



## Minutes Tuesday 10th February 2026

1. **Members present:** J. Sives (Chair), Cllr D. Doran-Timson, Cllr C. John, Cllr D. Logue, Cllr V. Smith, S. Campbell, L. Cullen, S. McPherson, I. Masterton, I. Watt, J. Thomas, A. Turner

**Apologies:** A. Pinkerton.

2. **Declarations of interest:** None.

3. **Approval and ratification of January minutes:** A minor amendment to the minutes of the January meeting was noted and approved. IW proposed approval. JT seconded. The January minutes were approved.

4. **Action points from January meeting:**

**Jan Item 9.1:** KCDT to confirm date, location and timing to KCC [of meeting to improve communication] so members can prepare.

*Action SMcK c/fwd*

**Jan Item 9.2:** Youth Action Project: Collaboration with WLC.

*Action SC/LC c/fwd*

Youth KCC member(s).

*Action SC/LC c/fwd*

**Jan Item 9.3:** Jenks View grit bins. Cllr CJ reported that these will not be provided by WLC. JT asked if KCC can progress from existing funds. SC & IW to investigate.

*Action SC/IW c/fwd*

All other actions have been addressed and closed. In particular it is hereby minuted that A. Turner has been co-opted onto Kirknewton Community Council.

5. **Councillors' Report:**

5.1 Cllr CJ reported that the revised speed limit and road signage at Jenks View is in hand

5.2 Cllr VS reported that WLC committees were, by force of circumstances, looking at further cost saving measures. Savings so far identified include

- reducing the WLC vehicle fleet from around 1000 to around 850
- Staff reductions (5 so far identified)
- Charges for replacement wheelie-bins.

IM queried if the replacement bin charge took into account the replacement of bins damaged by the collecting vehicle. This prompted a vigorous discussion including input from Cllrs CJ, DL, DDT, and KCC members AT and IM.

- 5.3 Cllr CJ noted that a programme of road repairs was imminent on the A70 and elsewhere, including Station Road in Kirknewton, and Langton Road in East Calder.
- 5.4 Cllr CJ advised that enforcement proceedings against the illegal static caravan site on the A71 are ongoing.
- 5.5 Cllr DL reported on the situation vis-à-vis the East Calder Health Centre. JS noted that this was on the agenda, but suggested it was addressed 'in-line' in the current discussion. *[the minutes of this discussion are recorded separately at item 9 below, in accordance with the original Agenda]*.
- 5.6 Cllr DL notified the meeting of potential roads projects. JS noted that KCC feedback to the PDSPs had been crucial, and remained so to ensure correct prioritisation.
- 5.7 Cllr DDT advised that WLC were considering implementing a cap on personal care. Given that local councils have a statutory duty to provide this care, such a cap would potentially conflict with that duty. JS commented that it would have a disproportionately serious impact on an aging population.
- 5.8 Cllr DDT advised that Network Rail are planning to repair the level crossing on 7<sup>th</sup> March. He also noted that in response to further enquiries about a footbridge, Network Rail had advised that responsibility for a footbridge had reverted to WLC, courtesy of a 2022 planning application. Cllr DL added that Network Rail had lodged a new planning application for additional parking at the station.

## 6. Treasurer's report:

- 6.1 JT confirmed that the transfer of funds to the new bank account had been completed. There is currently just over £1670 in the new account.

## 7. Planning:

- 7.1 JS reported on a meeting with Ogilvie Homes, which included SC & IW. WLC is currently considering the objections raised against the application. Cllr DL confirmed that an amended layout had been submitted.
- 7.2 SC and Cllr DL noted that the revised plan showed more than 30 units. This exceeds the number envisaged in the Local Development Plan, and is being reviewed by WLC.
- 7.3 SC listed a number of concerns that had been raised:
- White lines to help manage construction traffic
  - SUDS changes – now open rather than enclosed
  - Wildlife: this is increasing. A WLC wildlife audit reported no protected or vulnerable species in the area in question. This is clearly incorrect, and SC can supply evidence.
  - Adequate and appropriate boundary fencing
  - Lack of communication from WLC

On a positive note, Ogilvie Homes seem keen to work with the community to resolve the various issues.

- 7.4 JS agreed to arrange a further meeting between Ogilvie Homes, KCC and WLC.  
**ACTION: – JS to arrange a meeting.**



## **8. Village Hall**

- 8.1** IW reported on progress to take over responsibility for the hall from WLC. After further investigation, the preferred option of a full repairing lease has proved non-viable. Several significant additional costs have been identified, ranging from additional electricity meter-reading costs to periodic checks for Legionnaires' disease. Proceeds from hall rental would not cover the cost to manage and maintain the hall. IW will meet WLC again on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to try to resolve the impasse.
- 8.2** JS stated that with the current lease expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> March, KCC has now received notice to quit from WLC. If the hall reverts to WLC ownership and management, there are undesirable knock-on implications.
- 8.3** Cllr DL noted that, from a WLC perspective, provision for any necessary repairs would remain a significant concern.
- 8.4** IW acknowledged that ongoing fundraising on an annual basis would be required. However, with Kirknewton evolving more and more into a commuter village, the 'buy-in' from an increasing percentage of residents to community facilities they rarely if ever use is not there.
- 8.5** JS emphasised that unlike urban settings, the village hall is Kirknewton's only indoor community space. There was further general discussion on the hall's usage, potential, and fees charged.

## **9. East Calder Health Centre:**

- 9.1** Cllr DL reported that a meeting of the health centre campaign group had recently been held. This was attended by Jackie Ballie MP who agreed that the building was in a terrible state. It is necessary to keep the pressure up, and one mechanism would be a mass demonstration with television coverage.
- 9.2** JS noted that many meetings had been arranged to progress the issue with government. To date, the Health Secretary has declined to attend any of them. JS agreed that a mass demonstration, possibly outside Holyrood, would be a possible option.
- 9.3** JT stated that he had been advised that budget would be available in 2029/2030. JS added that it was not clear how firm a commitment this could be, given that a business case has not yet been agreed. Cllr VS suggested that the 2029/30 timescale was for building work actually to commence.
- 9.4** JS pointed out that in the meantime, upgrades to the reception area are being undertaken, including installation of a revolving door and a new reception desk. He felt that this upgrade was pointless, given the current building would be demolished not long afterwards.
- 9.5** JS added that consideration of planning proposals for further housing is not required by law to include stipulations of additional health care if current facilities are inadequate for the proposals under consideration. This is in contrast to roads, schools and other infrastructure, which are required to be considered.



## **10. KCDT**

- 10.1** SC reported on behalf of KCDT. There is little to report pending the KCDT Directors' meeting next Tuesday. KCDT will report in more detail at the March KCC meeting
- 10.2** In the meantime, SC announced that some lottery funding had been secured for the next 2 years. This will protect the positions of Steph, Graeme, Sandra and Ailsa.

## **11. AOB**

- 11.1** JS reported that various online consultations had been circulated on behalf of WLC, SEPA, etc. He encouraged the completion of these as an effective way of recording that the local community had provided the requested feedback, whether or not the organisation involved took cognisance of it.
- 11.2** JS welcomed AT as a newly-co-opted member, and commented that it was good to see new faces showing an interest in KCC.
- 11.3** WLC planning department are organising training for those interested in the WLC planning process. This is recommended for Community Council Planning Secretaries. Further details will be circulated in due course.
- 11.4** JS advised that the next Joint Police sub Forum is arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> March with Inspector Carlyn Simpson.
- 11.5** AT outlined changes in Police Scotland insofar as they impacted West Lothian Area Command and local policing. Many high-ranking officers have now taken retirement. As an overall team the newly-appointed top command is therefore relatively inexperienced as a coordinated command at that level, and it is not yet clear what the priorities and focus will be. JS commented that it seems unlikely that the new ongoing contact will prove as effective as the previous relationship.

The Chair concluded the meeting with thanks to all who had taken part. The next meeting is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 18.45 in the Green Room.

*Meetings of Kirknewton Community Council are open to all members of the community. Meetings take place in The Green Room at 18:45 on the second Tuesday of each month except July.*