



Minutes 9th Aug 2022

1. **Attendees:** J. Sives (Chair), Cllr C. John, Cllr D. Logue, Cllr V. Smith, S. Campbell, L. Cullen, N. Gwynne (remote), I. Masterton, A. Pinkerton, K. Rees, J. Thomas, I. Watt.

Apologies: Cllr D. Timson, V. Garrad, K. McKeown, S. McKenna (KCDT/Assoc. Member). The meeting noted VG's current illness and expressed best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The meeting was held in person at the Kirknewton Village Hall, with a hybrid capability for remote participation via Zoom for KCC members unable to attend in person.

2. **Declaration of interest:** None.

3. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes:** No amendments to the draft June minutes as circulated were noted. IW proposed approval. KR seconded. The Minutes were approved.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Cllr CJ intimated in arrears that the attendance record for the June meeting was incorrect.

4. **Actions from previous meeting:** None.

5. Councillors' Report:

- 5.1 Cllr CJ noted that councillors had only recently returned to the Civic Centre. No committee meetings had been held as yet.

- 5.2 Cllr CJ reported that a new Audio-Visual system has been installed in the Council Chambers and councillors are being trained in its use. Cllr CJ's expects that, as a consequence, ad-hoc contributions from the floor will be more manageable from the Chair, and meetings will become more structured as a result. Video of the meetings will be publically accessible, but there are some initial teething issues on training to a wider audience, eg, LACS and Planning. There was some discussion as to whether all LACS are following the spirit of the agreement to include Community Council representatives in meetings.

- 5.3 Cllr DL commented on the feedback and current status regarding the proposed Robertson's development at Roosevelt Road. There was some discussion on the implications of the sale of an already-approved development by Drummond Homes to Robertson Homes, who wish to build to a different scale and timescale:

- It was noted that Robertson's proposed 97 houses was double in size to the Drummond phase-one development, but that Drummond had outline approval for a second phase which would ultimately be similar to the Robertson proposal.
- IW stated that the planning sub-committee looking at this proposal had requested that the current dog-walking facility and the established historic footpath be preserved. The request is that the development incorporates a suitable pathway.



- There are substantial difficulties with access which is proposed to be via a utilities safety strip (under high-tension cables) onto Braekirk Avenue. Since Braekirk Avenue was intended as a residential cul-de-sac, such access would be incompatible with its design and insufficient for the additional traffic.
- The build timescale was questioned by IM. The long-standing WLC-imposed constraint to build less than six houses per year was predicated on the capacity of Kirknewton Primary School. This was dismissed by Cllr. DL, who suggested that money would be made available to expand the school. When it was pointed out that there was no ground available for such an expansion, and that the school already failed to meet the minimum required playground space for its roll, Cllr DL suggested bussing primary pupils to other schools (one of which is already scheduled for demolition). The meeting did not agree that this was a viable proposal.
- Only 24 of the houses are designated as 'affordable housing'. The meeting did not think this adequately addressed the housing need of local inhabitants.

It was, however, noted that no planning application has currently been submitted, and Robertson are to be commended for proactively engaging in consultation. To that end, there is a presentation in the Green Room on Tue 16th between 2.00pm and 8pm, to which all local residents are invited. Comments from local residents would be welcome.

- 5.4** Cllr CJ acknowledged problems with refuse collection, in particular the failure to uplift from Kirknewton Primary School. SC commented that this was beginning to constitute a health hazard. SC undertook to contact WLC with regard to the latest occurrence.

ACTION: – SC to notify WLC of the failure to uplift refuse.

- 5.5** The following items were raised for the Councillors' attention:

- Kirknewton Pharmacy wishes to expand by a few metres to the north to create a suitable room for pharmacist consultation. This seems to align with the concept of local health care in the community. However, WLC seems intransigent to releasing the necessary ground, which is unused anyway. The elected councillors are requested to intercede on Kirknewton's behalf.
- The bus shelter at Braekirk was, from day one, installed the wrong way round. The prevailing weather blows into the shelter instead of being blocked by it. For some reason, WLC remain intransigent over fixing this mistake. The elected councillors are requested to intercede on Kirknewton's behalf.
- The water supply at Humble Holdings is perilously inadequate. The lack of water is now an actual health hazard. (Raised under AOB below). Councillors are urgently requested to address this as a matter of extreme urgency.

- 5.6** JS asked when WLC councillors' surgeries will recommence. It was advised that WLC have not yet permitted the elected councillors to hold surgeries in WLC premises. Unofficially, some councillors have held surgeries in non-WLC premises.

- 6. KCDT Report:** In SMcK's absence, no KCDT report was presented. However, AP reported that the seven energy-neutral houses development at Camps Junction continued to make progress, albeit that new legislation for sprinkler systems was being applied by WLC retrospectively to already-approved developments. It is not currently clear what the implications are.



7. Village Hall & Pavilion:

- 7.1 IW reported that use of the Pavilion continued to increase. The Kirknewton football team is now an established user.
- 7.2 IW advised that some snagging items remain to be addressed in the Village Hall. In particular, there are ongoing issues with the entrance door. However, the Audio-Visual system has been installed.
- 7.3 Whilst there have been problems with the release of funding from the Town Centre Fund, 50% of the allocated £13999 will be released soon. In addition, Kirknewton will receive an additional £900, which will be used towards the replacement of the ceiling tiles in the Village Hall.
- 7.4 Costs, eg, electricity, continue to be monitored to provide a baseline for future Hall and Pavilion budgeting.

8. Town Centre Fund:

- 8.1 JS reported that applications for Town Centre Fund grants to the maximum available for Kirknewton (£13,999) has been granted. The three projects at various locations in the village, are:
 - The planting of fruit trees to improve the amenity at the open ground adjacent to the Roosevelt Road – Churchill Way junction.
 - The planting of a permanent Christmas Tree at Park Terrace to replace the cut tree installed there annually.
 - The refurbishment of the area behind the Village Hall to provide an outdoor amenity area for hall users.

9. Planning & Active Travel / Park & Ride:

In VG's absence, NG reported on both Planning and Active Travel

- 9.1 NG advised that the manager of Active Travel in West Lothian has now retired. Notwithstanding, the SusTrans initiative continues to move forward.
- 9.2 There is active discussion on the Calderwood and Roosevelt Road developments, both in a planning context (see 5.3 above), and from a sustainable transport perspective.



10. AOB

- 10.1 Police Scotland:** JS reported that Lothian and Borders now has a new Divisional Commander, Catriona Paton, following the retirement of the previous incumbent, John McKenzie. Interaction with Police Scotland is currently in a state of flux, however the Joint Forum (of Community Councils in West Lothian) has a sub-forum dedicated to Police matters, which is seeking a meeting with both the Divisional Commander and the West Lothian Area Commander to explore areas of mutual interest.
- 10.2 Dog Ownership:** JS reported that whilst there is a desire to ensure dogs are prevented from accessing children's play areas, there is no resource available to promote this.
- 10.3 Yellow Lines:** There has been no further communication from WLC with respect to instituting yellow-line zones in Kirknewton.
- 10.4 East Calder Medical Centre:** JS is to be part of the project group to consult on the redevelopment of the East Calder Medical Centre.
- 10.5 Humbie Holdings – Water Supply:** The recent dry conditions have exacerbated the known water supply issue at Humbie Holdings to an extent that this is now an actual health issue. Many houses now have no water other than in the small hours of the night. This is a very serious situation, which Scottish Water do not seem to be taking on board. JS pointed out that there is an established Human Right to adequate clean water. Scottish Water appear to be delinquent in their responsibilities in this respect. One care home is now reduced to using bowser-delivered water, whilst farm animals are suffering from drought. The elected Councillors are urgently requested to address this as a matter of extreme urgency.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is on 13th September 2022 at 18.45, in-person at the Village Hall. By prior agreement, access to a hybrid meeting can be arranged

The Chair concluded the meeting with thanks to all who had taken part.