

Winchburgh Community Council

Web address: www.winchburghcc.org.uk

Minutes of the Winchburgh Community Council Meeting held in the Community Education Centre, Craigton Place, Winchburgh at 7pm on Monday 14th November 2016.

Apologies: Councillor Tony Boyle, Pete Nisbet, Janet Campbell, Diane Faulkner, Angus MacInnes

October Minutes, proposed by Jim Somerville, seconded by William Honeyford.

Attendance

Community Councillors: Jim Somerville, Sheila Sutherland, William Honeyford, Anton Watson (Chair), Nick Knox, Garry Allanach, Kevin Jempson, Irene Wallace, Peter Anderson, Mandy Baird, Graham Campbell (Minutes, Sec)

West Lothian Council (“WLC”) Representatives: Councillor Diane Calder & Lorraine McGroarty, WLC Community Council Liaison Officer

Police Scotland: PC Peter Robertson

Public: Edith Small, Jan Finnigan, Paul Milne, Terry Doherty, Paul Harrington, Stuart Patterson, Anne-Margaret Anderson, John Pritchard, Wendy Grant, Donna Mabon, Margaret Russell, Gillian Archibald, Raymond McCabe, Peter Kershaw, Chris McWilliams and Donald Noble.

Steering Group Advisor: Alan Russell

Filling of vacancies

Lorraine McGroarty (“LMc”) advised that following the September meeting, an election was called in order to elect a number of new Community Council (“CC”) members to the committee.

As a result of the number of seats available on the Committee being increased to 18, along with the number of applications being less than the number of spaces available, the following individuals have been elected to the Winchburgh CC:

- Gary Allanach
- Peter Anderson
- Graham Campbell
- Dianne Faulkner
- Kevin Jempson
- Nicolas Knox
- Anton Watson
- Irene Wallace

These councillors will serve until October 2017, when the next scheduled CC election is due to take place.

An application had also been received from Angus MacInnes (AM), and the decision was made at the meeting to co-opt AM to the CC.

Following these results, the following positions were filled, unopposed, on the CC:

- Chairperson – Anton Watson
- Vice Chair / Co-Secretary – Nicolas Knox
- Co-Secretary – Graham Campbell
- Treasurer – Mandy Baird

Minutes

Updates to action points raised at the October meeting have been added to the October minutes, now available from the CC website.

In addition to the issue raised at the last meeting regarding the cutting of the hedge next to the bus stop opposite the Glendevon Petrol Station

(which has now been resolved), it was raised that the hedge surrounding the Primary School is also in need of being cut back. Mandy Baird (“MB”) has agreed to take this up at the next School Council meeting.

It was noted that there are still no temporary bus shelters within the village, to counter the movement of bus stops due to the ongoing work on the new Town Centre. WLC have advised that there are no funds available for the installation and movement of these shelters (as and when required) at this time. John Hamilton (“JH”) from Winchburgh Developments looking into independently from Council – William Honeyford (“WH”) to follow up with JH.

The last item carried over related to the condition of the pathway from the Pharmacy down to Abercorn. WLC believe that there is no issue with how it currently stands. MB to provide pictures of issues to Nick Knox (“NK”), who will follow up further with WLC.

It was noted by the CC that the open BT manhole outside the old Beatlie School has now been repaired, thanks to the effort of WH, who enlisted the support of the Linlithgow Gazette in highlighting the issue.

Police Report

PC Robertson called out a number of crimes which he felt needed to be highlighted to the community.

1. Car stolen from house in Hillend View;
2. Locks broken off of rear doors of properties in the Bellway development, 2 of which were reported. Chris McWilliams advised there had been a further instance, but had not been reported to Police;
3. Theft from an insecure vehicle in Midhope Place;
4. Number plates being stolen from a car in Tippetknowes; and
5. Theft of an off-road bike from Castle Place.

PC Robertson requested that the public remain vigilant, and if in doubt around any suspicious activity, to call 101 (or 999 in the case of an emergency). He highlighted that if crimes are not reported, then there is nothing the police can do about it, and it will not help highlight to the police that there is a problem.

PC Robertson agreed to look into possible patrols being stationed at Bellway development in an effort to catch any offenders. He advised that a letter drop had been made to residents in the Bellway homes, and the CC agreed to post this online. **UPDATE 15/11** Details posted to CC Facebook page.

It was also highlighted by Kevin Jempson (“KJ”) that visibility has decreased in parts of the village since the change to LED street lamps. NK to arrange to take the matter up with WLC, with view to inviting WLC officials to CC meeting, where they can then go and inspect light levels for themselves.

It was noted by PC Robertson that he and his colleague will be holding another drop-in meeting at the Community Centre on Tuesday 22nd November between 19:00 and 20:00.

Winchburgh Development Trust Update

Alan Russell (“AR”) advised that progress was being made with the consultation process to be held within the community, and that flyers were being prepared explaining the process and the Development Trust itself.

AR also provided an update advising that the Development Trust’s shell company should be set up by the end of this week, following assistance with funding via Cllr Calder.

The initial scope of the consultation process will be to speak to local businesses and local groups to garner their ideas for the village.

The steering group has around 24 volunteers who are willing to assist with the consultation process.

Community Defibrillator

Anton Watson (“AW”) advised that CC members met with a member of the Linlithgow First Responder service two weeks ago, along with a member of the ambulance service, to receive a presentation on the benefits of holding a defibrillator within the community.

The initial kit has a cost of £900, of which £300 has been kindly donated by an anonymous benefactor. An application has also been made to the Scotmid Community Grant scheme, for the maximum available £500, of which the CC are confident of approval. £200 has also been pledged by the Masonic Lodge in Linlithgow.

Initial agreement has been reached with Scotmid to host the defibrillator initially within the Scotmid store on the Main Street, with a view to any further funding being used to purchase a special external storage box (also to be held at Scotmid) at a future date.

AW advised that he is still keen to look into community fundraising events, and will pursue this with Anne-Margaret Anderson, who initially brought the request to the CC.

Jan Finnigan (“JF”) raised the prospect of potentially applying to Youth Scotland for a grant also, given that the Community Centre plays host to many children’s activities. AW agreed to look into this – JF will forward on the details.

LMc advised that the CC would need to add the Defibrillator onto their Public Liability insurance policy.

Christmas Event

The switch on of Winchburgh’s Christmas lights will take place at 6.30pm on Saturday 3rd December. Mulled wine for adults and selection boxes for children will be supplied courtesy of Niddry Bing Ltd and the Tally-Ho.

Community Council Facebook Page

AW advised that the CC Facebook page has launched successfully, and has proved popular so far within community.

AW also advised that an anonymous volunteer is helping with the upkeep of the CC Website, at a reduced cost to the CC also.

The CC will increase the use of Social Media to keep the community abreast of pertinent news.

Matters raised by members of Public

Salt Bins

Jim Sommerville (“JS”) advised that he had emailed WLC 4 weeks ago to request new Salt Bins for the Tippetknowes estate. No response has yet been received from WLC. Peter Kershaw (“PK”) advised that he had requested the same a number of years ago, and was advised by WLC that the bins had been removed from the estate due to a complaint by a resident. PK will look into previous communications he has had with WLC on the matter, and will forward any on to AW, who will engage with WLC on behalf of the whole of the village, as supplies are low elsewhere.

Car Parking at Primary Schools

Paul Milne (“PM”) raised the issue of cars parking on pavements and cordoned-off areas outside the school, making it dangerous for children crossing the road due to lack of visibility. KJ advised that Police have monitored previously, and led to an improvement, but things have gone back to as before. CC believe it should be the responsibility of the school to be monitoring this themselves. Gillian Archibald (“GA”), who sits on the Parent Council, will raise at the next Parent Council meeting, which will be attended also by Irene Wallace (“IW”) on behalf of the CC.

Condition of Road at Works Site

PK raised an issue around the state of the road where the roadworks are currently in place at the new town centre. JS followed up advising that sweeper vehicle is incorrectly currently using a water hydrant outside a disabled person’s home, which they have been told not to use. JS to

follow up issues with Wendy McCorrison from Planning at WLC, and JH from Winchburgh Developments.

Communal Recycling Bins for Flats

Cllr Calder advised that WLC are currently carrying out a scoping exercise regarding the introduction of communal recycling bins for the flats in the village.

Further Airport Consultation

PK raised that Edinburgh Airport have advised of their intent to hold a further consultation into the extension of the airport. This could include plans for a second runway, which would likely directly impact Winchburgh. Cllr Calder advised that the plans are not likely to be completed for a number of years, but that the community should use the consultation process to raise their objections.

Other Matters of Interest

- Realm Construction have installed bollards at the entry to the Landfill site.
- There are markings on the footpaths towards the Taylor Wimpey development, which may be for further roadworks.
- WH has been advised that work on the new Town Centre is currently on schedule
- Peter Anderson ("PA") advised that 21 Abercorn Place, a homeless house, has now been sitting empty for over a year, and has been without a permanent resident for over 20 years. Normally a homeless house will only stay one for 3-5 years. The WLC Housing department has been contacted, but no action forthcoming. PA advised he will contact WLC again in an effort to resolve.
- PA advised that a WLC worker cleaning drains is missing a number of drains in the village because they are 'not on the list'. PA to collate evidence to send to WLC.

- PA also advised that the village had not awarded the John Kenny award for some time, an award given to a villager who provides outstanding service to the community. MB agreed to look into reinstating the award.
- KJ raised again the issue of the Car Garage on the Main Street using the old Post Office site for parking cars. Cllr Calder is meeting with WLC Planning Department on Wednesday, and will raise issue then. PA advised that the garage is incorrectly disposing of oil, and that this should be raised also.
- GA asked whether WLC would provide any further Christmas lighting for the village. Other areas in West Lothian supplement the lighting from the council with those arranged by local businesses, such as in Livingston. LMc advised that any further lights installed in the village would need to be kept by the community itself, and would not pay for electricity and storage, etc.
- It was noted that JH would attend next meeting to provide an update on the new Town Centre, and details of the businesses who are filling the retail units.

Next Meeting – 7pm, Monday 12th December

Minutes prepared by G Campbell