# Minutes of West Calder & Harburn Community Council 10/12/2024

## Present: Joan O’Donnell JOD (Chair), Allan McLaughlin AMcL (Vice-Chair), Debra Jamieson DJ (Planning Secretary), Bart Smit BS. Apologies: David Burgess DB (Treasurer), Lorna McCallum LMc, Linda Hughes LH, Matt Pearce MP (CDT), Councillor Craig Meek CM, Councillor Pauline Clark PC, Cllr Cathy Muldoon CMu, Lesley Duncan LD (Police Scotland).

## Items of AOCB: Items for discussion intimated by JOD.

## Minutes of November meeting: The minutes were proposed by BS and seconded by DJ.

## Reports from External Bodies:

## Police Report: No report has been received but information can be found at COINS link on the West Lothian Council (WLC) website. The Community Police Sergeant has indicated that they are currently involved in front line policing issues.

## CDT Update: A full update from CDT is attached at Appendix A. Details of discussions on the CDT update is incorporated within Appendix A.

## Matters arising:

* Website design. JOD confirmed that all requirements have now been submitted to the web designer. **Ongoing.**
* Minute Secretary. JOD will continue to take the meeting minutes until the post of Secretary is filled. **Ongoing.**
* Resident Query raised on 14th May - boundary at the southwest side of Latham Park. JOD and LMc undertook a site visit on 26th November and can confirm that the boundary fencing is correct and lies on the boundary line in accordance with the original planning application. However, the hedging has not yet been planted.

**ACTION: JOD to contact WLC and request action by Planning Enforcement.**

* Hermand Birchwood ROW – AMcL advised that further checks need to be carried out regarding the cut back for Ash Dieback. Work has been delayed. **Ongoing.**
* Gate to the old kirk has been padlocked. This is a precaution due to a potential public and employee health and safety concern. **Ongoing.**

**Harburn Bridge:**

AMcL, confirmed that the scheduled meeting took place on 25th November and was l attended by WLC, Network Rail, elected officials and residents. This was a progressive meeting and WLC have planned signage and road markings – work is pending. Network Rail also raised concerns.

Full minutes of this meeting will be issued to committee members, when available. **ACTION: AMcL to forward minute document.**

This matter will remain on the LAC agenda.

**Traffic Management:**

1. As previously advised, there will be a road closure at Monarch’s Way for new service connections (2 months Feb- Apr 2025)

**Local Place Plan (LPP):** JOD confirmed that the final version was sent to WLC on 21st August for registration.

**POST MEETING NOTE: The LPP has now been approved and can be accessed on the WLC site.** Local Place Plans (LPPs) : Register - West Lothian Council

**Correspondence:** All forwarded.

## Treasurer’s Report: £2,489.24. Payments have been made as follows:

## £48 (CDT printing costs); £250 (small grant to West Calder High School Care (WCHSC) This grant was approved by committee members via email sent on 7th December. Cheque has been sent to WCHSC. ACTION: AMcL to provide details for confirmatory email to WCHSC.

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

## DJ gave an update on the current scaffolding works that are being conducted at the Discovery Centre/ Workspace Development.

* 0759/P/24 - 2 houses at land west of West Harwood – JOD advised that WLC have confirmed that this land is NOT approved for housing development.
* 1 house at 53 Main Street – no objections were previously received. DJ discussed with the committee the level of detail absent from the application drawings.

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

**Joint Forum of Community Councils Planning Forum – JOD/DJ**. Possible meeting in January 2025.

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

**Local Area Committee – AMcL.** AMCL gave the following update:

* NALAXONE Training is being provided by NHS.
* Police Scotland: Domestic Abuse – package now available for affected children. Police are aware of parking issues within West Calder Village and the train station.
* WLC have the best rent payers. WLC- tenant garden inspections to be carried out.
* WLC NETS – excessive rain has affected the performance of weed killer application.
* WCHS have organised a “Jacket Giveaway.”
* WLC have allocated £6.24, per head for senior citizens, to Lunch Clubs.
* Stoneyburn Community Hub SCIO has now closed.

**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**. No update.

**Any Other Competent Business**

* JOD proposed that the AGM for 2023-2024 be held in March 2025. This means we will now be up to date following the delay, earlier this year. **Ongoing.**
* Two new doctors at West Calder Medical Practice – Drs. Amy Watson and Lucy Cowie.
* JOD will ensure that DJ’s email contact is corrected for all correspondence. **Item closed.**

**Date of next meeting – 14th January 2025**

**APPENDIX A.**

**CDT REPORT.**

**Discovery Centre/Workspace Development:** our contractor (Ashwood) has been on site for 10 days setting up and a contract has been signed for main works to commence on Jan 6th for what is planned to be a 52 week programme followed by fit out in the first half of 2026. Neighbour engagement is ongoing and positive in the main with agreements for scaffolding access in place. The contractor team are open and approachable and understand the high importance of neighbour and community engagement. Indeed, their positive approach to this (and local benefits) was one of the reasons we chose them.

**We ask that the CC raise any communications, feedback that concern the project with the CDT as soon as possible so that we can respond.** **WC&H CC committee will forward any feedback, if received.**

**Christmas and Fireworks Events**: a successful Fireworks Event and Christmas Weekend. We are aware that the Fireworks Event is not welcomed by all members of the community. The decision to go ahead with the event is never taken lightly by the board and is always considered in the round every spring. As with the Discovery Centre, **we ask that the CC pass on any issues raised with them so we can take them into consideration. WC&H CC committee will forward any issues, if received.**

The Christmas Weekend (in partnership with the Hub/CEA) was made up of a shopping evening, a pantomime and the Santa Parade, grotto and family fun evening.

**Heritage Panels:** finally, some progress on the improvements to the old notice board in Union Square which has been prepped for the new heritage panels which hopefully will be in place before the holidays. The three panels represent the local co-operative movement, the Calder Witch Hunt and (arranged by FJSS – the BAME support charity based in Union Square) a representation of immigration and slavery locally and nationally. The plan is to repurpose one of the noticeboards (itself refurbished) to sit on the back of the main map board.

**Bike rack:** the CDT acknowledge concerns raised by members of the community and the CC that the commemorative bike rack on Main Street is underused and mis-positioned. We propose that this rack be removed, cleaned, painted and moved to Society Place outside the front of the Discovery Centre. We believe this will actually be more visible, better used and help support the project development. ***We ask the CC to consider this proposal and ask them to support us in requesting the necessary permissions to action this at the correct time*. WC&H CC committee are happy to support this action.**

**The Community Council would request that the CDT consider siting a bench on this area, when the bike rack is removed.**