

Minutes of ZOOM meeting 10th November 2020

Present: Norrie Scott, Gina Temple, Peter Frame, Councillor Pauline Winchester, David Temple, Pat Kenny, John Thomson, Ruth Stephen *

****Ruth dialed in by phone on 0131 460 1196 and was able to participate by audio now that we are using the MFCC Zoom licence. Therefore, for those who don't have a computer please try this for our next meeting so that you can participate.***

1. **Apologies:** Catherine Duns, Daya Feldwick and Paul Mepham
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** approved: proposed by John Thomson, seconded by Peter Frame.
3. **Matters arising:**

- No response so far from local organisations about the Resilience Group. Gina had got a couple of names from Ruth and Alan MacLaren suggesting looking in last year's gala programme for contacts.
- Community Notice Board – keys have been found so a second set will be cut and the board tidied up.
- MTRaP proposal to close roads – we submitted a response objecting to the proposal of Roslin Glen Road due to the increased through traffic this would create in Loanhead.
- Meeting with Councillors – the meeting had to be postponed as Councillor Imrie had not responded, still trying to get another date that will suit everyone.
- Loanhead Police Station – Pauline confirmed that the building will be sold and the money raised from it will be used for accommodation for the homeless. The costing process was questioned when the original costs quadrupled in a matter of weeks. The Gala Day Committee are still interested in acquiring the garage for storage purposes.
- Engine Road – Council officials had been out to the site and got ACE to remove the tyres from the road. They also confirmed that vehicles without road tax or insurance are a police matter, as is threatening behaviour.
- Cutting down trees – The Planning Department had given us a very full response to our query about cutting down trees in relation to the planning process. Now we need people to look at the application's landscape plans to check that they have followed this.
- Hawthorn Gardens Planning Consent – we wrote to Peter Ansdorf supporting Norrie's request for this application to be looked at again to have the pavement widened. Planning have confirmed they will re contact the agent – but as consent has already been granted it would appear there is not much more can be done if they refuse.
- Croft Suite Sunday licensing hours – Pat Kenny still to check on this.

4. Planning

All the applications were discussed and no objections were raised. However, Pat to look into the proposed changes by Dandara into 20/00694/MSC. It was noted that this was the second such change to the original planning permission 17/00273/S42. It was agreed that these changes have to be looked into to ensure the builders are abiding by the original consent.

5. Correspondence

- Peter Frame's email to our Midlothian councillors about the lack of winter facilities and the state of the playing fields was discussed. The grass has not been cut and now the ground is so soft it is not possible to bring in heavy machinery. The creation of a MUGA and possible locations were discussed.
- Community Training Day – Gina reported that the Council had extended the date for registering for the training day on Friday 27th November 2020 till 11/11/20 to allow Loanhead members to register. The day will run on Microsoft TEAMS from 9.00 – 3.00pm. There will be no need to download TEAMS on to your device, instructions will be given how to gain access.

- Mavisbank Community Link Group. The aspects of ownership and access are currently under investigation with the lawyers. The grounds will remain pretty much the way they are they will not be restored to formal gardens. The house will be restored and will be used for self catering holiday lets, but will be available to the public on Doors Open Days. The North Pavilion will become a refreshment kiosk (like the one at Penicuik House) and the South Pavilion will become a training centre for HES in grounds' maintenance, horticulture, stone masonry etc. during weekdays. This will be available for community groups to use in the evenings and weekends. The consultants are looking for ideas from the Loanhead community about the uses the refurbished South Pavilion could be used for, and would like us to get back to them before Christmas. Everyone asked to think about this and bring ideas to the next meeting. If the lottery funding is successful the grant will last for 5 years, 2 years for rebuilding and 3 years running costs. After that the project will have to be self-supporting.
- Remembrance Sunday – Pat reported he had laid the wreath on behalf of the CC.
- Peter reported he had received no response to his email about knocking down the garages at Burghlee.
- Bus stops on the Loan and High Street so dirty, people even waiting outside in the rain, Council to be contacted to ask that they be cleaned up.
- David expressed disappointment at the response from Midlothian Council re the trees being cut down in Inveravon House Grounds.
- Gina reported that she had just renewed the web domain for the CC web site for another 2 years.
- Gina reported that Bonnyrigg & Lasswade and Poltonhall CCs are exploring the possibility of merging.
- Gina reported that she will not be standing for re-selection as Secretary at the AGM, although she would like to remain a community councillor. She admitted that she had created a bigger workload for the secretary by copying all the correspondence to all members each month, but felt that for everyone to be informed and engaged this was necessary as we don't always have time to discuss everything that comes in during the month at meetings. If no one person comes forward to take on the role, she suggested it could be split up: someone to deal with emails and another to deal with minutes and letters. Another alternative, is for all community councillors to receive all emails (as Pat automatically receives all emails that come in to the inbox) and each councillor be designated with responsibility for one area (e.g. Planning, to investigate and make a response if necessary). This already happens in some other community council.
- John Thomson reported that the Council had eventually cashed the cheque for the return of the balance of the resilience grant.