# Minutes of West Calder & Harburn Community Council 08/04/2025

## Present: Joan O’Donnell JOD (Chair), Debra Jamieson DJ (Planning Secretary), Bart Smit BS, Sean Henderson SH (Police Scotland), Callum Rennie CR (Police Scotland).

## Apologies: David Burgess DB (Treasurer), Allan McLaughlan AMcL (Vice-Chair), Linda Hughes LH, Matt Pearce MP (CDT), Cllr Cathy Muldoon CMu, Councillor Craig Meek CM, Councillor Pauline Clark PC.

**In Attendance:** Liz Forgrave LF, Jim Rennie JR.

## Items of AOCB: Traffic issues (Hartwood Road junction to A71) -LF. This was discussed under Traffic Management.

## Minutes of January meeting: The minutes of the last regular meeting (11th February 2025) were proposed by JOD and seconded by DJ.

## Reports from External Bodies:

## Police Report: Sean Henderson provided a local summary - see APPENDIX 1. Information can also be found at COINS link on the West Lothian Council (WLC) website.

## CDT Update: No report has been received. The minutes from the recent CDT Meeting were sent to all committee members on 6th April.

## Matters arising:

* Website design. Final preferences are still being discussed with the website designer. It was agreed that the website should be functional but also user- friendly. DJ will discuss any outstanding points with the designer, including a generic email address.

**ACTION: DJ to provide an update at the next meeting.**

* 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.**

**Harburn Bridge:**

JOD advised that a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order (TTRO) had been issued on 1st April – signage work is to start on 9th April. No further update on this matter has been received. **Ongoing.**

**Traffic Management:**

A resident raised the matter of speeding traffic and the following response was sent:

***“On behalf of the Community Council,  I can advise that community councils in Scotland cannot erect speed limit signs or traffic signs on public roads; only the local council or the Scottish Ministers can do that. In this area. the authority responsible for roads and traffic management, including erecting traffic signs, is West Lothian Council. However, as a Community Council we can raise concerns about speed limits and road safety with the council and Police Scotland.”***

The resident indicated that they would attend the meeting to discuss this further but they did not attend.

LF raised the matter of turning onto the A71 at the Hartwood Road junction – visibility was poor due to parked vehicles on the southwest side of this junction. JOD advised that this matter had been previously discussed at a site visit with WLC. LF suggested that there should be an extension of double yellow line markings on the southwest of Main Street, from the Kirkgate junction, to ensure a safe egress from Hartwood Road. The Community Council have already raised this with West Lothian Council (WLC) and it was suggested that local councillors could be approached.

JOD also confirmed that the extension of double yellow lines at the southeast side of the Kirkgate junction has already been discussed and the work has been carried out correctly.

JOD gave the following updates on TTROs:

1. TTR (footpath resurfacing to rear of Mossend Crescent) 24/03 to 18/04 issued.
2. TTR Zoo 20th April to be issued.
3. TTR U37 and C26 Mossend to 16th May to be issued.
4. TTR B792 Ash Dieback 1st May to be issued.
5. TTR Kirkgate (footpath resurfacing) 19/05 to 8/06 to be issued.

**Correspondence:** All forwarded. Joint Forum Newsletters issued/Notes from JF Planning Forum/Invitation to International Workers Memorial Day/Fireworks Awareness Event /Community Council Grants and Support 2025/26. West Lothian LDP 2 Evidence Engagement – JOD checked in conjunction with Local Place Plan (LPP) and all local issues were adequately covered by WLC.

## Treasurer’s Report:

In the treasurer’s absence JOD reported that there is a tentative balance of £1,584.64 in the bank account. This is derived from the figure of £2,191.24 from last month, plus £259.00 paid to us by West Lothian Council after we submitted the

accounts. There were then payments of £800.00 to the Community Hub (grant awarded to reduce entrance fee to the Easter Playgroup – authorised by all committee members via email on 24th March), £18.60 to CDT for paper and printing, and £52.00 less £5.00 to the Information Commissioner's office (GDPR registration)

The balance of £1,584.64 will reduce after payment for website.

A recent grant request was received from a local group and was discussed with committee members only, when the public had left the meeting – see **APPENDIX 2**.

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

* DJ highlighted a planning application for alterations and change of use from office and store to form a house at 49E West End. There were no objections to this application.
* JOD gave an update of the meeting with Persimmon on 24th March. This had been a positive discussion and followed on from the committee’s previous discussion at the Community Council meeting on 11th February. JOD provided further documentation to DJ and confirmed that it would be early 2026 before the application was discussed at the Development Management Committee (WLC). **Ongoing.**

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

**Joint Forum of Community Councils Planning Forum – JOD/DJ** Notes from the recent Planning Forum meeting were forwarded to all committee members.

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

**Local Area Committee – AMcL.** No update received.

**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**. No update on the next meeting date.

**Any Other Competent Business**

* West Linton LPP – JOD responded with no comments.
* SEPA info on CC Facebook Page.
* GDPR requirements actioned.
* Insurance approved via WLC.
* **Date of next meeting 13th May 2025**

**APPENDIX 1 – Police report**

On behalf of Police Scotland, SH gave the following update for the period 8th March – 8th April 2025:

* 99 calls were received in this period and resulted in 15 crimes being registered. These were related to road traffic incidents and drugs abuse.

Other calls included the reporting of domestic abuse.

* One incident of anti-social behaviour (private) was recorded.
* Police Scotland have recently been visiting schools, in the area to provide background on domestic abuse including knowledge of the legislation, associated with this crime.
* Police Scotland have also been carrying out patrols regarding anti-social behaviour and speeding traffic.
* West Lothian has a low crime rate.
* West Calder has a low rate of theft and anti-social behaviour.

A short discussion followed regarding local traffic and parking issues.

**APPENDIX 2 – Grant application.**

*“I wondered if the Community Council might be in a position to help the new Elevate Acro Gymnastics Club, purchase some second hand equipment, for the preschool classes which run in Polbeth and  the recreational (primary school aged) classes in West Calder Hub - two of the three classes are now full.*

*We are using a martial arts gym in Polbeth for the pre-school classes and are fundraising for bigger pieces of equipment and our own mats. The preschool climbing sets brand new are £3-4k, so it'll take some time for us to raise the funds, but to help the children gain more skills, respond to customer feedback, some small climbing Pikler type equipment would be really beneficial and used in multiple way.*

*I've attached a couple of pics in the pdf, but would be interested to hear your opinion and if I should make a more formal request?*

*Many Thanks*

*Bronwen*

**(NOTE: Application received 3rd April: (ELEVATE ACRO is a private company but is currently applying for charitable status). Equipment illustrated costs £150-£200).**

This application was considered by the committee members present and it was decided not to approve the request as the group were not a registered charity.

**ACTION: JOD will respond to the applicant.**