

LOANHEAD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Zoom meeting held on 9 March 2021

Present: Pat Kenny, David Temple, Norrie Scott, Ruth Stephen, Peter Frame, Gina Temple, Paul Mephram, John Thomson, Councillors Pauline Winchester and Russell Imrie.

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Proposed by Norrie Scott, seconded by Peter Frame.

3. **Matters arising:**

- Participatory Budgets. Pauline outlined some of the requests she had received so far a park bench, base for garden shed, Christmas lights, clean out a lake. The guidelines have been drawn up now and the main criteria is that this should be a capital investment – i.e. no annual upkeep. We need to identify a couple of projects for Loanhead to submit.
- Football Pitches – Russell gave an update that the drainage on the pitch in the Memorial Park will be resolved by the Council. No time scale yet.

4. **Any other competent business**

- Future aircraft noise - Ruth said that we should keep an eye on this once the flights start up again because of the possibility of another runway at Edinburgh. Gina said that the RAF want to use the Forth Estuary for training exercises (possibly a couple of times a year). When these exercises are on an exclusion zone will be in place with no commercial flights. It was confirmed that “RAF Turnhouse” is still used for military personnel.
- Ruth suggested that a heritage trail with the relevant memorial plaques should be set up in Loanhead to inform residents and visitors of all the history within the area.
- Loanhead Litter Lift – Ruth suggested the Community Council could support this and display a poster on the noticeboard. Russell reminded the meeting that it was important to contact the Council to arrange for an uplift after the event.
- John Thomson raised dog fouling in the new cemetery. It was suggested that Council need to erect “no dog fouling” and “keep dogs on leash” signs in the cemetery. Russell will contact the dog warden and ask them to do a drive by.
- 24 Hawthorn Gardens planning application – Norrie Scott reported no further progress on this, Russell said he would raise it again with the Planning Officer.
- MTRaP report – 30mph wheelie bin stickers are available, but until the review into reducing the speed limits in Midlothian Towns to 20mph had been decided, it was felt premature to proceed to request these. The capital expenditure budget for 2021/22 has been announced and the only road in Loanhead on the list is Mayshade Road.
- Hunter Avenue, the Council have said that a contractor has now been appointed to repair the culvert at McTaggart Scotts.
- Mrs Fisher knocked on Gina’s door to express her thanks to the Community Council for the “lovely” bouquet of flowers she received after Harry’s funeral. – thanks to John for organising.
- Community Council Advert. Paul asked where the posters will be placed – local shops and noticeboard, once the Library and schools re-open they will also be placed there. We will ask for it to be displayed on the Loanhead Facebook page. Suggestions for improvements in the text to be sent to Gina/Paul also if anyone has a photo of the horn send to Paul.

5. **Planning**

- Gina reported on the Developer’s Contributions meeting on 4/3/21 with Matthew Atkins (Planning Officer Midlothian Council). The main items to note were that the planners use the Local Development Plan (currently 2017) when assessing any proposed development and any

sites that it has identified for development. Therefore it is very important for communities to input to the Local Development Plan. The Council negotiate with developers for contributions to infrastructure (e.g. any development alongside the A701 would be required to pay a contribution to the proposed relief road), provision of land for schools/extensions to existing premises, town centre improvement and play facilities. The contribution needs to relate to the development area e.g for housing, play facilities would tend to be within the new housing developments. There have been a couple of examples where local communities were not consulted about these contributions e.g. Pump Tracks proposed for Roslin and Rosewell. Sewage is reserved to Scottish Water, Health care facilities are not included this is reserved to local health boards to cover. It was confirmed that the principal benefits can be claimed from residential developments, less so with commercial ones.

- A discussion on the advantages/disadvantages of the proposed new Aldi store took place. Advantages: more consumer choice. Disadvantages: impact on local shops in Loanhead, Roslin and Bilston; impact on residents of Pentland Park; building on prime agricultural land, damage to the ecology of a rural area and additional road congestion on Pentland Road.
- Gina reported that she had checked the relevant planning applications New Pentland ref 21/00055/PAC and Straiton West ref 20/00803/PAC on the planning portal earlier that day and the former had nine objections, the latter only two so far. She wondered if this was due to lack of interest or that residents were unaware of the proposals.
- The second Q&A session for New Pentland was also held on 9 March 2021, but there was no additional information, it was confirmed that the current suggestions for the plan were dependent on relevant businesses coming forward. They had already received interest from a local nursery for the community building and interest from a veterinary surgery. The discussion centred on what benefits the local community could derive from the development. Gina suggested that if a district heating system were introduced in the new development this could be extended to all the residential homes which would not only be more cost effective for residents but would benefit the environment by reducing emissions from oil and gas systems. Paul had also put forward a suggestion that the agricultural land would be better used as a commercial orchard or community allotments.
- It was agreed that we should approach Damhead and Bilston & Roslin Community Councils to set up a joint meeting to discuss all three proposals to find out what views their communities had expressed and then decide how to proceed.
- Planning applications 20/00887/DPP Stewart Brewing partial change of use of application site to allow events at 26A Dryden Road Loanhead, 21/00095/DPP Pauline Clark extension to dwelling house at 2 Fountain Place Loanhead and 21/00149/CL Alistair and Orla Rolland extension to dwelling house and infill of garage door and formation of new window opening at 23 Ashgrove Gardens Loanhead were all noted, no objections made.

Suggestions for Participatory Budget Applications

Heritage plaques and heritage trail – contact Alan McLaren to see if he would like to be involved, if not ask for permission to use information from his books.

Stone snake in Memorial Park – find out what has happened with this the Schools were going to have a competition asking the children for suggestions but of course schools are now closed.

A memorial fountain

Park Benches within the town

Goalposts for football club