

Lauderdale Community Council

Minute of Meeting of Lauderdale Community Council on
Monday 15th April 2019 in Lauder Primary School at 7.30pm



1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Jack Ponton, *Chairman*, Anne Hogarth, *Secretary*, Edward Maitland-Carew, Alistair Smith, Steve Aitchison, Judi Gunn, and Councillors David Parker and Kevin Drum

Apologies received: Irene Thomson, *Vice Chairman*, Lorraine Crawford, *Treasurer*, Stephen Potts, Gaye Colquhoun, Councillor Tom Miers

13 members of the public

2. Declarations of Interest. None.

3. Police Report. This had been circulated.

- 3.1 It was noted from the floor that the report stated no reports of speeding had been received. However this member of the public had put in a report to the address received from PC Norrie about speeding on 13th February and reported on 16th February. This would be passed on to PC Norrie.

4. Annabelle Scott – planting around Piggery Field and Lauder Common

- 4.1 Annabelle reported on the two schemes including plans for consultation. The Burn and Piggery Field will be planted keeping the present paths as they are. She noted that the fencing would need replaced whatever as it is worn out. Some funding will come from the Penmanshiel Fund. After discussion with the graziers and assurance that the maintenance for five years and fencing was part of the scheme, the CC supported this.
- 4.2 Michael Middlemiss, member of Lauder Sheep Company, joined Annabelle to clarify the plans for The Common. He also explained that this is a consultation exercise and asked for comments on the plans circulated. There were questions about paths and whether the funding would include maintenance and fencing. After discussion it was agreed that the Community Council supported this scheme as well.

5. Bethany Lloyd – discussion on responsible dog control.

- 5.1 Bethany is the Principal Animal Control Officer for SBC. She has been asked to speak to the CC as there are so many complaints about dog fouling in public places. She explained that residents have to report dog fouling to the Council as soon as possible. In order for the Police Community Action Team to consider serving a fixed penalty notice, the identity of the accused, date and time the accused failed to remove the faeces and description of the dog needs to be provided in a witness statement, but she realises that many members of the public do not want to be named as a witness in a court case if the notice is appealed by the accused. She also explained that residents can contact the Neighbourhood Services department to get someone to come and clean up. She added that if the problem gets too much, it can be arranged for anti-fouling posters to be erected and pavements stencilled in the most violated areas.

- 5.2 Bethany informed the meeting about the Dogs Trust free dog poo bags which can be picked up from SBC Contact Centres and the Green Dog Walking Scheme where members of the community help educate owners on picking up after their dogs.
- 5.3 The Dog Education Officer also visits schools to educate pupils on responsible dog ownership and staying safe around dogs.
- 5.4 Bethany' department also offer a free dog chipping service and investigate out of control dog complaints. They also help the Police with the Dangerous Dogs Act and the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act.

6. Minute of previous meeting

- 6.1 A member of the public suggested that minute 10.1.2 was inaccurate in that the statement from the Applicant referred to 'discontinuing' the application while the minute said it had been 'withdrawn' and requested that the minute be changed.
- 6.2 Edward Maitland-Carew confirmed that de facto, the application was effectively withdrawn.
- 6.3 Councillor Parker advised that approval of minutes was a decision only of Community Council members. The Chairman asked if any member objected to approval of the minutes in their present form. There being no objection, acceptance was proposed by Steve, seconded by Judi and the minutes formally approved.

7. **Notification of items not on Agenda.** There were several.

8. **Matters Arising.** – None.

9. **Teenager Club.** The first meeting of the new entry will be on Friday 26th April at the Leisure Centre. There will be some new activities organised but it is up to the teenagers themselves whether it is a success.

10. Reports

- 10.1 **Planning.** All the applications were approved – alterations in the old Bank of Scotland, replacement windows in Mid Row, new house in the garden at Pyatshaw and conversion of stables and garage at Blainslie.
- 10.2 **Treasurer's Report.** Lorraine was not able to attend.
- 10.3 **Lauder Common Good.** There has been no meeting but David reported that the new investment company were achieving more from the capital invested.
- 10.4 **Revitalisation.** Irene was not able to be present.
- 10.5 **Lauderdale Community Council Outreach Meetings.**
 - 10.5.1 Judi reported about complaints about severe potholes on the back road from Lauder to Galashiels. Also reported was the number of large lorries on this rural road. David will look into this and hoped that, with the opening of Galafoot Bridge and the end of works on the A68, this traffic would decrease. He will keep an eye on this and possibly ask for a traffic count if there is no reduction in lorries.
 - 10.5.2 Kevin surgeries have been better attended.

- 10.6 **Paths.** Alistair reported that marker discs had been put up on both the Trabroun and Blackchester paths. There will be another work morning on 5th May starting from the Burn Mill. An invoice is being sent from the Group to Lorraine for £405.67.
- 10.7 **Eildon Area Committee** – no meeting since the last LCC.
- 10.8 **Lauder in Bloom (LiB).** 26th May will be a Spring Event in the Park. The Gardeners' Help service run by the LiB in conjunction with the Scouts has been happily received. Watering will start immediately due to dry weather. Lib has entered various competitions during summer.

11. AOB

- 11.1 Irene has arranged that Avril's Trust will help towards the 2nd defibrillator to be placed at the School.
- 11.2 Margot Douglas, Secretary of Lauderdale Initiative Group who organise the Christmas Lights Festival, reported that her committee was ageing rapidly and asked for support from the CC to rejuvenate/regenerate. The present Chairman and Secretary will oversee the introduction of younger members so that it will be a smooth transition. This was fully supported by the CC and it was agreed that a post asking for volunteers would be placed on Facebook.
- 11.3 It was reported that the pavement from the town to the tennis courts still needs attention.
- 11.4 There are 2 patches of grass where the old police station stood but only one is being mowed by contractors. Kevin agreed to find out who to contact from the police estates office.
- 11.5 The Queen's plaque will be put up shortly.
- 11.6 There was concern from the floor about how tree felling on the Castle side of the wall on Castle Wynd had been handled. The contractor had been rude (and it transpired had given misinformation). Concerns included the time of year and possible felling of the wrong trees.
 - 11.6.1 Edward replied that as a result of complaints about the state of the listed wall and possible danger to the public, he had applied to Forestry Commission, Historic Scotland and SBC for advice. Damage to the wall was confirmed as being due to roots of some trees, and all necessary licences obtained for felling. He confirmed that no trees had been incorrectly felled.
 - 11.6.2 Due to the length of time spent on this topic, the Chairman used his discretion under 10.6 of the Constitution to disallow further comments from the floor and closed the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting –To be decided after the Community Council elections in May.