



## Minutes 10th May 2022

- Attendees:** J. Sives (Chair), Cllr C. John, Cllr D. Timpson, S. Campbell, L. Cullen, V. Garrad, N. Gwynn, I. Masterton, K. McKeown, J. Thomas, I. Watt.

Apologies: A. Pinkerton, S. McKenna (KCDT/Assoc. Member).

Due to the continued unavailability of a venue with adequate social distancing, this meeting was re-arranged to be held online as a 'virtual' meeting in line with WLC guidelines, using Zoom.

- Declaration of interest:** None.

- Approval of previous meeting's minutes:** No amendments to the draft minutes as circulated were noted. KMCK proposed approval. VG seconded. The Minutes were approved.

- Actions from previous meeting:** None.

### 5. Councillors' Report:

- 5.1** Cllr CJ noted thanks to everyone who had voted in the Local Council Elections, regardless of allegiance. He emphasised the importance of this in establishing a mandate for those duly elected to represent their respective wards on the council. Cllr DT echoed these sentiments, and added his own thanks.

- 5.2** JS noted the election of two new Councillors to Ward 5, and intimated the intention to contact them as soon as possible with a view to encouraging their attendance at KCC meetings.

- 5.3** Cllr CJ advised that Councillors' surgeries are expected to resume in June. He asked if the Kirknewton surgeries should be held as previously in the Green Room, or be relocated to the refurbished Village Hall. JS responded that either was acceptable, and that if the Green Room was Cllr CJ's preferred option, it was available and could be booked in the usual way.

- 5.4** JT raised the point that many WLC consultation meetings to which Community Councillors were invited to attend were held during normal working hours, which usually precluded participation by any Community Councillors who were in full-time employment. Whilst JT appreciated that it would be unreasonable to expect WLC Councillors, staff, and other third-parties to attend these meetings if they were exclusively held outwith normal working hours, he asked if some thought could be given as to how this deficit might be addressed.

- 6. KCDT Report:** In SMcK's absence, no KCDT report was presented. However, IW commented that the launch event for The Kirknewton Story, a comic book containing historical anecdotes about the village, had been a great success.



## **7. Village Hall & Pavilion:**

- 7.1 IW reported that use of the Pavilion continued to increase. One significant boost is the re-establishment of a Kirknewton football team. As a result, the Pavilion is currently booked for football training every night.
- 7.2 IW advised that the Village Hall was now available for use. Some snagging items remain to be addressed, but booking levels are healthy, despite the loss of some custom from groups who moved elsewhere during the refurbishment.
- 7.3 IW noted that plans for Seniors' events and events to mark the Platinum Jubilee are under way.

## **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 lodged. Suitable initiatives have been identified and agreed, comprising three projects at various locations in the village, viz:
  - 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.

These three applications are designed to satisfy the TCF requirements for community based improvements, and will come before the Local Area Committee (LAC) in June for approval. JS noted that the three projects are geographically spread across the village, in contrast to previous TCF rounds where a single larger project was undertaken at a single location. This is a deliberate move to broaden the benefit to areas of the village beyond the central core.

## **9. Active Travel / Park & Ride:**

- 9.1 NG advised that there had been no update on the various ongoing Active Travel initiatives since his previous report.
- 9.2 NG expanded on the information he had circulated by email previously on the Scottish Government initiative to establish community Climate Action Hubs. He noted that the government will provide seed funding for community climate action projects.

- 9.3** JS noted the receipt of a communication from WLC requesting community feedback on a proposal to remove the Spaces for People pavement widening at Station Road which had been introduced during lockdown. Following some discussion which touched on wider SfP measures, JS emphasised that the remit was strictly to provide a yes/no response on behalf of the Community Council on the specific proposal for Station Road, and that discussion of other SfP measures were out of scope. NG was critical of the SfP consultation process as applied by WLC, and commented that a much more 'joined-up' and holistic approach was desperately needed. The piecemeal implementation of individual measures in isolation was simply not the right way to achieve any useful improvement. KMck stated that the benefit of retaining the pavement widening depended on whether the 20mph speed limit would be retained or reverted to 30mph. If the speed limit is to be raised, the pavement widening ought to be removed on safety grounds. Several other members concurred. The proposal was put to a vote, with a majority decision in favour of retaining the SfP pavement widening measures at Station Road. JS undertook to advise WLC accordingly

**ACTION:** – JS / NG to advise WLC of the KCC's preferred option.

## **10. Planning.**

- 10.1** VG noted a new planning application to convert a water tank to dry storage for farm equipment at Leyden Road. In VG's opinion the plans seem perfectly acceptable. JS stated that, as a private matter without community implications, any official response by KCC to WLC would be outwith the remit of the Community Council. No further action is therefore appropriate.
- 10.2** VG also noted a new planning application to convert a basement window to a doorway at Ormiston Castle. JS again advised that this is likewise a private matter and not within KCC's remit.
- 10.3** VG further noted an updated planning application to convert existing office space to a community hub at Humble Holdings. JS noted that the hub was part of the original planning approval, and implementing it by change of use of an existing building is again not within KCC's remit to comment on.
- 10.4** VG reported on an application to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment for a proposed solar farm and battery storage system at Selms Muir. VG advised that he had no further information at this stage, and would continue to monitor the proposal. JT noted that whilst an expansion of renewable energy provision in this way is commendable, some detriment to the environment has already occurred with wetland / pond areas having already been filled in. These are important transit ponds for geese, and the impact on wildlife is clearly of concern. NG pointed out that the criteria for preventing or allowing interference with the site is whether it is a protected habitat used as a regular transit pond or nesting site, or only sees occasional use. VG undertook to seek a response from WLC.
- ACTION:** – VG to follow up with WLC and report back.
- 10.5 Ravelrig (Balerno):** JS & JT noted that the Rapleys application for a residential and associated mixed use development west of Ravelrig Road in Balerno has been rejected on appeal. KCC had formally objected to City of Edinburgh Council on various grounds.



**10.6 Permitted Development:** VG reported that he had been approached by a resident with concerns over the erection of timber huts in garden ground. VG confirmed that he had sought confirmation of what constituted 'permitted development'. JS cautioned that KCC cannot become involved in single-house or permitted development issues. SC advised that permitted development allows the use of  $\frac{2}{3}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the entire garden ground, depending on the overall area of the property.

## 11. AGM

**11.1** JS proposed that the Kirknewton Community Council Annual General Meeting be held prior to the August KCC business meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

**11.2** JT suggested that ideas for the beneficial use of the financial reserves be considered at the AGM. IM wondered if they might be put towards measures to mitigate what would undoubtedly be a hard winter for many villagers in the current financial climate.

## 12. AOB

**12.1 Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board (EANAB):** VG reported that the role of EANAB is currently under review. Notwithstanding, EANAB has asked for feedback on what could be done to mitigate noise from the airport. Given the time EANAB has been in existence, this does not seem to indicate any forward progress. VG is of the opinion that the EANAB remit and board membership are essentially satisfying a political 'tick-box'. EANAB's ineffectiveness in actually achieving anything is highlighted by recent resignations. VG has drafted a proposed response to EANAB. JS asked VG to ensure that KCC was circulated with that response in advance of it being forwarded to EANAB. VG agreed to do this. JT provided some additional information which reinforced VG's opinion. He believes there is cause for concern going forward if EANAB continues to be a 'smoke-screen' behind which EAL's expansion aspirations can progress unopposed. JS asked if the EANAB minutes could be made available. VG agreed to provide the requisite link.

**ACTION:** – VG to ensure the proposed response to EANAB is circulated to KCC.

**ACTION:** – VG/IM: VG to forward the link to EANAB minutes to IM for circulation to KCC.

**12.2 Ukraine "Hands of Friendship":** JS reported on this WLC initiative, with a proposed meeting on Fri 13<sup>th</sup> May, for anyone who wishes to attend.

**12.3 Roosevelt Road:** SC asked if the information circulated that day on proposed further development should be discussed. It was noted that there were no details available, and after some discussion it was clear that consideration will require greater information. JS suggested that the item be carried forward, but in the meantime the he and/or IW should contact the developer to establish a line of communication.

**ACTION:** – JS/IW to contact the developer to establish communications.

## 13. Next Meeting

The next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 18.45. Provisionally this is scheduled to be in-person at the Village Hall.

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