

February Minutes

Winchburgh Community Council

www.winchburghcc.org.uk

Minutes of the Winchburgh Community Council Meeting held in the Community Education Centre, Craigton Place, Winchburgh at 7pm on Monday 13th February 2017.

Apologies: Tony Boyle, James Reddington & William Honeyford

December Minutes, proposed by Jim Sommerville, seconded by Irene Wallace.

Attendance

Community Councillors: Jim Somerville, Sheila Sutherland, Gary Allanach, John Pritchard, Paul Milne, Dianne Faulkner, Nick Knox, Irene Wallace, Peter Anderson, Mandy Baird, Graham Campbell (Minutes, Sec), Pete Nisbet, Angus MacInnes (Chair)

Police Scotland: PC Peter Robertson

Public: Edith Small, Terry Doherty, Peter Kershaw, Rod Morrison, Eleanor Morrison, Jane Morrison, Gillian Archibald, Johan Milne, Vicki MacDonald, Susan Ryles, Lisa Haddow, David O'Rourke, Stuart Patterson, Arlene McGowan, Chris McWilliams, Douglas Ross, Jonathan Lozinski, Helena Paul, Nick Paul, J Cadzow, Paula Brett, Colin Brett, David Ballantyne, Janet Brown, Alistair Johnston, Robert Finnigan, Mark Roberts, Kevin Tierney, Brian Ross, Rebecca McIlwaine, Sarah Ross, Amy Murray, Andrew Robson, Brian Smith, Karla Mann, Ruth MacInnes, Paul Barclay, G Hunter, K McGonnagle, Kelly Biffen, Paul Harrington, Gordon Keogh, Ali Smith, Jamie Allan, Iain Hamilton, Ewan Grieve, Anthony Vennelle, Diana Watt, Steven Toland & Meadhbh Toland.

West Lothian Council: Diane Calder, Janet Campbell & Alex Davidson

Winchburgh Development Trust: Alan Russell

Winchburgh Public Art Strategy: Camille Archer, David Pierce & Margit Kraft

Opening comments from Chairman

Angus MacInnes (“AMac”), the Chairman of Winchburgh Community Council (“WCC”) addressed the attendees to request that a peaceful meeting would be held, and that polite, structured and insightful discussions could be held. AMac drew attention to a number of matters which have caused a great deal of debate in the community, and asked that all grievances and issues be brought to the WCC direct, rather than raised in a public forum, such as Facebook groups.

Police Report

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

1. A break-in at a house in Glendevon Paddocks;
2. An attempted theft of machinery at Niddry Farm;
3. A shed was broken into at Dunne Place;
4. A bike was stolen from the Tippetknowes area, which has now been recovered;
5. Two vehicles, stolen from Winchburgh, were recovered; and
6. Two abandoned vehicles, stolen from Edinburgh, were found in Castle Terrace.

PC Robertson advised that Winchburgh is not the only local area being targeted, and a number of similar crimes have also been reported in neighbouring areas such as Linlithgow and Broxburn.

PC Robertson also advised that suspects have been identified and arrested over the previous break-ins reported in Miller Street and Craigton Place.

AMac requested that, after a request from a member of the community, PC Robertson provided information to the community on cyber-bullying. PC Robertson agreed to forward on the information, which will be posted to the WCC Website and Facebook pages.

Winchburgh Public Art Strategy

David Pierce (“DP”) and Margit Kraft (“MK”) provided an overview of the current work ongoing with regards to the Public Art strategy in Winchburgh.

DP advised that the strategy is taking place over the next seven years, and is being funded by Winchburgh Developments Ltd.

The strategy will draw on a number of aspects of the local community, both past and present, including the local Bings, historical agriculture and connections with Mary, Queen of Scots, as 2018 will mark 450 years since she spent a night in Niddry Castle.

The strategy will comprise of a series of different artworks placed across various different sites within the village.

The first project will be installed as part of the new retail area, currently in development.

MK advised that the first piece will be based on the local Bings, and will be built using shale from the Bing which is currently being removed. The artwork will comprise a ‘to scale’ representation of the Bing, with the shape closely mirroring that of the Bing.

A cavity in the artwork is planned to be filled with smaller pieces of shale collected from the Bing and brought to the piece as part of an opening ceremony, involving members of the community. It has also been mooted that a time capsule may be buried in the cavity also.

Peter Kershaw (“PK”) asked whether there were plans to inscribe poems or quotations associated with the shale mining on or around the artwork. DP advised that all ideas are welcome, and that is certainly something that would be encouraged. Cllr Janet Campbell (“JC”) followed on by asking whether the possibility of engraving paving stones in the area has been considered. Again, DP encouraged the public to provide input via email.

Jim Sommerville (“JS”) raised the possibility of opening a museum in the new retail area to detail the mining history of Winchburgh. DP advised that it was not something that is

currently in the plans, but again, is something that could be considered at a later date.

Janet Brown requested details of the planned dimensions for the artwork. MK advised that it is approximately 4-5 metres by 6-7 metres.

DP advised that if any members of the community had any further questions, or ideas that they would like to put to the group, he can be contacted via David@dp-q.com.

Edinburgh Airport Flight Path - New Consultation

AMac advised that the new date for the visit from Edinburgh Airport representatives has been set for Saturday 4th March, between 9am and 1pm.

It was confirmed that WCC has been involved in the consultation process from the very beginning, and fed back into the TUTUR trial which took place last year.

AMac asked that as many members of the community as possible attended the meeting on 4th March, and bear in mind that the new proposals are only proposals at this time. Again, AMac requested that all comments and views be sent directly to WCC via email or the Facebook page.

He also raised the possibility of creating a short-term technical working group to analyse the new consultation, and provide a group response. Volunteers were requested to identify themselves after the meeting.

Cllr Alex Davidson (“AD”) advised that he fully supports the group ‘Edinburgh Airport Watch’, and that there is a public meeting being held by West Lothian Council (“WLC”) at 9am on Thursday 16th February, to which he encouraged as many people as possible attend. AD advised that he had received an apology from Gordon Dewar, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Airport, who was quoted in press as saying that he had consulted with all four councillors for the area, where in fact he had not spoken to any.

JC advised that WLC have fed back to Edinburgh Airport that the population of Winchburgh, which the new consultation was based

on, is factually incorrect, but encouraged all respondees to the consultation to call this out also.

JC also advised that Hannah Bardell, the local MP for the area, has won a concession from the Government that a fully independent working party will be set up to consult on the issues regarding potential noise given the proposed flight paths.

Cllr Diane Calder (“DC”) again encouraged everyone to ensure they submit their own response to the consultation, in order for the Airport to gain an accurate reflection of how the community feels.

A query from the back of the room asked whether individuals must provide responses on all proposed flight paths, or just the ones that affect the local area. Helena Paul (“HP”), from the group Edinburgh Airport Watch, advised that people should only feedback what they are comfortable with, and that people should also email the airport directly if they would rather do so, copying in any local authority such as MPs and Councillors, to show their opinion.

HP also encouraged everyone to make copies of any feedback they give, as a number of responses to the last consultation went missing. HP also noted that the response to the last consultation was a negative response of 71%.

Development Trust Update

Alan Russell (“AR”) advised that the scoping exercise being led by the Development Trust (“WDT”) is continuing apace, and that a questionnaire will be issued throughout the village in the coming weeks. The questionnaire can be completed either online or in paper form. Public will have 10 days to complete and return.

Schools, businesses and clubs have all been consulted recently, and a successful event was held in St Philomena’s hall two weeks ago, based on the past, present and future of Winchburgh, and the role WDT can play.

All villagers will be given the opportunity to join WDT and help shape the future of the village.

AR thanked all who have volunteered to assist with WDT so far, and those who will be helping out with the questionnaire.

A 'top 5' of issues were raised at the event held recently. These were:

- Provisioning for a new play park within the village;
- Lack of a café within the village;
- Poor quality of Broadband within Winchburgh;
- The derelict old Primary School building; and
- The development of the proposed new Train station.

JC asked whether WDT had discussed whether they were proposing a £1 share 'buy-in' for the village to join the trust. AR confirmed this had not been discussed so far.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Update

AMac asked that any worries or concerns the community has re policing in the area be highlighted to WCC through email and Facebook.

Pete Nisbet ("PN") advised that he has been in the process of creating an 'umbrella' neighbourhood watch group for the village to encompass all the individual groups within the village.

Rebecca McIlwaine ("RMc") from the Church Hill Brae group suggested that this contradicts the advice she was given from the Neighbourhood Watch people.

PN advised that a meeting has provisionally set up for Tuesday 21st February at the Bowling Club, where the matter can be discussed further.

Communications to WCC

Nick Knox ("NK") advised that he had contacted WLC with regards to the poor quality of lighting in the rows. WLC have advised that all areas highlighted, with the exception of the back lane in Midhope Place, were of an adequate standard.

WLC advised that as the back lane in Midhope Place had not been adopted by WLC, there is nothing that can be done re the standard of lighting. NK advised the meeting that the lane has in

fact been adopted by WLC, and will feed this back. **UPDATE 14/02** NK has emailed WLC to advise that WCC holds written confirmation from 2008 that the lane has been adopted, and that a request for funding to upgrade the lighting should be made.

NK also provided an update on a request to place double yellow lines beside the traffic island at the top of Niddry Road, in an effort to stop cars parking too close to the island, blocking traffic getting through.

WLC have advised that there are white lines already in place at the island, and this should deter any driver from parking there. WLC have however, raised a request for the possibility of double yellow lines to be investigated.

Other business matters raised to the council

AMac read out an email from a villager, who wished to remain anonymous, as to what activities can the community get involved in to ensure that the community is not splintered into different factions.

Responses from the floor included Gala Day activities and a Classic Car show scheduled for 6th May, to be held in the Tally-Ho car park.

JS asked that anyone who wished to volunteer with the running of the Classic Car show get in contact with him directly via jimsommerville49@virginmedia.com.

Edith Small raised an issue with moss growing on pavements, which caused a fall recently. JC advised that if the pathway was adopted by WLC, then they can assist. JC advised that she will take this back to WLC to investigate further.

A.O.C.B.

PK asked for clarification as to whether WCC's preference for questions to be submitted in advance was for this meeting only, or for all future meetings. AMac advised that the preference is always for prior notification, as this may mean that a question can be answered at the meeting, rather than potentially a month further down the line.

Chris McWilliams (“CMc”) advised that he had been in contact with Openreach and advised that he had been advised that a quote had been requested (it is unknown by who) for the upgrade of Cabinets 3 & 4 in the village to Fibre to the Cabinet. The quote given was £25,000.

RMc raised that she had not seen official confirmation that the planned closure of Niddry Road had been cancelled. Graham Campbell (“GC”) advised that he will re-post via the WCC Facebook page.

A query was raised around the patch of wasteland at the bend between the Miller and Bellway developments. It was confirmed that a clean-up operation had commenced today, and that there were no current plans for development on the site.

Peter Anderson (“PA”) advised that while the sign next to the roadworks at the Town Centre advise they will be complete by 10th February, which has now passed, Realm have advised they will go on until the end of March. Realm have claimed that they are being held up by Gas works, however it is claimed that British Gas have completed their works.

HP suggested that in light of the moss issue that was raised earlier in the meeting, possibly working parties could be set-up with volunteers to tackle areas for improvement within the village. Volunteers were invited to get in touch with WCC via email and Facebook.

Next Meeting - 7pm, Monday 13th March

Minutes prepared by G Campbell