# Minutes of West Calder & Harburn Community Council 10/06/2025

## Present: Joan O’Donnell JOD (Chair), Allan McLaughlan AMcL (Vice-Chair), David Burgess DB (Treasurer), Linda Hughes LH, Bart Smit BS, Councillor Craig Meek CM, John Fleming, Susan Fleming, Bronwyn Smyth BrS.

## Apologies Debra Jamieson DJ (Planning Secretary), Lorna McCallum LMc, Matt Pearce MP (CDT), Sean Henderson SH (Police Scotland), Callum Rennie CR (Police Scotland), Cllr Cathy Muldoon CMu, Councillor Pauline Clark PC.

## Items of AOCB: None.

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

## Reports from External Bodies:

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

## CDT Update: No report was received from CDT. At the previous meeting, the committee agreed that the Community Woods & Garden should have responsibility for the Union Square planters. JOD also advised that Dewar’s had organised volunteers to tidy up the planters in Union Square. It was agreed that the remaining planters still need attention.

**ACTION: JOD to discuss with CDT.**

## Matters arising:

* Website design is now complete and the website is live and working. JOD reminded the authorised users that on initial login they will be required to change their passwords. The domain **wchcc.co.uk** has been purchased and payment of £650 has been made to the designer. JOD will advertise the website address on the CC Facebook Page. Item closed.
* 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. This is a precaution due to a potential public and employee health and safety concern. CM advised that this is reviewed annually but no proper assessment had been carried out as WLC had no budget allocation to carry out a survey. JOD reminded the meeting that this site has links to Historical Scotland, is pertinent to local history and residents should be allowed access. JOD requested that WLC should at least obtain a costing for the survey to enable further discussion.

**ACTION:** **CM to discuss further with WLC.**

* At the previous meeting, a small grant application (£150-200) from Elevate Acro was considered. However, the initial application was rejected as this organisation was not registered with OSCR. Elevate Acro obtained OSCR registration (SC054122) on 9th April and it was agreed that the application could be reconsidered. BrS gave a full update on the need to purchase equipment and highlighted that the organisation had elected a new Board of Management and were coaching 10 classes across 4 separate locations. The organisation is looking for a permanent home and had raised approx. £16k, to date. JOD thanked BrS for this update and advised that the committee would vote accordingly after the meeting.

**POST MEEETING NOTE: The committee agreed to award the sum of £150.**

**Harburn Bridge:**

AMcL advised that the new signage seems to be working. 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.

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

## Treasurer’s Report:

DB advised that the bank balance stands at £934.64 following payment for the new website.

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

* 0369/P/25 – change of use from Joinery workshop to a house. No objections were received.
* Currently, extensive alteration is being carried out at The Dog’s Trust but this is from an application dated 2023 No further action.
* CM advised that Application 0452/FUL/24 - Land to South of 7 Stewart Street West Calder West Lothian EH55 8DT – 4 flats with associated works has been recommended for approval by WLC. This will be discussed further at the DMC meeting on 18 June. JOD will try to attend.

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

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

**Joint Forum of Community Councils Police Forum – LH.** LH reported the last meeting was held on 16th May at the Civic Centre. Topics discussed included Parking within Linlithgow, Road Safety at Kirknewton and the Community Police Surgery held at West Calder Community Hub on 21st May.

JF also gave an additional report:

* More Community Police Officers are now available (3 for Fauldhouse/Breich Valley and 4 For the Bathgate area).
* Successful presentations have been carried out to S5 and S6 pupils on domestic violence with an excellent engagement of 80% (4.5K pupils). These presentations will shortly move to the S4 Group.
* Community Officers will soon start to target younger pupils (10-13 years).
* **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 on the next meeting date.

**CDT/CC Windfarm Sub- group** **– LH**. LH advised that the funding proposed from Longhill Windfarm, for the next year was £5K. The committee agreed that this was a substantial reduction. LH also stated that the application process had been improved and a meeting would be held in July to consider applications. JOD advised that she would also sit on this committee to replace a previous CC committee member. Next meeting 16th July 2025.

**Any Other Competent Business**

1. AMcL queried the state of the old telephone box in Main Street. JOD will contact CDT who are the owners.
2. JOD will send a report to CDT, by 16th June, for inclusion in the summer newsletter.

**Date of next meeting 8th July 2025**