



Minutes 8th February 2022

1. **Attendees:** J. Sives (Chair), Cllr C. John, Cllr D. Timpson, S. Campbell, V. Garrad, N. Gwynne, F. Lynch, I. Masterton, A. Pinkerton, K. Rees, J. Thomas, I. Watt.

Apologies: L Cullen, K. McKeown, S. McKenna (KCDT).

Due to the 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.

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

Some items recorded under AOB were presented in discussions on other topics to accommodate participants with conflicting time constraints. These are consolidated under AOB

3. **Actions from previous meeting:** Ongoing actions are as recorded below or elsewhere in these minutes, or are closed. Updates were advised on the following specific points:

- Jan. item 3: Cllr CJ has raised the FixMyStreet issue with WLC and will continue to press for action.
- Jan. item 5.3: Remains ongoing. Cllr CJ requested after the January KCC meeting that the Friday supplementary planning list be circulated to Community Councils and expressed surprise that IM has not so far received it.

4. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes:** No amendments to the draft-1.0 minutes as circulated were noted. VG proposed approval. AP seconded. The Minutes were approved.

5. **Councillors' Report:**

- 5.1 Cllr CJ reported that WLC Highways Dept. have notified in writing that the intended parking restrictions at Whitemoss Road will comprise a single yellow line only, and that deliveries to the shop will remain unaffected. Highways have indicated that they remain willing to consider any comments received, and that there is still time to submit these.
- 5.2 Cllr CJ noted that WLC Council Executive is in the process of responding to the Scottish Government paper on transport. He has reminded the Executive that the lack of a pedestrian footbridge or underpass at Kirknewton station must be highlighted as an issue in that response. There is an increasing incidence of would-be passengers who are stuck on the wrong side of the level crossing attempting to catch the train by crossing the lines while the barriers are down, which is highly dangerous. Several train drivers have been forced into early retirement as a result of the trauma of being involved in fatal accidents due to this type of behaviour. IW reported that Network Rail's response to the P&R proposal is that if it were to go ahead, a comprehensive bridge solution would be required. The previous argument that a bridge with disabled-access lifts is unsuitable at an unstaffed station has been overturned by the installation of just such a solution at many unstaffed stations elsewhere on the network.



- 5.3 Cllr DT reinforced Cllr CJ's remarks regarding yellow lines in Kirknewton, emphasising that Highways had clarified the intention in writing.
- 5.4 Cllr DT reported that moves to introduce traffic speed control measures in Midcalder had been blocked at the most recent Council meeting. However, he advised that similar measures elsewhere, including in Kirknewton, may well be proposed and the Community Council should be aware of this.
- 5.5 Cllr DT advised that the updated plan for the P&R was now before the Council, for possible determination at the next DMC (Development Management Committee) meeting on 16th February. A plan map of the updated application is available, and he undertook to forward this to KCC. IW noted that there are a couple of subsequent amendments to the proposal, viz:
- traffic calming added
 - a small pedestrian 'waiting area' added on the south side of the crossing.

Neither of these makes any material difference to the overall unsuitability of the plan. Cllr DT asked for clarification on KCC's position with respect to the updated application. It was confirmed that KCC were opposed and had lodged an objection. JS commented that Mr. T Cullen had re-measured the current pavement width and established that the measurements adopted by WLC are incorrect.

ACTION: – Cllr DT to forward the updated plan map to KCC.

6. **KCDT Report:**

- 6.1 AP reported on behalf of SMcK that all ongoing items reported to KCC in January continue to progress. There is no specific event or milestone to note.
- 6.2 JS advised that KCDT had been awarded a £27k grant to fund a position in support of mental health and wellbeing in senior citizens. IW noted that a further £2k had been secured by Debbie to help KCDT alleviate fuel poverty.
- 6.3 SMcK joined the meeting briefly (during AOB) to provide an update from information just received. £8.7k has been awarded from the Cycle Friendly Community Development Fund, provided by the Scottish Government. More significantly, there is a strong indication that a substantial grant will be approved by the Scottish Government to fund Debbie and Steph's roles at KCDT for the next three years.

7. **Village Hall & Pavilion:**

- 7.1 IW advised that work remained ongoing on the Hall refurbishment. New signs on the front elevation are visible evidence of progress.
- 7.2 IW reported that the defibrillator had been installed at the Pavilion. Instructions in its use will be available on the KCDT website, and backup support is available via a 999 telephone call.



8. Building on Active Travel / Park & Ride:

- 8.1** NG provided an update on the proposed Balerno – East Calder cycle route. The proposal is now up for funding. Lord Morton, through whose lands the cycle path will run, is supportive of the proposal, and now that positive discussions have taken place with him, it is possible to publish details of the possible route options. NG noted that the initial evaluation had been undertaken remotely during lockdown by consultants unfamiliar with the local area. Consequently some of the options suggested are not viable. Determination of the exact route is not, however, an issue at this stage, since the initial goal is to scope the budget.
- 8.2** NG added to the foregoing discussion on the Park and Ride at 5.5 above by commenting that the P&R concept was a 1970's solution to commuter traffic management. Changes in traffic patterns, especially since Covid-19, expose a need to look for more holistic solutions. Rather than being a stand-alone 'solution' a P&R should be a component of an integrated wider traffic management policy covering the full range of travel options. DT agreed that a 'joined-up' approach is needed. Having been instrumental in establishing KCC's formal response to WLC on the P&R application, NG agreed to continue to act as the KCC representative on this issue to its conclusion.
- 8.3** NG noted that the Lothians, Edinburgh and Fife are engaging in a scheme to coordinate cycling initiatives.

9. Planning:

- 9.1** VG reported that the only active planning issue related to the dog training shed at Humble Holdings. This is now with WLC's planning enforcement section. AP noted that the shed had been expanded several times and was now very large. Also, waste material has been dumped into the adjacent burn (a tributary of the Gogar Burn). NG asked what sort of material. AP responded that it was general waste. NG suggested advising SEPA. AP was scathing about SEPA's willingness to intervene in any previous occasion. VG concurred with AP's opinion of SEPA.
- 9.2** VG suggested that KCC should support other Community Councils who are experiencing issues with sewage discharge. This has been highlighted in national news media. NG pointed out that these reports related to England, where the water companies are privatised, not Scotland, where Scottish Water is a nationalised resource. IM noted that this issue had been discussed at length in previous meetings. JS reminded the meeting of the existence and work of the River Almond Action Group. NG repeated his comments in previous meetings relating to the climatic changes and regulatory and infrastructure shortcomings which impact the Midcalder sewage plant.

10. Joint Forum:

- 10.1** JS reminded the meeting of the upcoming elections to the Executive of the Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian. The elections are for both office bearers and other members. The deadline for nominations is Fri 18th February. JS outlined the timeline for the results to be ratified and the new Executive to be appointed. He encouraged all elected KCC members to consider standing.



11. AOB:

Some items consolidated here under AOB were presented in foregoing discussions on other topics to accommodate participants with conflicting time constraints

- 11.1** JT raised the ongoing issue of litter. He noted the WLC consultation on initiatives to address what is an endemic problem. The subsequent discussion noted that it was a deep-rooted behavioural problem which other countries do not seem to be afflicted with.
- 11.2** NG asked for clarification on the funding for a wind farm at Camilty. SMcK reiterated the funding options presented at the December meeting and recorded in the corresponding minutes.
- 11.3** NG reported briefly on the revived twinning activities with Saily-lez-Lannoy. Kirknewton Primary School and its counterpart in France had established an online 'chat' and were actively engaging with each other.
- 11.4** IM tabled a motion to invite Stewart MacKenna on to KCC as an Associate Member for the duration of the current Community Council. IM believes that SMcK's experience in many areas relevant to KCC would be of great value. IW seconded the motion. An online vote was conducted of the meeting participants entitled to vote. The result was: For: 9; Against: 0. The motion to invite SMcK to be an Associate Member was thereby unanimously carried.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is on 8th March 2022 at 18.45. Provisionally in-person at the Village Hall

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