**Dechmont Community Council**

**Meeting of Meeting 18.00, 25th May 2022**

**Present:** Sarash MacDonald, Ian Ferrel, Liz Swarbrick, Greg Colhoun, Jim Watson.

**Also in attendance**: Isabelle Gail, Cllr Diane Calder, Andy McGregor.

Apologies: Lynda McGivern, Sian Williams, Gillian Anderson, Cllr Angela Doran, Sarah Madden

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the previous minutes were proposed by LS and seconded by IF.

**Ongoing actions from the previous meeting**

**SMac** expressed concerns regarding the management of the Community Garden as it will require a long term commitment.

**JW** summarised discussions he has had with Gillian Cyphus, Principal Planning Officer with West Lothian Council and made available a document to be placed on the DCC website and as a poster on the village notice board. House building is due to begin in March 2023. Construction that is audible will be carried out between the hours of 0800 and 1800, on weekdays, and 0800 and 1300 on Saturday. The developers have agreed that the site can continue to be used for exercise and dog walking. JW will discuss this with the developers.

The school which will utilise the recreation hall is planned to open in August 2026.

The new roundabout on the A89 can be constructed as an agreement has been reached between the developers and Scottish Water regarding the relocation of a water mains.

**IF** expressed concerns regarding the long-term maintenance of the Bangour site emphasising that a good policy needs to be in place. Residents may not want to pay for site maintenance outside of their own tenancy.

DC mentioned that there are examples of how other developments are managed and WLC has a responsibility to ensure that the management of new developments is carried out effectively.

**3.IG** gave some feedback on the proposed Burnhouse Farm development. A letter has been received from Gillian Cyphus. Concern was expressed that she has used the word “likely” and not “definitely” when discussing her opposition to the development. IF feels this is a political response, with Gillian being careful not to make a definite promise of support.

A discussion took place regarding the lack of objections being placed on the planning area of the LC website. It was seen as an administration failure by WLC. A letter is to be sent to WLC expressing our concern.

**4. IF** has had discussions with the HGV driving schools. Some are restricting the use of Dechmont as part of their route to the largest HGV’s while continuing to use it for lighter vehicles. Some of the newer companies continue to use Dechmont.

**5.** **SMc** and **DC** have been having discussions with Pat McCardle from Open Spaces regarding the use of funding to the benefit of Dechmont. It will be possible to use funds for the purchase a larger bowser and funding for the purchase of plants and watering of the baskets for one year. Other options are to considered. Examples could be the purchase of outdoor gym equipment and up lighting for the sculptures. **DC** to ask for a costing of up lighting for the sculptures.

**AOB**

A discussion took place regarding the establishment of a footpath to the East of the village. Pat McCardle has said that the some of the disbursement can be used to provide a grit path. It was agreed that we should pursue the establishment of a proper footpath asking that the road sign that would block the path be relocated.

**IG** suggested that disability access should be used as a reason for having a proper footpath.

IF will contact WLC regarding this issue.

**SMac** discussed the condition of the grass in the park. The edges of the park have been cut properly but not the centre including the football pitch. Open Spaces will be contacted to discuss this.

The new culverts are already full of debris. **DC** to pursue this.

**AMc** asked for advice on obtaining a lock up for his car following a fire with his previous car. He has been told by WLC that there is a waiting list, but he has not seen any of the lock ups being used.

IF recommended to him that he email WLC with a FOI request for more details. He should receive a reply within 21 days.

The chair **SMac** wound up the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

**The next meeting will take place on Wednesday June 29th 2022**