

Minutes of ZOOM meeting 14th September 2021

Present: Pat Kenny (Chair), David Temple, Peter Frame, Norrie Scott, Gina Temple, Paul Patterson (Colin Beattie's office) and Councillor Pauline Winchester.

1. **Apologies:** Ruth Stephen, John Thomson and Paul Mepham
 2. **Minutes of previous meeting** – approved subject to correction in section 6, 2nd bullet point “It was noted that Bonnyrigg and Lasswade already have this in place” should read ‘It was noted that Rosewell and Lasswade already have this in place’. Proposed by Peter Frame, seconded by Norrie Scott.
 3. **Matters arising:**
 - 20 mph speed limit in town centres – funds have not yet been allocated for a Midlothian wide survey.
 - Railway path repair – no update.
 - Dog Fouling – no update.
 - Crossing near Dandara Estate Entrance – no update.
 - 24 Hawthorn Gardens – Pat and David visited the site. Removing the hedge will not solve all the problems, the bus stops and keep left sign need to be relocated and a double white line put down the middle of the road to stop vehicles overtaking on the wrong side of the road. Pat asked Paul Patterson if Colin Beattie's office could arrange a meeting with Colin, the various Council departments involved, the Councillors and perhaps even Lothian Transport and the police to try and find a solution.
 - CCTV in Midlothian – no update.
 - Proposed new high school –no update.
 - Straiton West – no update.
 - A701 relief road - see under MTRaP Update.
 - Dryden Terrace – no update. Pat Kenny still felt that a Loanhead wide survey needs to be undertaken.
 4. **Heritage Trail Update**
 - Alex Young's family very happy for his memory to be honored in the Trail.
 - The residents of the Mavisbank Jointure house have declined the offer of a heritage plaque for their buildings.
 - No response yet from the Forte or MacTaggart families.
 - Alan Maclaren has offered some feedback on the wording for the benches.
 - Paul and Ruth working on the trail map.
 5. **MTRaP Update**
 - Norrie reported on the September meeting. There are plans to install a cycle/walking path on the A7 roundabouts from Dobbies to Hardengreen funded from developer contributions. He has enquired about extending the double yellow lines on Fountain Place to cover 1 Clerk Street to facilitate large vehicles entering/leaving the brickyard to reduce traffic congestion. He has also enquired about extending the double yellow lines on Mayburn Road to improve visibility. Land owners have blocked off the core path at Wadingburn, Lasswade – this is currently with Midlothian Council's legal services. Midlothian Council no longer has a dedicated access officer. A public enquiry into the A701 relief road may be convened. Next meeting 4th October 2021.
 - David suggested removing the pavement extension (with tree) at the corner of George Drive and Clerk Street as it was obstructing buses getting into the bus stop also causing traffic congestion.
 - A disabled resident from the lane at Fountain Place has requested that the pavement be dropped as wheelchair users cannot turn north coming out of the lane (at the side of the dentist). There is a dropped kerb for turning south.
- Norrie to report the latter two items to his contact in Midlothian Council.

6. Annual General Meeting

John has booked the main hall in the Loanhead Miner's Welfare Club for the AGM on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7 pm. It was agreed to produce some posters and put them up on the railings at major points within Loanhead to advertise more widely. Pauline said there was no problem attaching these to council property. We will attempt a hybrid meeting if there is wi fi in the hall. It was agreed that for the time being we will continue to use ZOOM for meetings and any new members would need to be able to access the meetings electronically. Pat to contact existing community councillors to see if they are willing to stay on, using ZOOM.

7. Any other competent business.

- Esk Valley Water Treatment – David said he would forward the minutes of the last meeting and noted that there is a proposal to build a water treatment plant on the Dryden Industrial Estate costing £25 Million to treat the contaminated water and release clean water back to the river. The board are keen for communities to get involved.
- **Covid Community Memorial Programme.** The notes from this meeting were already circulated. David reported that the Scottish government had allocated £4.1Million to encourage each of the 32 local authorities to produce something to commemorate the pandemic, e.g. be artwork or memorial gardens.
- We have been approached by a Loanhead resident with the suggestion to procure a public defibrillator for the middle of Loanhead. Gina looked into this and there are currently defibrillators in the Leisure Centre, Loanhead Miners Club, Bayne Memorial Hall, Loanhead Masonic Lodge and Feet and Co (Engine Road). However, there is no access to these when the premises are closed and during the lockdown no access at all. It was agreed that this was a good idea in principle but further research needs to be carried out into the costs of procuring and servicing a defibrillator, preferred location, etc. Vandalism is a big concern as a number of public defibrillators have been vandalised in other towns. It was suggested that if the CCTV was working in Loanhead the defibrillator could be positioned where it is covered with CCTV as a deterrent to vandalism.
- Cleaning bus shelters – we have received complaints from residents about the state of bus shelters. Paul (Colin Beattie's) office had been in touch with Midlothian Council and was informed that the budget for cleaning had been used up on removing obnoxious graffiti.

8. Planning

21/00691/DPP 18 August 2021

Mrs Davidson, Arron Glen Apartments Ltd, Arron Glen, 7 Nivens Knowe Road, Loanhead. Change of use from guest house bedrooms to 3 self-catering apartments; and external alterations including infilling of door opening, formation of window and door openings at Aaron Glen, 7 Nivensknowe Road, Loanhead, EH20 9AU, Ward: Midlothian West Case Officer:

21/00696/ADV 20 August 2021

Mr David McGinnis, Boots Properties, D90 Building, Thane Road, Beeston. Display of illuminated signage at Unit 3, Straiton Park Way, Loanhead, EH20 9QY, Ward: Midlothian West Case Officer:

21/00611/DPP 27 August 2021

Mr David Robertson, 26 Burnbank Grove, Straiton, Loanhead. Formation of porch and alterations to steps at 26 Burnbank Grove, Loanhead, EH20 9NX. Ward: Midlothian West Case Officer:

21/00742/WTT7 September 2021

Mr Fraser Milne, Martinfield, 31 Polton Road, Loanhead. Felling of trees in Mavisbank Conservation Area at 31 Polton Road, Loanhead, EH20 9DB, Ward: Midlothian West Case Officer:

No action required on any of the above. It was noted that there had been no further planning applications for Inveravon House or Mayburn House, both now in a state of disrepair.