

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 12th December 2016.

Apologies: Tony Boyle, Diane Calder, Janet Campbell, Diane Faulkner

November Minutes, proposed by Mandy Baird, seconded by Irene Wallace.

Attendance

Community Councillors: Jim Somerville, Sheila Sutherland, William Honeyford, Nick Knox (Acting Chair), Irene Wallace, Peter Anderson, Mandy Baird, Graham Campbell (Minutes, Sec), Pete Nisbet, Angus MacInnes, Kevin Jempson

Winchburgh Developments: John Hamilton, Robin Matthews & Sandy Anderson

Police Scotland: PC Peter Robertson

Public: Edith Small, John Finnigan, Jan Finnigan, Paul Milne, Terry Doherty, Shawn Doherty, Stuart Patterson, Wendy Grant, Donna Mabon, Gillian Archibald, Vivienne Brown, Helene Mabon, Aileen McLachlan, David Stephenson, Richard Stephenson and Amy Sutherland.

West Lothian Council: Jim McGladrigan (Environmental Officer)

Committee Update

The meeting was advised of the resignation of the Chairman, Anton Watson.

Candidates were requested for the vacancy, to which Angus MacInnes ("AMac") was elected unopposed.

Police Report

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

1. House break-in in Miller Street (Taylor Wimpey development) under investigation. Stolen Car from Edinburgh was later found abandoned at scene. **UPDATE 15/12** West Lothian Police confirmed via Facebook that a man had been charged following a break-in in Threemiletown, which is believed to be connected;
2. A number of storage units at the development of the new Town Centre were broken into;
3. Car keys and mobile phone stolen when front door left open in Craigton Place;
4. Instance of a car window being left open, although nothing was stolen.

PC Robertson advised that there has been an increase in reporting of suspicious activity within Winchburgh, which he advised is a good sign. A number of crimes that had not been highlighted to Police (Lights stolen from a garden, abandoned car in Abercorn Place) were raised, and PC Robertson advised that these must be continued to be reported if patrols are to increase in the area.

The issue surrounding the parking of vehicles by the Garage on the Main Street was raised again. The DVLA have been notified of untaxed cars, but are not intervening. Council can seize vehicles if necessary, but no action being taken at moment.

It was also raised that the power supply to a number of street lights in the Bellway development was being cut. WLC should be contacted to deal with this issue.

New Town Centre Development Update

John Hamilton (“JH”) provided an update on the details of the new Town Centre development.

Five Retail units are planned for opening in November 2017, with a total of 14,000 ft² retail space available. Initial interest has been received from a major food retailer, Dentist, Pharmacist, fast food retailer and a pizza shop. **UPDATE 20/12** JH has confirmed that a formal contract has now been completed with Sainsbury's for occupation of the largest Retail unit. A formal announcement will follow early in the New Year.

It was raised that the village already has a popular and well-used Pharmacy, and that NHS licensing rules would probably mean that any application for a new Pharmacist in the village would be declined.

Initial works on the site will complete in February/March, prior to being handed over builders to begin their work.

The Town Centre will also house 96 affordable houses, 41 of which will be Council houses, in association with West Lothian Housing Partnership. Winchburgh residents will be first priority for the new homes. There are no plans for any specific disabled access homes – this would have been down to WLC to decide.

The town centre will also include an additional 8 house which are being built as part of the Bellway development.

An initial financial contribution has been made by Winchburgh Developments Ltd ("WDL") to West Lothian Council ("WLC") for public art to be situated at the site of the town centre. This will draw inspiration from the local areas, such as the Bings, and will utilise local materials like red brick.

JH advised that WDL have made a contribution of £2.5m for 3 extensions to schools in the village, of which only 1 has been built so far. The planned extension to the Nursery will free up a further two classrooms within the School building.

JH advised that given current WLC projections for school capacities, secondary school-age children in the village will continue to attend Linlithgow Academy in the foreseeable future. Again, JH advised that a contribution has been made by the developers to Linlithgow Academy to assist with transport costs for these children.

A 'Partnership Centre', similar to Strathbrock Partnership Centre in Broxburn, forms part of the masterplan for the Village, and WDL have a site agreed which will be transferred to WLC and the NHS when funding is available for the building of said centre. WLC have advised that funding for this will not be available until 2019 at the earliest.

The secretary raised a question received from a member of the community regarding Play-Park facilities in the village. Again, JH advised that a contribution has been made by WDL to WLC for improved facilities in the area, but no plans are yet available.

A number of issues were then discussed, which have been raised at previous meetings, and JH provided the meeting with the following updates:

- Temporary bus shelters for duration of roadworks – JH has investigated this fully with WLC, and has been advised that this has never been provided before in other locations, and WLC will not be able to assist with this. The committee noted its disappointment at the outcome, but accepted that the matter is now closed.
- State of Roads around development area – JH advised that workers should be cleaning roads and have contract stating they must do so. If this continues to not be fulfilled, the secretary will set up meeting with JH to decide further action.
- Broadband issues throughout village – JH advised that the containment required for Fibre is present in all cabinets, and cabinets only need to be upgraded. Meeting has been requested by Openreach to map way forward.

Dog Fouling

Jim McGladrigan ("JMc") from WLC attended the meeting at the request of a number of community members concerned about the level of dog fouling within the Village.

JMc advised that year to date there had been 3 fixed penalties issued in the village for littering, and 4 for dog fouling.

JMc advised that there had been one request for a dog bin made recently – WLC advised that as they had not yet adopted the pathway they could not consent to this.

JMc asked the community to ensure that if there are issues which are not being cleared up in an efficient manner to make sure that they request the 'Environmental Enforcement team', otherwise the street cleaner will be sent and nothing can be done.

The Environmental Enforcement team is a small team of only 2 officers, covering the entire Livingston and surrounding areas. They operate in unmarked cars, and are also responsible for checking tax and MOT statuses on cars on Council Roads.

JMc advised he will forward details on how to report an offence to Gillian Archibald ("GA"), who will post details to the Winchburgh Facebook page. **UPDATE** Action now complete.

JMc advised that all waste bins in the village are now designated dog waste bins, and there is nothing to stop these being used as such.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- GA advised that the hedges near the school have not been cut
- WLC's budget for street lighting has run out, but it is hoped that roll-out of newer lighting will continue after year-end. Pete Nisbet ("PN") to collate a list of affected areas to ensure that these are prioritised.
ACTION List has been compiled
- Progress is being made around car parking at the school, with pupils and WLC representatives involved.
- PA advised that 21 Abercorn Place is not a drop-in shelter, and WLC's housing department are looking into whether this has been sub-letted.
- Mandy Baird ("MB") advised that she was looking into retrieving the John Kenzie award from the previous awardee, and that applications were invited for nominees for the new award.

Development Trust Update

PN advised the meeting that the Winchburgh Development trust had formally been formed as a company, and that the process of opening a bank account had begun.

Consultation questionnaire will be sent to community in February.

WLC Councillors have committed funds to assist with printing costs.

UPDATE Funds have now been received from three separate WLC Councillors.

Neighbourhood Watch

PN advised that he is looking into setting up a village-wide neighbourhood watch scheme. Initial kick-off meeting to be held on Monday 19th December at 7pm, venue Niddry Castle Golf Club.

Defibrillator Update

It was advised that the Tally-Ho have offered to house any defibrillator purchased by the Community Council, as have Scotmid, who have offered the use of their power in order to keep the unit charged.

Funding has been kindly donated by the Masonic Lodge in Linlithgow, as well as from an anonymous source. Further funding is expected from Niddry Bing and Scotmid in due course.

Other items raised by public

- PA advised that cars are parking beside the traffic island upon turning onto Niddry Road from the Main Street, blocking access for other vehicles. Nick Knox ("NK") to raise issue to WLC requesting double yellow lines or the moving of the traffic island further down the road to alleviate problem. **UPDATE** NK sent email 15th January. WLC are investigating.
- GA advised that the Youth Club are looking for funding in order to take a group to Dalguise in March. GA to send email to NK and MB with full details of request.

- AMac advised that he was continuing to liaise with network Rail regarding the development of the old Post Office site. JH has offered Realm machinery to assist with clearing site, meaning only labour costs would need to be paid.

Next Meeting – 7pm, Monday 13th February

Minutes prepared by G Campbell