**Dechmont Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting, 26th February 2020**

**Present:** Sarah Macdonald, Ian Ferrel, Liz Swarbrick, Susan Gothard, Diane Telfer, Greg Colhoun, Jim Watson.

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Diane Calder, Angie Colhoun, Diana Moffat, Ailsa Wardrop, Jean Hollins, Beryl Hulme.

**Apologies:** Gillian Anderson, Lynda Mcgivern, Siân Williams, Vicki Kennedy, Cllr Janet Campbell, Cllr Chris Horne

**Minutes of previous meeting**: The minutes from the previous meeting were proposed by Liz Swarbrick and seconded by Ian Ferrel.

Sarah MacDonald (temporary Chairperson) welcomed everyone.

Ian Ferrel will take up the role of treasurer and this was proposed by Liz Swarbrick and seconded by Susan Gothard.

Sarah advised that the election Planning officer remain on the agenda until all roles are filled.

**Police Report**

PC Robertson has agreed to regularly update Sarah regarding any criminal activities in Dechmont Village and surrounding vicinities.

Diane Telfer advised that there had been an incident where a female, approximately early 20s had forced access into her Mum’s house claiming to know her.  The female who gave the name ‘Maria’ then attempted to access other people’s houses in the street.  A man in a red van was also seen nearby. It has been reported to the police.  Sarah also confirmed that there had been an attempted break-in on Knightsridge Road and 2 sheds have also been broken into.  **Residents should stay vigilant.**

**Bangour Development Sub-Group**

Jim Watson and Greg Colhoun gave an update on recent developments:

* The revised traffic survey which has been produced by the developers has shown that the new development will not cause any traffic problems.  The sub-group have reviewed the large volume of documents and dispute the results as some of the information contained in the report appears to be deliberately misleading.
* It was further noted that the local plan was originally for 500 houses and the proposed plan is for significantly more.  Cllr Diane Calder advised that the original planning permission has not yet been fully granted due to education and transport concerns.
* Due to the ambiguities in the report, she has advised that there should be engagement with council officers (Ross Burton and Matthew Watson) advising that while there has been no objection from the Community Council a discussion would be welcomed.

**Action**

**Lodge an objection to allow time to review all the documents. Engage with West Lothian Council Officials.**

**Dechmont Community Council sub-group will object to the report disputing the results on the basis that there has been insufficient time to properly review the documents.**

**Tree Felling and Noise**

Residents in Burnhouse Drive and Goodall Crescent have complained of noise at unexpected times at there are also concerns about the number of trees being felled.

**Action**

**The sub-group will liaise with the developer to identify how many trees are to be removed**.

**Ian and Sarah will communicate with Bob Evans of Ryden and Gordon Costa of Ambassador Group asking for clarification on what is planned**

Sarah thanked the sub-group for their hard work.

**Website/newsletter**

This item was postponed again to the March meeting.

**LAC Representation-**

Cllr Diane Calder advised that every community council is eligible to attend a Local Area Committee(LAC)and can add any agenda items they wish to discuss.  A LAC is held locally every 8-10 weeks, and they report on what is happening in each ward (Broxburn, Uphall, Winchburgh and Dechmont).  Opportunity exists for each Community Council to ask questions of the council officers attending, these should be emailed in advance to Craig McCorriston, Head of Service for Planning.

The timetable for future meetings is held on **COINS** and is:

**Friday 19 June 2020**

**Friday 4 September 2020**

**Friday 6 November 2020**

**Friday 5 March 2021**

**Friday 21 May 2021**

**Action**

**Cllr Diane Calder will put together a short paper explaining the functions of the LAC.**

**A document will be made available to see who would be willing to attend.**

**No 31 Bus**

Local residents Gerry and Diane Moffat contacted local MP Hannah Bardell about the number 31 bus service who in turn contacted Jim Jack, Head of Operations at WLC.  Jim Jack cited reasons of time-limited funding for reverting the service to its original route. It was commented that for some, it is a much as a 10-minute walk to the bus stop which causes problems for the less able

Cllr Diane Calder has spoken to Nicola Gill who has stated there is no funding.  Cllr Calder also asked about bus shelters and upgrades to pavements these same issues are also common in other localities.

**Action**

**Sarah to contact Jim Jack and invite him to a meeting.  Should he accept, a public meeting will be set up.** **Cllr Calder will forward the response she received from Nicola Gill.**

**Village Improvement Fund**

Sarah has spoken to the Forge and the sculptures are progressing as planned.  The beds will be cleared in preparation free of charge and the person doing this will take the plants as payment.

**Fund Raising**

Susan asked for ideas to raise the profile of Dechmont Community Council in order to encourage more members and to raise funds.  Jim suggested that the unveiling of the sculptures could tie in with a fundraiser.

**Action**

**Vicki and Liz to start planning fund raising. Lynda to raise at the Memorial Hall Meeting tomorrow.**

**Councillor’s Report**

Cllr Diane Calder advised that the council budgets were being set on Friday 28th February 2020.

**AOB-**

**Litter picking**

This will be addressed at the next meeting.  Lynda is aware of who to contact to get high-viz vests.

**Suggestions Box**

Diane Telfer suggested that ‘Boxes’ should be made available to the community to put forth their ideas and comments to the Community Council and the Bangour sub-group.  All agreed and there will be boxes placed in the shop and the café.

**Action**

**Sarah to organise comments boxes to provide residents the opportunity to voice their opinions**

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 7pm.