

Loanhead and District Community Council

Note of Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020

In Attendance

John Thomson (Acting Chair)	Paul Mepham
Norman Scott	Dorothy Rigg
Charles Hamilton	John Rigg
Annabel Hamilton	Ruth Stephen
Peter Frame	PC Graham Black
David Temple	PC Alan Forbes
Daya Feldwick	Colin Beattie MSP

Apologies

Pat Kenny, Gina Temple and Ben Shore

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Charles Hamilton and seconded by Norman Scott.

Police Report

PC Black gave the police report for February [have requested a copy and will forward it when it comes in.]

A report was raised about gunshots/airgun pellets being fired at a window in Loanhead. PC Black stated that this incident has been logged as vandalism.

The use of the bus gate on Dryden Terrace/Pentland Road as a diversion during the closure of Herd Terrace was raised. Norman Scott understood that a woman was stopped by police last Wednesday evening and warned that she would receive a £50 penalty if caught using the bus gate again. He telephoned Douglas Glynn, Midlothian Highways about the confusion over the use of the bus gate during the closure. He was told that the initial covering up of the restriction signs was a mistake, as the Council had not taken action to vary the traffic order. PC Black would contact Midlothian Council for clarification.

Planning Applications

The planning application notified to the Community Council are set out in the Agenda and papers for the meeting. Two additional planning applications are set out below:

20/00147/DPP 2 March 2020

Mr Colin McLuckie, 15 Mayshade Road, Loanhead EH20 9HJ. Change of use from public open space to private garden and erection of garage at land adjacent to 15 Mayshade Road, Loanhead, Ward: Midlothian West Case Officer: Graeme King 0131 271 3322.

20/00155/DPP 3 March 2020

Mrs Suzanne Connolly, 58 Ashgrove Gardens, Loanhead EH20 9GA. Extension to dwellinghouse at 58 Ashgrove Gardens, Loanhead EH20 0GA, Ward Midlothian West Case Officer: Ingrid Forteach 0131 271 3316.

Ruth Stephen asked about the application for change of use from public open space to garden/garage. John Thomson explained that, if requested, the Council is prepared to sell a strip of land to an adjoining property owner.

Matters Arising

John Rigg raised the matter of the dental practice sign, which does not have planning approval and obstructs the exit view from ICR Vets and from his home. He stated that an offence has been committed. Planning have spoken to the dentist, who, it is understood, is willing to move it to a more suitable location. Colin Beattie MSP will speak to Planning about this matter.

Continuing concern was raised about the impending bank closure. David Temple reported that a petition was available for signature at various businesses in Loanhead. David Temple informed the meeting that Owen Thompson MP has secured a debate in the House of Commons on bank closures. Mr Beattie has discussed the latest bank closures with Lloyds but he is sure that the Loanhead closure will go ahead. He feels that ATMs are also in line for closure or the imposition of charges for withdrawals. He said that the closure of the last bank in an area reduces economic activity in the community. Daya Feldwick understood that the local community in Balerno formed a credit union after the closure of their bank.

Financial Report

John Thomson reported that the bank balance at the end of February was £1451.59. A further payment of £50.00 has been made, leaving a current balance of £1401.59.

Any Other Business

Colin Beattie gave a **Parliament Update**. He said that we should not underestimate the seriousness of **coronavirus**. Currently, it is expected that 80% of the population will contract the virus, with a 3% mortality rate. It will be necessary to concentrate resources on doctors, nurses and police officers who fall sick. He said that coronavirus was “not the black death” but it is more serious than seasonal flu. We should not make too many visits to elderly relatives or large gatherings. If we can get through the next few weeks the virus will peak. We need to be conscious of day to day contacts and hygiene. If it becomes a pandemic, medical services will have a large number of staff off sick.

Mr Beattie was pleased that the Scottish budget had passed but was not happy with the question mark over the **Sheriffhall interchange**. The planned grade separated junction would benefit local investment, walking and cycling. He was not convinced by the argument being put forward that the proposal would increase traffic pollution, given the emissions generated currently by the large volume of slow-moving and stationary traffic. A solution was also required to the overall congestion on the A720 City Bypass.

He also raised the potential for the use of local disused mineshafts to generate **geothermal heating**.

John Thomson raised the use of the commuted payment to Midlothian Council by the developers of the proposed Mayburn House development in lieu of affordable housing. The Council say that this money is earmarked for the Hart housing development. However, money must have already been allocated by the Council for this development and it should not rely on income from a proposal that is not yet in progress. Any money from the Mayburn House development should go towards future developments in Loanhead.

Date of Next Meeting

Due to the current Coronavirus Recommendations, there will be no physical meetings of the Community Council until further notice. Instead a weekly update of all communications and planning will be forwarded by email (as is currently the case with the papers for the meetings). Please read through the papers and raise any queries, comments, or concerns at that time.