that some buses operated by Horsburgh have not turned up leaving passengers to wait for the next available bus which comes along.
- It has been asked how viable the Edinburgh Hospital (visiting) bus run is proving to be as many would prefer to have it for appointments. There seems to be problems with seats being put in/taken out for wheel chairs.
- It was well discussed and decided to invite them to a meeting. It is believed there are only about three profitable bus routes. We believe that the council has a 'tick box' complaints system which they will bring up at their meeting. Lack of competition is a problem.

4. Canal Tow Paths: No further information received about the outstanding works and when they will be restarted. Tow paths were to be covered in tarmac but we believe WLC are not paying now. Some of the smaller pot holes have been filled in a nearby road. The grass cut back that has been done at the Old Town Centre was done by Community Service but we are told they can't do it at the canal – this is being

followed up. We have been led to believe that WLC legal dept. are saying Community Pay Back can't work on the canal. Refer to Local Area committee meeting. Apart from widening the towpath, and work at the Lychgate there does not appear to have been any other work done as promised.

Action Cllr.DC+HF.

5. Old Town Centre: Cllr Boyle has been working with GC to get charitable status for this Old Town Centre area and he led us to believe he had secured money for the project. We were never told about this despite the work we have done with Oatridge College. GC told the elderly who use the hall that they would have to pay towards the use of the hall. We have had it confirmed that there is no money set aside at present for this project. This is not good policy as Oatridge have a big stance in and are working with the community. It has been acknowledged that the Community Council originated this project. Money can be applied for from other schemes eg small grants as it fits the criteria.

WLC Administration are administering a charge of £1 per week for the 'care line' service and there is a charge of and £3.75 for the phone link.

We should invite GC & AB from Oatridge College to our next meeting and explore if we apply for regeneration funding and if Oatridge can't come, get the plans from them. GC would like the shops and residents of the area to help to keep the scheme going.

Action TR

6. Old Town Centre roof. The bit on the right has been fixed but the other side has not been repaired plus another bit in the middle.

Action Cllr. DC

7. Response from Planning re meeting in June.

- The contamination/investigation/ at the Candleworks site is hidden in Land Agreement which they say we can not be privy to. Planning said to Cllrs that they would be starting investigation in the next few weeks; they should take around 20 weeks and would be advised when they have dates, but according to another senior officer in early September the agreement was not finalized as the developer contribution (money) has not been paid. There are at least 7 pollutants of which 5 are known carcinogens according to the report given at the outset (dated early 2000). The CEO is investigating this irregularity of information. It is questioned about how they can make it unavailable even under FOI. The Winchburgh development, which has recently been investigated, is worth millions and they were more open although this (Broxburn) is a more contaminated site. Tesco said originally that the contamination was not too bad. SEPA to date, do not appear to be involved. Neil Brown Contamination Officer stated originally that test boring and trial trenching was definitely needed. There is also a water course that is running northward which is unusual for this area. Proper extensive investigation needs to take place and once this is done ask them to our meeting.
- Legal action about black mould court case is still on going in the USA.
- Copy of Section 75 has been sent which is minimal.
- The roof on the old part of the Vion building is lined with asbestos. Environmental Health are monitoring what is happening at the site. Vion stated that there was more than just the roof had asbestos. Dem – master will keep it in one area and have it removed by licensed carrier. WLC were aware of the contamination on this site and yet permitted building by Grampian which raises concerns about the Candleworks site being treated appropriately.
- Ranald Dods Planning officer explained that Historic Scotland has agreed to the demolition of the Lodge house at the old school. There is no 3D model available. People are wondering what is going on with this site. We should invite them to our next meeting and bring plans. Update the sign re the works date or take the sign down.

Action DK.

- They are still investigating the viability of the Kirkhill housing development due to ground stability issues.
- 8. Community Council Elections.** All of the existing Community Council members, apart from Tam Penman and J Anderson who did not apply, were re-elected. We are pleased to welcome new Councillors Harry Ferguson and Sylvia Milne to the fold.
- 9. Disabled persons parking.** The notice at the last meeting was re changing several disabled bays. We also thought there would be less abuse of the badge as the photo was on the front, but it is not, it is on the back. There is a new, very clear handbook issued with it and also a time card for certain places. The traffic warden is hardly ever seen now.
- 10. Community Engagement Consultation:** This was returned that we communicate with others through community groups, leaving minutes here, displaying in the notice boards at the library and Strathbrock in the new notice board and at the Adult Education end. We also communicate with other community groups and any relevant bodies. The new larger notice board is now in situ and uses magnets rather than drawing pins.
- 11. Scottish Government Sexual Entertainment Venues.** Replied that we are in line with it and that it should be separate from alcohol licensing and the local authority retain the right to refuse.

Planning applications:

Station Rd 33: Planning recommended refusal but the applicant has suggested just one house which is large on the plan and will be discussed.

Station Road 9; Awaiting plans from planning.

Daltons – no further information to date.

1. **Vion** – demolition work well on the way. Dem-master is recycling most of the material. Some workers are still not employed, or poor employment where others are in better jobs and getting more money. The shop opened to help the regeneration has been closed on a Saturday and also closed on a Monday. Invite Alice Sinnet along to next meeting. There is no disabled access. It is felt that more publicity and signage are required. 20 people had attended over two weeks. WLC have a 3 year lease with 3 staff desks and 2 for Credit Union and a small and medium meeting room, also six computers. It was also observed that the name above the door sounds as if it is for people who want to start a business not get help to get a job. **Action Cllr DC**
2. **NHS St Johns** – next meeting at Fauldhouse.
3. **Invoice paid for web site.**

Correspondence:

Taxi ranks are being reduced in number at West Main Street, and they are building a new one at the swimming pool. New sign will be going up.

Question from the floor:

1. **Why have we not seen the Traffic warden?** We need more evident enforcement. We have been told that he is going and we don't have a regular community policeman. We have been told that the criteria still exists but they can't get their shift changed to come. We were told as a Community group that the police mobile unit outside the meeting and also the bicycles helped with crime prevention/catching. Ask the senior officer about The Community Council bikes, and are they still being used in the local community? **Action Cllr DC**

2. **Food Banks.** 20-30 people attending in Uphall on a Tuesday & Thursday. Must be referred by social work. Asda & possibly others give a list of items that people may like to donate to food banks. Our chairman visited it last week and reported that they have a wee chat with the clients and suggest other forms of help which may be beneficial. There are only three visits permitted. Parcels are graded according to size of family. It has also been thought that perhaps clothing may be required in the cold weather.
3. **NHS meetings:** Around 10-12 people are attending their meetings which is a shame as it would have reached a greater number of the community had they attended the local meetings.
4. **Is it lawful for beggars in Broxburn?** There is someone who has a sign 'hungry & homeless' but it has to be reported to the police before they can move him along or help him.
5. **The Remembrance Day Parade** is on the 10th November this year and is from Uphall down towards Broxburn.
6. **Broxburn Gala Day committee.** There is a Ball on the 26th October in The Club, Greendykes Road to raise funds. Tickets are £6:00. The band Whiterose Folk Music will play for 1½ hours and there will be a disco afterwards. Great raffle prizes have been received from some local businesses but more would be very welcome from other local traders as well. This year it is hoped to have a Christmas Pageant involving the children singing and on floats (and adults) from west down as far as Argyle Court where there will be warm refreshments. Several suggestions were made to take back to the GD committee. AGM is 17th October at 7pm and the committee are requesting as many people attend as possible. Venue still to be arranged.
7. **Christmas tree:** So far no word of encouragement from council. Most get from a company in Perth but we felt there are local suppliers we should approach. The tree would have to be in a secure place and next to a ground source. Funding can be applied for. It could be worth a look at solar lighting.

Nest meeting
Monday 28th October 2013.
Old Town Centre, Broxburn
At 7pm.

www.broxburncc.org.uk

NB The meetings are recorded for purpose of the minutes unless someone wants to discuss a personal problem in which case it may be switched off if requested.

CC = Community Council.
GD =Gala Day

Ref: TR/EG/DK/RM