# Minutes of West Calder & Harburn Community Council 08/07/2025

## Present: Joan O’Donnell JOD (Chair), Debra Jamieson DJ (Planning Secretary), Linda Hughes LH, Bart Smit BS, Lorna McCallum LMc, Matt Pearce MP (CDT).

## Apologies Allan McLaughlan AMcL (Vice-Chair), David Burgess DB (Treasurer), Sean Henderson SH (Police Scotland), Callum Rennie CR (Police Scotland), Councillor Craig Meek CM, Cllr Cathy Muldoon CMu, Councillor Pauline Clark PC, John Fleming, Susan Fleming.

## Items of AOCB: New website (JOD).

## Minutes of June meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by BS and seconded by LH.

## Reports from External Bodies:

## Police Report: No report was received from Police Scotland.

## CDT Update: Previous minutes from CDT were issued on 07 July 2025. MP provided the following update:

## The Community Garen Project is going well – they have held 1 Open Day together with Educational Workshops. The disabled parking spaces will be resurfaced by Morrisons.

## Good Connections Project is also going well and those with complex needs are making use of this service.

## Discovery Centre – the 12-month work contract is now 50% complete and all outside work will be finished by this summer and walkaround visits will be arranged for the community. The 150th celebrations are ongoing.

## The 2025 Firework Display will be held on 07th November.

## The 2025 Xmas Weekend event will be held on 07th December.

## At the previous meeting, the committee discussed the maintenance of the Union Square/Main Street planters. MP advised that the local Business Association had plans to maintain the planters.

## Matters arising:

* Minute Secretary. JOD will continue to take the meeting minutes until the post of Secretary is filled. **Ongoing.**
* Gate to the old kirk has been padlocked (potential public and employee H&S concern) and no proper assessment had been carried out as WLC had no budget allocation to carry out a survey. JOD confirmed that this site is deemed a Scheduled Monument (SM7254) as registered with Historic Environment Scotland. In view of this, WLC need to apply for permission to carry out any surveys/work.

**ACTION: JOD will write to CM and request this is discussed further with WLC.**

* At the previous meeting, the committee agreed to award a small grant of £150 to m Elevate Acro. A cheque for this amount was paid on 16th June 2025. Item closed.
* JOD advised that the old telephone box in Main Street. Is due to be repainted. Item closed.
* JOD sent a Community Council Report to CDT, for the Community Newsletter, on 16th June. Item closed.

**Harburn Bridge:**

To date, no further update is available. This item will remain on the agenda for the LAC meeting. **Ongoing.**

**Traffic Management:**

JOD advised that all TTRs have been issued. A resident raised an issue (via website) concerning congestion at the A71/B7008, Harburn Road Junction. The detailed message is attached at **APPENDIX 1.**

The committee discussed this matter and agreed that as traffic approaching eastwards from A71 to B7008 had a two-lane approach together with a filter signal, for right turning traffic then, the only other option would be to install a yellow box junction. Whilst there is a single yellow road marking outside the Post Office/shops on the north side of the A71, there is no signage to indicate any waiting time restrictions. There are no parking restrictions on Harburn Road, other than the areas around the B7008/A71 junction.

**ACTION: JOD will reply to the resident and contact WLC for their input.**

**Correspondence:** All forwarded to committee members. JOD reminded the committee of the Community Council Election process, later this year.

## Treasurer’s Report:

DB advised, via email, that the bank balance stands at £784.64 following payment to Elevate Acro.

## Planning Secretary Report: All Weekly Planning Reports from WLC have been issued.

* DJ advised that 0440/4/25 has been submitted in relation to raised decking. No objections were received.
* DJ advised that 0282/FUL/25 had been submitted in relation to formation of vehicular access road . No objections were received.
* Application 0452/FUL/24 - Land to South of 7 Stewart Street West Calder - 4 flats with associated works was recommended for approval by WLC. An objection was raised in relation to this application by the committee. JOD was unable to attend the DMC meeting on 18 June.

**Reports from Sub-groups and Other Meetings:-**

**Joint Forum of Community Councils Planning Forum – DJ**. No update.

**Joint Forum of Community Councils Police Forum – LH.** No update.

**Local Area Committee – AMcL.** Next meeting in September. **LAC**  link:  [West Lothian Council Committee Information - Meetings](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoins.westlothian.gov.uk%2FAgenda.asp%3Fmeetingid%3D9620&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb5f2fc6bb03a4ab8e2e308dc42c289b1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638458650503244543%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rlYvO5sNEPSBTnZrMn4Fvs5RK1Nh8oxP3Evh6sNx9I8%3D&reserved=0)

**Joint Forum of Community Councils Transport Forum – JOD**. No update.

* **CDT/CC Windfarm Sub- group** **– LH**. Previously, LH advised that the funding proposed from Longhill Windfarm, for the next year was £5K. The committee agreed that this was a substantial reduction. MP added that whilst £5k had been released for the community grant scheme, an Advisory Panel will reconvene to discuss next steps. Furthermore, A further £5k may be released later in the year MP also confirmed that CDT will benefit from circa £35k p.a.from Camilty Windfarm – this will be awarded in 2027. – **LH/JOD will attend on 16th July to consider Longhill applications.**

**Any Other Competent Business:-**

1. JOD advised that there were still some glitches with the new website – a response sent from the website domain seemed to include all formatting symbols. This was not acceptable for replies that were sent out The matter was eventually resolved.

**ACTION: JOD will advertise the website on the CC Facebook Page.**

**Date of next meeting 12th August 2025**

**APPENDIX 1**

**Your message/enquiry**
I recently reported an issue to the West Lothian Council highlighting congestion and vehicles blocking the junction on the A71/B7008 especially at peak hours. Sometimes it can be difficult to turn right into Harburn road from the A71 and right or left out of Harburn Road onto the A71. I suggested a yellow box junction at the lights to protect traffic turning right or cameras. I received a call from a pleasant gentleman from the council’s highways. He understood the issues and has witnessed congestion in the area himself. I also pointed out that I had witnessed tractors and goods vehicles mounting the pavement on Harburn road to pass traffic. He sympathised with me BUT as the accident rate is low it is unlikely the council will do anything. The council representative did point out that 20 mph speed limits are to be implemented in the area. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to resolve the traffic issues. I bring this to your attention to see if you can have a look at the issue, appraise it and if appropriate bring to the council’s attention.