



West Linton Community Council

Draft Minute of Meeting held on Monday 8th August 2005 In the Village Centre at 7.30pm

Present: Margaret Harrison, Eric Small, Graham Tulloch, Anne McKenzie, David Small, Derek Lawson and Tommy Davidson.

In attendance: Councillor Neil Calvert.

1. **Apologies:** - Michael Pryor.
2. **Police Matters:** GT read a report from Sgt Bruce. This is reproduced at the end of this minute.
3. **Minute of Previous Meeting:** These were approved and MH signed a copy for the record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
5. **Planning Issues (WLCC Area):**
 - a)
 - i 05/01350/OUT: Broombrae, The Loan, West Linton. Erection of dwellinghouse, garage and home workroom/studio. **Support.**
 - ii 05/1402/FUL: Mr & Mrs Murphy, Merchiston Cottage, Carlops Road, West Linton. Extension to dwellinghouse and garage parking. **Support**, with reservations re overlooking neighbour.
 - iii Auchencorth Moss Wind Farm. **Continued** to September to allow more information to be collected.
 - iv Graham Institute alterations. **Continued** to September to allow more information to be collected. **GT** to contact SBC re site meeting and clarification of plans.
 - b) **Planning Related Issues (decisions)**
 - i) **05/00825/FUL:** land north of Cosaig, Dolphinton, West Linton. Erection of 6 dwellinghouses with integral garages. **Refused.** Proposal Contrary to Policy 7 Tweeddale Local Plan (TLP) and Policy D2 of the Scottish Borders Local Plan (SBLP) (Consultative Draft) in that the development would have a detrimental impact on the countryside amenity, that satisfactory drainage cannot be provided, and the proposal exceeds the capacity of the building group.
 - ii) **Right of Servitude, Upper Green.** The CC has been informed that the hardcore placed on the Upper Green is under SBC supervision and that the owner is responsible for maintaining it to the Council's satisfaction, this includes ensuring that no parking of vehicles should take place at any time.
 - iii) **Agricultural Building, Deanfoot Road.** An Appeal has been lodged with the Court of Session on the decision by the Scottish Executive to enforce the removal of the building.
 - c) **Planning Related Issues (meetings)** Advance warning of Seminar "Communities

Committee Events on Planning Issues” on 29 Oct 2005. Interested members of the CC to register individually.

- d) **GT** had written to and received a reply from SBC on the proposed poultry units at Blythbank. The applicant has not submitted an Environmental Assessment and so there has been no progress on the proposal.

6. Area Committee Meeting:

- i) A presentation by the Scottish Rural Partnership had been given on the variety of advice available on sourcing grant funding.
- ii) An emergency motion was carried to request that BT overturn their recent decision to remove western Tweeddale from the Borders telephone directory.

7. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland: Local Governance (Scotland) Act - Review of Electoral Arrangements. This was discussed and although it was seen as potentially detrimental to West Linton, there was resignation that little could be done about the proposed change to the ward boundary.

8. Roads and Footpaths: **GT** informed the meeting he had been approached by a member of the public requesting that the 20mph zone be extended to *The Smithy*. It was noted that a number of disused drop-off Post Office boxes were in the village. These boxes were no longer used as the routes were now serviced by van. **MH** will write to ask for them to be removed.

9. Public Transport Issues: McEwan’s bus company have been awarded the west Linton to Peebles route, taking over from First Bus.

10. Environmental Issues: The village sewerage plant upgrade work has commenced. This should be completed before Christmas and will provide an additional 10% capacity to the system.

The new bicycle racks beside the newsagent have been installed and are being used by an enthusiastic public.

Tourist information board opened on 29th July by an official from VisitScotland.

Swing Park The large wooden posts are rotting badly (some have collapsed) and in a dangerous condition and the tarmac is uneven. **MH** to write to SBC requesting that it be examined with a view to being upgraded. **GT** commented that the money spent on the Robinsland park could have been used to fund this work, as was suggested by the residents two years ago.

It had been reported that there may be a mink in the burn, which may explain the lack of duck. **MH** will write to SBC, pest control.

A manhole had been constructed by Scottish Water at the paddling stone on the riverbank, the edges of which are exposed: **TD** will write requesting action be taken to make this safe.

MH will contact SBLocal requesting that they carryout additional thinning to the bank on the north side of the Upper Green.

MH will contact the Registrar re the removal of flowers from the window boxes of the Village Centre.

The burst water main on Croft Road is a private supply and as such Scottish Water have stated it is the responsibility of the residents to repair. It was **noted** that some work appears

to have commenced to do this.

11. Christmas lights: DL reported that he had prepared the bid for funding the purchase of Christmas lights and that it should be processed by September or October.

12. Meetings Attended: None.

13. Miscellaneous Correspondence:

- i. SBC – Blythbank chicken sheds. **Noted.**
- ii. Scottish Borders Children’s Panel Advisory Committee. **Noted.**
- iii. Scottish Borders Community Councils’ Network seminar. **Noted.**
- iv. Network – Orange newsletter. **Noted.**
- v. Letter from Chris Lyall, Red Cross Shop thanking the CC for the presentation of the Citizen of the Year.
- vi. Letter from Rosalind Birchall, Red Cross Trustee for Scotland thanking the CC for the presentation of the Citizen of the Year to the village shop volunteers.
- vii. Scottish Borders Rural partnership. **GT** to forward to Roger Oakes, North Tweeddale Paths.

14. AOCB: Community Flood Defences – Precaution & Risk. **Continued.**

MH to speak with equestrian fraternity re agreed routes through the village.

MH to request the bollard at *The Fireside* be replaced.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 12th September 2005.

Meeting closed 10.20pm

Police report West Linton Community Council August 2005

Between 19/06/05 and 03/07/05 a secured garage adjacent to a dwelling house in Medwyn Road, West Linton was entered by means of an open window and a strimmer, chainsaw and 2 x 20 ft electrical cables stolen, total value believed to be approx £450.

Enquiries are continuing into this theft.

On 07/07/2005 a male was found to be in possession of controlled drugs in West Linton.

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal

On 11/07/2005 a ford transit motor vehicle was traced in Upper Green West Linton not displaying a valid vehicle excise licence.

A report is being prepared for DVLA.

On 14/07/2005 a 44-year-old male was detected for assaulting another man in Deanfoot Road, West Linton by punching him to the face.

On 13/07/2005 a complaint was received regarding an 8-year-old boy being bullied at the park Lower Green, West Linton.

A 13-year-old boy has since been warned regarding this incident.

On 18/07/2005, a woman was walking at the Side of the A702 Biggar to Edinburgh road, when a small red car derived van, which was travelling from West Linton to Dolphinton, sounded its horn as it drove past her, stopped next to her, and the driver of the van then asked her if she wanted a lift to get into the van with him.

The woman refused, and the van drove off towards West Linton.

The van is described as being like a post van without the writing on the side (no registration number noted).

The driver, and only occupant, is described as male, white, mid 30's, approx 5'10" tall, pale skin, slim build, thinning dark hair with a long fringe, unshaven, with an Australian or New Zealand accent, wearing a black v-neck T-shirt.

Enquiries to date have failed to trace this vehicle or the driver.

On 20/07/2005 20 large round bales of hay were stolen from a farm near West Linton.

On 22/07/2005 two forged £20 notes were passed in a shop in main street, West Linton. Enquiries are continuing to trace those responsible.

On 23/07/2005 eight windows, each measuring 2' x 2' were smashed at the Graham Institute, Lower Green, West Linton. Also on that night damage was caused to a wooden bench on Lower Green, a litterbin, and to the wooden boarding covering the public toilet windows. A 17-year-old and a 19-year-old male have been detected for causing this damage, and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

A 17-year-old male has been detected for damaging a Hyundai Matrix motor car in Main Street, West Linton.

On 07/04/2005. On 01/08/2005 a male was arrested near West Linton under the immigration act, after it was found he was within the country illegally.

On 03/08/2005 a lap top computer was stolen from a farm near West Linton. Police enquiries are continuing.

On 05/08/2005 a Rover motorcar was vandalised in Lower Green West Linton, by having the wing mirror kicked from it.

On 07/08/2005 a 22-year-old male was detected for driving a Ford Focus without a licence or insurance on the A702 in West Linton.