

LENZIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2016
in Lenzie Public Hall

		ACTION
1.0	ATTENDANCE	
1.1	John McFadden, Tom Gray, Tony Miles, Donald MacLeod, Pat Munro, Rosemary Craig, Christine Morrison, Councillor Geekie, Sandra Thornton	
2.0	APOLOGIES	
	Mark Billington, Emma Henderson, Jenny Lee, Suzanne Smith	
3.0	POLICE REPORT	
3.1	Community Police – Officers Alex Moore and Michael Davis attended. Due to an emergency involving a missing person, they had not been able to compile crime statistics for the period. They agreed to do this and send on to LCC. In general terms, incidents had been at a low level. The main community related activity had been joint operations with EDC Trading Standards on doorstep selling and fraudulent work scams. The Officers were thanked for their report.	Alex Moore
4.0	PRESENTATION ON CO-HOUSING	
	Margaret Whitelaw attended, provided an overview of the Lenzie Co-Housing and Community Group and answered questions in discussion. A summary of the presentation and discussion is provided as an Appendix to these minutes. The Convener suggested that the Group keep LCC informed on progress and thanked Mrs Whitelaw for the presentation.	
5.0	MINUTES OF 16TH MARCH 2016 MEETING	
5.1	These were accepted as correct, proposed by Pat Munro and seconded by Christine Morrison.	
6.0	MATTERS ARISING	
6.1	Location of meetings – It was noted that moving LCC meetings elsewhere might lead to problems in terms of storage of various items used at the time of the Gala. For this reason it was agreed that further discussion with the Hall management should be held.	AM
7.0	COUNCIL GRANT	
7.1	The Convener had been notified by EDC of a reduction in annual grant of £350 (14% of expected grant). The same absolute reduction sum had been imposed on all EDC Community Councils. A response letter had been sent on behalf of the Association of ED Community Councils and a reply received to the effect that the matter had been decided by the Council and could not be reopened for 6 months under Standing Orders. EDC intend to review Community Council grants over the next year to correct population and other anomalies. A draft response that could be sent on behalf of LCC had been circulated. Discussion focused on the difficulties that would be faced by smaller Community Councils which would will have a much larger percentage reduction and on various other factors such as the effects on commitments such as the annual gala and	AM & TG

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	on the morale of Community Councils generally. Councillor Geekie explained some of the background – principally the overall budget savings required of EDC and certain anomalies among Community Councils where the grants were based on historic population figures. It was stated that grants to EDC Community Councils were more generous than in many other Council areas. After discussion, it was agreed that the views of LCC be communicated to EDC, concerning the adverse effects that this reduction would have. It was noted that, under the terms of the Local Government Act 1973, proposed changes to the Scheme of Establishment are supposed to be consulted upon before implementation and this was not done in this case.	
8.0	TREASURER'S REPORT	
8.1	The Treasurer was not present, but there has been a small change since last month's figures due to cheque payouts in relation to the Gala and some other aspects. The process of audit and transfer of signatories to the bank account are in train.	AM
9.0	PLANNING	
9.1	Weekly List – A list of current applications had been circulated. The Planning Convener commented on three of these but it was agreed that these did not require action by the Community Council.	
10.0	LICENSING APPLICATIONS	
10.1	Queen's Buildings – Billington's currently have an occasional licence to 11 pm as necessary. The application is to regularise this arrangement Monday to Sunday, to obviate the need to apply on an occasional basis. LCC members agreed to make no representations on this application.	
10.2	Millersneuk – Carriages (to be renamed 'The Grove') has been closed for some time during renovation and creation of a open-air roof bar. Information from the Licensing Officers was that use of the roof area would be restricted to no later than 10 pm on any day. The licensing hours being applied for were identical to those applying to the previous layout of premises and there was therefore no particular basis to object to the application. There could be issues with regard to music and noise but it was noted that it was open to residents local to the premises to ask that such matters be carefully monitored.	
11.0	GALA	
11.1	Arrangements for the Gala are going forward, with a sub-committee meeting on the week following this monthly meeting. The Gala will have a 'schools' theme in the light of the history of Lenzie Primary, soon to close.	
12.0	ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS	
12.1	Circulation lists - There was discussion about the circulation lists for ongoing business items. This was prompted by the business related to the Council Grant cut which, due to an oversight and the fact that the	

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	EDC Officer had sent the item to the Convener rather than the Secretary, was not passed on to the membership when first received. Previously, a very few items, mostly relating to first drafts of documents or similar, had been circulated to LCC Office-bearers initially and this practice had been questioned. However, this is not a deliberate policy and it does not seem that there are any instances of that happening now. Some members expressed a preference to be copied on all matters and this will be taken account of in future.	TG
12.2	Association of ED Ccs (AEDCC)	
	A plenary meeting of AEDCC, to which all CC members are warmly invited, has been announced for 14 th May at the Glazertbank Hotel Lennoxton.	AM
12.3	Traffic Order re Lenzie Meadow new School – Two members had attended the consultation in Lenzie Academy. The information presented was somewhat clearer than the information previously circulated. The main new factors, relative to the present situation, is that certain lengths of road which are currently 'advisory' no-stopping, will be made mandatory through the addition of signage and will be variously extended in length; new 'no-waiting' areas will also be included. (Note 'no-waiting' does not preclude stopping to pick up or drop off.)	
12.4	Pitches at Boghead Road – Information was given that the renovation work on these pitches had been hindered by bad weather but was now going ahead.	
13.0	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	The next meeting will be on May 18 th in Lenzie Hall	

APPENDIX

(Report by Margaret Whitelaw on attendance at meeting)

I was surprised by the warmth of the reception and the genuine interest. There was plenty of time to speak, and a wide range of interesting and searching questions was asked.

Q: *What have we been doing and what are we doing now?*

A: We have been approaching the council, Karen Murray and Drew MacEoghan of COSS and Colin Gray of the Government's Right To Buy department. Currently we have visited the Iris Murdoch Research Centre at Stirling University looking at Dementia Friendly interior design. We are working on our Constiution. We have asked the council not to make a decision on the site until they have spoken to us. (We mentioned to them that the site went up for sale without community consultation). Drew MacEoghan of COSS has agreed to come along to a joint meeting to assist us.

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Q: *Will these houses be for sale?*

A: Yes, and there may be one or two rented properties.

Q: *What is our name?*

A: We were Lenzie Interest Group for Housing for the Elderly. At the moment we are Lenzie Co-Housing and Community Group. I am suggesting to the group that we consider being a Self Managed Retirement Housing with a Commitment to being a Good Neighbour as a better description of what we intend.

Q: *Are these houses being eco-friendly?*

A: Yes, for environmental reasons, and also that it reduces service charges.

Q: *How will the project be funded?*

A: We are talking to Airdrie Savings Bank - they are involved with Scottish Churches Housing Action in their SELF-RELIANT GROUP initiative. This led to the following question:

Q: *Are the churches involved in this or is it a community project?*

A: All Scottish Churches are working on the lack of housing in Scotland as an issue, but our project is nothing to do with the church.

Q: *Have we thought about the Joseph Rowntree Trust as a source of funding?*

A: The Joseph Rowntree Trust model was the concept for the care village we were in collaboration with the Health Board about for the Lenzie Hospital Site before it 'fell off the edge of a cliff'.

Q: *What do we want?*

A: We want to form a partnership with the council and other stakeholders to develop the school site as a model of retirement housing, and as a means for us to develop a template for the implementation of the Community Empowerment ACT.

Q: *Can the Council sell the site to the highest bidder?*

A: Our advice from Government is that if there is an overriding Community interest, then that trumps the highest bidder. We believe we have a strong case for the Community's interest.

Q: *What can the Community Council do for the Group?*

A: Be informed about what we are doing and let other people know.

The meeting ended with the Chair requesting that we keep them informed about what we are doing.