# Minutes of West Calder & Harburn Community Council 13/05/2025

## Present: Joan O’Donnell JOD (Chair), Allan McLaughlan AMcL (Vice-Chair), David Burgess DB (Treasurer), Debra Jamieson DJ (Planning Secretary), Linda Hughes LH.

## Apologies Matt Pearce MP (CDT), Bart Smit BS, Sean Henderson SH (Police Scotland), Callum Rennie CR (Police Scotland), Cllr Cathy Muldoon CMu, Councillor Craig Meek CM, Councillor Pauline Clark PC.

***JOD advised that Liz Forgrave had recently passed away. Liz was a regular attendee at the Community Council meetings and always contributed to discussion points. The committee exchanged words of regret and sympathy.***

## Items of AOCB: None.

## Minutes of April meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by DJ and seconded by JOD.

## Reports from External Bodies:

## Police Report: SH provided the following summary via email:-

* We have conducted several speed checks at the West side of the town. We have also engaged with householders to provide information to detect and deter housebreakers.
* Crimes for West Calder 11/04/25-11/05/25 – 15 crimes. Several attempt theft of motor vehicles which are actively being looked into.
* I have a community police surgery arranged for the 21st of this month, at The Hub, which should be linked in the next few days with Hub social media.

## CDT Update: MP provided the following summary via email:-

* Successful and positive liaison meeting with CEA with agreements to progress. AMcL  - in attendance for CC/CEA
* Co-operative Big Band Concert at WCHS Fri 20th June as part of the 150th anniversary of West Calder Co-operative Society celebration. Tickets on sale now.
* Call for items for summer newsletter please
* Discovery Centre works progress continue at pace.
* 2025 Fireworks planned for Fri 7th Nov
* Successful Community Garden Open Day & Plant Sale
* Union Square planters still a challenge as Unpaid Work Team (WLC – ex Community Service) appear to have disengaged. Support from CC welcome **\*\*\*\***.
* Community Grant fund application process soon to go live. First Advisory Panel meet on 14th May. Smaller amounts ad smaller maximum this year.

**\*\*\*\* This point was discussed further and the committee agreed that the Community Woods & Garden should have responsibility for the Union Square planters.**

## Matters arising:

* Website design. Final preferences have been discussed/resolved and the website is now ready to go live. Committee members need to provide agreement to become users – they will be allocated login details to enable editing/ adding content. BS and LH have declined so, it was agreed that the office bearers (JOD, AMcL, DB and DJ) will be given login details. Office bearers agreed that their email addresses be provided to the website designer. The domain **wchcc.co.uk** will be purchased. **Ongoing**
* 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 no further information has been received. **Ongoing.**
* At the previous meeting, a small grant application (£150-200) from Elevate Acro was considered. However, the 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. No representative was available to attend tonight’s meeting and the committee agreed that a decision will be made when a representative is able to attend. **Ongoing**

**Harburn Bridge:**

AMcL advised that the new signage seems to be working. To date, no further update is available. **Ongoing.**

**Traffic Management:**

JOD advised that two TTRs have still to be issued – Speed restriction from A70/Footpath resurfacing at southeast Main Street.

**Correspondence:** All forwarded to committee members.

## Treasurer’s Report:

DB advised that the bank balance stands at £1,584.64. The balance will reduce after payment for website.

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

## DJ highlighted a planning application (0306/AGR/25) agricultural building at land west of 8 West Mains Croft, EH55 8FL. There were no objections raised.

* There were no further comments regarding the Development Plan Scheme 2025 and LDP Call for ideas.

**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.** Next meeting 16th May.

**Local Area Committee – AMcL.** Next meeting in June. **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**. Next meeting 14th May.

**Any Other Competent Business**

No items were raised.

* **Date of next meeting 10th June 2025**