



Minutes 11th October 2022

1. **Attendees:** J. Sives (Chair), Cllr C. John, Cllr D. Doran-Timson, S. Campbell, F. Lynch, I. Masterton, A. Pinkerton, K. Rees, J. Thomas.

Apologies: Cllr D. Logue, L. Cullen, N. Gwynne, K. McKeown, I. Watt, S. McKenna (KCDT/Assoc. Member). The meeting noted V. Garrad's ongoing illness and his likely inability to attend in the near future.

The meeting was held in person at the Kirknewton Village Hall. No hybrid capability for remote participation via Zoom was requested by KCC members unable to attend in person.

It was noted that the September meeting had been cancelled following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

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

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

4. **Actions from previous meeting:** The issue of missed refuse collections from Kirknewton Primary School had been raised with WLC and addressed. Action closed.

5. **Councillors' Report:**

- 5.1 Cllr CJ reported on activities to provide signage at, and maintain, established War Graves.

- 5.2 Cllr CJ asked if activities to establish a twinning agreement with Sallez les-Lanois had recommenced. JS responded the NG had hosted a French contingent pre-pandemic, but there is a mismatch in scale between KCC and the French equivalent. He thought it unlikely that the initiative would progress any further. Cllr CJ advised that there is money technically available for twinning activities, but that council funding is becoming increasingly constrained

- 5.3 Cllr CJ reported that the issue of repositioning the bus shelter at Braekirk Gardens is in hand

- 5.4 Cllr DT noted that WLC are looking at savings across its budget. He encouraged KCC to take part in the consultation exercise. AP asked where the information could be found. Cllr DT and JS advised that it is in the WLC Bulletin which is delivered to all households. JS commented that the information often does not reach everyone with an interest in responding. IM suggested communication via the KCC page on the KCDT website. SC confirmed the inclusion of the WLC survey in the Bulletin.

- 5.5 JS made the point that several WLC surveys were currently active, including one relating to the replacement of the East Calder Medical Centre, and encouraged participation. JT expressed doubt that such a plethora of surveys would achieve meaningful consultation, and may indeed be counter-productive

- 5.6** There was discussion regarding traffic issues throughout West Lothian. There are community concerns about speed, volume of traffic, poor infrastructure in the face of continued development. JS noted that this was on the agenda of the Joint Forum
- 5.7** Cllr CJ acknowledged continuing ongoing problems with refuse collection. IM commented that whilst this was partly due to the post-strike backlog, there also seems to be a systemic issue in that the operatives' route planning leaves certain bins vulnerable to being ignored.
- 5.8** Some AOB items were brought forward for discussion whilst the Councillors were present:
- Parking on the B7031 at Millrig is causing concern. Given the demise of the P&R proposal, this needs ongoing monitoring to prevent the situation deteriorating further.
 - The creation of warm-space hubs is being pursued by various local bodies, including the parish church, KCDT and KCC. Moving into winter, this is likely to prove a crucial well-being initiative. Coordination and advertising of the provision at the various locations is highly desirable to maximise their benefit.
 - A proposal by Miss Turid Engstrom to create 'Forest Classrooms' with outdoor activity equipment was discussed. It seems, however, that there is a land ownership issue: the land is not owned by WLC, and its use for such activities would render any operator liable for Health and Safety and would require indemnity insurance. Cllr DT noted that historically such land was held for the 'Common Good'. JS recommended that any prospective operator seek legal advice.
- 6. Cost of Living:**
- 6.1** JS stated that the situation is serious and deteriorating. Foodbanks are struggling to meet the increased demand, and WLC are working on plans to help address the need. The expectation is that the impact of the crisis this winter will be worse than that of Covid
- 6.2** WLC is preparing an information leaflet which will be circulated to all households. This will advise what warm-hub facilities will be available., but it is not known at this stage what the uptake of these is likely to be. WLC are also proposing a roadshow to help reinforce this information. JS undertook to circulate the draft leaflet to at the earliest opportunity.
- ACTION:** – JS to circulate the draft information leaflet to KCC.
- 6.3** Concern was expressed that there could be a detrimental effect on elderly people who return from a warm hub to a house which was been unheated through the day.
- 6.4** AP asked what funding was available to support warm-hubs. JS advised that even foodbanks are now using their reserves and there is no WLC funding available for Cost of Living support.
- 6.5** JT noted that KCC could fund PVG applications if PVG was deemed necessary to allow volunteers to work with vulnerable adults.
- 7. KCDT Report:** In SMcK's absence, no KCDT report was presented. However, AP reported that the seven energy-neutral houses development at Camps Junction is becoming bogged down in constantly-changing legal requirements. No progress has been possible since the previous report, although there is still hope that the development will go ahead



- 8. Village Hall & Pavilion:** In IW's absence, JS provided a brief update:
- 8.1** The Town Centre Fund grant which was approved for the planting of fruit trees at Roosevelt Road has not yet been received.
 - 8.2** The use of the Pavilion by the Kirknewton football team is proving very successful, and its use as a biking hub is increasing.
 - 8.3** Funding to replace the ceiling tiles in the Village Hall is still awaited.
- 9. Town Centre Fund:** *see 8.1 above*
- 10. Planning:**
- 10.1** The consultation on the Roosevelt Road site held by Robertson Homes saw 25 people attend in-person, with 65 attending online. It is anticipated that a planning application will be lodged in December
 - 10.2** IM briefed the meeting on the resurrected Hatton Village proposal by Pegasus Consultancy. This is across the boundary, within the City of Edinburgh Council area, and KCC has not been officially notified. Nevertheless, this major development on our doorstep, if it goes ahead, will have a significant impact on travel to and from Kirknewton via the A71, which is already way beyond capacity IM is awaiting feedback from Ratho and District Community Council on any action they propose to take. JS queried if there was a 'hands-off' policy in WLC to planning applications in other local authority areas, to avoid any potential cross-boundary conflict. Cllr DT advised that there is no legal protocol which would govern this. JS agreed to contact the developers to express KCC's misgivings at the proposal. IM agreed to write to Pegasus Consultancy to request KCC's inclusion in the formal notification and consultation process.
 - ACTION:** – JS to write to the developer, Inverdunning (Hatton Mains) Ltd..
 - ACTION:** – IM to write to Pegasus Consultancy Ltd.
 - 10.3** JS tabled preliminary plans for the replacement East Calder Medical Centre. There was some discussion on the capacity of the new centre, which at completion will already be less than the projected population it is to serve. JS advised that it was very much 'take it or leave it', and this proposal was all that we would be offered. Feedback to WLC is essential and KCC is encouraged to actively engage. AP asked about the sustainability of the new centre. JS replied that sustainability is embodied within the new regulations which cover such builds. He noted that the projected cost is substantially beyond what WLC can fund, and funding will therefore come directly from the Scottish Government.



11. AOB

- 11.1 Park Terrace:** SC suggested that it would be a fitting tribute to Her late Majesty to plant some Queen Elizabeth roses at Park Terrace, at a cost of £80. The meeting agreed
- 11.2 Recycling Bins:** SC asked if the glass recycling bins could be moved to a more convenient location. JS advised categorically that this is not possible. The current location is the only place WLC are prepared to site them. The alternative would be their total removal.
- 11.3 Parking:** JS reported that discussions are ongoing to resolve the parking issues when there is a football match at the park. Some ideas have been put forward to try to address this, including opening up the old road beyond the bollards at Whitemoss Road as overspill parking.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting is on 8th November 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.