

Pencaitland Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 31 August 2011 at 7.30pm in Trevelyan Hall, Pencaitland

1. Present

Ralph Averbuch (RA) (**Chair**), Bill Balfour (BB) (**Vice Chair**), Lynne Donohoe (LD), Jim Gillies (JG), Patti Gordon (PG), Stuart Lyness (SL), Jean McCormack (JM) (**Treasurer**), Nicky Neighbour (NN) (**Secretary**), Bob Rees (BR), Sheena Richardson (SR), Frank Stacey (FS), Phil Summerfield (PS), Fiona Tennick (FT), Andrew Watson (AW)

2. Apologies

Tom Steele (TS), Donald Grant (DG), Kenny Macleod (KM), Ruth Currie (RC)

3. In attendance

PC Mark McCluskey (MM), Francis Ogilvy (FO), David Torrance (DT)

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Approved by Fiona Tennick, Seconded by Phil Summerfield

RA welcomed everyone to meeting and asked for everyone's consent to recording of meeting to assist with minutes. All agreed. RA had hoped to catch up with Janet Bassett prior to meeting; unfortunately Janet has been unwell so meeting did not take place. They did, however, speak on the phone and Janet sends best wishes to the group.

5. Updated proposal around narrow footpath

Francis Ogilvy and David Torrance provided update on latest plans for path through Church grounds to create safer access from Wester Pencaitland to the village school and a safer route from Easter to Wester Pencaitland. FO tabled updated plan and talked through it.

The main points of the proposal include

- Pedestrian crossing at kissing gate near manse drive
- Paved path from gate, over manse drive and up to Churchyard
- Path continuing around Carriage House (there will be more than one route here ; one for access to Carriage House and one for continuing into Village or School) and then back out onto main road via Carriage House driveway or continuing up into school grounds
- Upgrade and extension to Carriage House car park
- Extension of school car park

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- Use of school park outside school hours to alleviate problems caused by parking, particularly outside Church

The cost of the project is still unknown and there are still some details to be agreed.

FO confirmed that a meeting is to take place on Thursday 8th September for village representatives (Community Council, Church, Youth Groups, School etc) to discuss the plan.

DT confirmed that plan has, in principle, been agreed by Church of Scotland Trustees, Lothian Presbytery and Congregational Board, but detail is still to be agreed. It is anticipated that the detail will be approved shortly by the Trustees. DT reported that Church Law Department must also approve the plans and that this may take some time.

Once Church has agreed, the plan can be submitted to East Lothian Council to go through the normal planning process. It is anticipated that there will be some form of public consultation, perhaps by way of a presentation in the Trevelyan Hall.

FO confirmed that some work does not require planning and will begin shortly. This includes drainage in the churchyard and the widening of the path around the Carriage House. It is hoped that the bulk of this work can be done before winter weather sets in.

Councillors broadly agreed that this is a satisfactory plan and an acceptable alternative to the moving of traffic lights proposed by Fatal Footpath Campaign. Benefits cited include increased off road village parking, quieter route joining both halves of village; easier access to Carriage House for many. Concerns cited include gravestone safety; safety of pedestrians crossing manse drive.

Francis Ogilvy and Jim Gillies left the meeting.

6. Police Report

- PC McCluskey gave update on village crime incidents since last meeting. Following a couple of break-ins in the village and in Ormiston a man has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.
- Incident involving fraudulent uplift of a car destined for scrappage.
- Night-time incident on Huntlaw road in July - gates opened, bins upturned, doorbells rung. Believed to be local youngsters.
- Noise complaints relating to a party at the bowling club on 6 August. No action needed.
- Several reports of a suspicious vehicle and caravan seen loitering at locations in Easter Pencaitland. Police have searched caravan - nothing suspicious found. No crime is

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being committed but residents are encouraged to report sightings as some residents finding the loitering unsettling.

- SL raised issue of speeding within the village, and vehicles overtaking on main road through the village
- AW raised speeding in New Winton. Discussion around possibility of islands (residents rejected these), chicanes (Council do not wish to use these again as they have caused many problems in East Saltoun), PC McCluskey explained that length of road through New Winton makes enforcing speed difficult.

7. Raising our profile within the Community

RA outlined plans for raising Community Council profile and awareness of website by having stall at school events such as Spring Fayre. Ideas invited from CC members for engaging with the community. PS suggested sponsoring schemes such as neighbourhood watch.

NB Like all edubuzz sites, CC website is currently not online. We hope this will be resolved soon.

ACTION RA to consider Neighbourhood watch idea

ALL to consider ideas for engaging the community

8. Broadband working group report

PS outlined progress to date. PS has obtained information on possible sources of funding to allow us to conduct technical surveys, feasibility studies, and mail shots. PS is currently looking into grant from Awards for All. Online broadband survey currently available but has not been well publicised. RA has approached school about publicising on website, but Head Teacher not keen at present. SL suggested including information on survey to confirm what speeds might be available if broadband was improved and adding a link to a speed test for residents to establish their current broadband speed.

RA has informally approached Andrew Cadzow at Huntlaw about possibility of using his land to site mast. Andrew Cadzow is, in principle, amenable to the idea.

LD suggested that awareness of enhanced Broadband service could be raised if a public consultation is held concerning updated footpath proposal.

FS raised concerns about CC being too involved with promoting enhanced broadband service. All agreed that CC are, at this point, trying to establish community interest in the idea and that any working group which might be set up in future to bring the service in should be separate from CC.

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ACTION RA to approach school again about using blog to promote broadband survey

9. Update on buses and taxi card

Ongoing problems with 123 service and timetable reported to be changing on a regular basis. Local resident Peter Hamilton is attending a RELBUS meeting in Haddington to raise the issue. RC reported by email that East Lothian Council is working with local residents entitled to taxi passes to help them use the service and that steps will be taken to communicate this. RC is awaiting a report which will provide further information.

BB reported errors in the First Bus printed timetable for number 44 service.

ACTION RC to report updates on taxi pass at future meeting
BB to contact First Bus concerning errors in timetable

10. Village Planting

FT continues to provide tea and coffee to gardeners planting at crossroads!

ACTION NN to follow up with Gordon Bauld about planned container planting.

11. General correspondence

Correspondence received since last meeting tabled

- Fly tipping grant (grant available to help deal with local fly tipping hotspots). RA reported liaising with Ormiston CC on this matter; no hotspots at present in local area.
- RELBUS (on website) - notice of meeting to be held 31 August in Haddington
- Archaeology & Local History Fortnight (on website)
- East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel AGM to be held on 12 September
- Royal Horticultural Society re Britain in Bloom
- Scottish Health Council - newsletter
- Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland - newsletter

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- Heritage Forum – Battlefields Consultation (on website). Update on meeting about local battlefields
- SESplan Development Plan (on website). Invitation from SESplan for comment from the community on current plan
- East Lothian Library Services revised opening hours (on website)
- Minutes from CAPP meeting and date of next meeting
- Availability of training on Land Use (forwarded to members by email prior to meeting)

ACTION - LD to attend CAPP meeting on 8 September

12. AOCB

- a. Email alert sign up – reminder to Community Councillors that they can sign up for email alerts on CC website (once it is back up and running)
- b. Update on Ormiston Community Award Scheme – BB had no further information on this.

ACTION RA to obtain details of this scheme

- c. Association of Community Councillors – Scottish Government has withdrawn funding for this scheme and it will cease to exist next year. CHECK DETAILS on this.
- d. Church Fundraiser for making building watertight and wind tight. SL outlined Church plans to carry out work on the building and surrounding area. £70,000 needed by end of November. A grant has been obtained and further applications submitted, however donations are also requested from the community. Donation requested from Community Council. Website to go live in September with full details on plans.

ACTION RA to establish good practice on CC donations to Church before CC discusses a sum to be donated.

- e. Tranent GP surgery meeting. RA tabled minutes from recent meeting detailing improvements to be made to service at this GP practice.
- f. Several matters raised by resident
Missing litter bin near Spar; condition of footpath from Mercat Cross to Old Farm Court and

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beyond; narrow footpath at traffic lights needs swept; damaged lead covering at Trevelyan Hall; damaged step at Mercat Cross.

ACTION NN to email JG with details so that they can be dealt with

- g. BB confirmed he has a new email address. Secretary has details and has passed them to all Councillors. BB also confirmed that he may not be available for all meetings in foreseeable future due to family commitments away from the community.

- h. Thank you cards from Julie Murphy and Janet Bassett for leaving gifts presented by CC at June meeting. These will be brought back to next meeting for those who did not see them this time.

- i. JM reminder to Chair that poppy wreath is due to be ordered and that Christmas trees must be ordered in September.

ACTION RA and JM to ensure orders are placed before deadline

RA to establish situation concerning Christmas lights

13 Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 28 September 2011 at 7.30pm in Trevelyan Hall