**Dechmont Community Council**

**Approved Minutes of Meeting, 29 May 2019**

**Memorial Hall, Main Street, Dechmont**

**Present:**

Vicky Kennedy, Ian Ferrel, Liz Swarbrick, Amy Waterston, Gillian Anderson, Siân Williams

**Apologies:**

Sarah Macdonald, Lynda McGivern, Cllr Diane Calder, Julia Barnes

**Also in attendance:**

Shona Johnson (Ratho Byres Forge), Lachlan McIntyre, Cllr Chris Horne

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**Community Defibrillator**

Bathgate First Responders delivered a familiarisation session about the new community defibrillator to village residents. This was held on 29 May immediately prior to the Dechmont Community Council (DCC) meeting.

Temporary posters have been put up in the village to make people aware of the defibrillator. Funds are available for more robust signage, e.g., on the gable end of the Memorial Hall and at other points around Dechmont. **Action: identify types and costs of signs (Siân Williams).**

Another community group in West Lothian has approached DCC for advice on purchasing and installing a community defibrillator. A guide has been written by DCC to assist any local organisations who are thinking about installing a defibrillator. A copy of this guide is available via the DCC website.

**Hanging baskets**

Baskets and brackets for the new hanging baskets for Main Street have been ordered, thanks to Cllr Chris Horne for his help identifying appropriate contacts. Items should arrive in the next couple of weeks and can then be fitted.

**Village planters**

The planters beneath the ‘Dechmont’ signs at either end of the village, at memorial garden and beside community noticeboard have been weeded, and new bedding plants have been purchased and planted.

Permission to install a new planter on the corner of Knightsridge Road and Deerhill has not yet been granted by West Lothian Council. **Action: Cllr Chris Horne will make enquiries.**

**Larger flower beds**

Two large flower beds at either end of the village (one at the junction to the A89 and the other at the road to Linlithgow from Main St) are currently owned by West Lothian Council. Subject to agreement, these will be taken over by Dechmont Community Council and maintained by volunteers.

At the appropriate time, a date will be set to dig over the beds (and possibly temporarily replant items). A call for volunteers to help will be made via posters in the village and on social media.

**Public art/Sculptural installations**

An architect needs to be appointed to advise on and manage any planning issues associated with the installation of the artwork. DCC Chair will seek to appoint a local company/individual with experience in this area. **Action: identify an architectural firm (Gillian Anderson)**

Ratho Byres Forge, a local family run business, has been appointed to design, make and install the artwork. The budget, secured by DCC following an application to WLC’s Village Improvement Fund, must cover design, all materials, foundations and installation.

Shona Johnson of Ratho Byres Forge attended to discuss ideas for the installation and give examples of what might be possible. A consultation exercise with Dechmont residents will run for the first two weeks in June; inviting submissions that include stories, ideas, and reflections on life the village. Community Council members will share photographs, books and local history information with Shona. Posters will be put up around the village and the consultation advertised on the Dechmont Community Council website and Twitter account. **Actions: put up posters in village and advertise on social media (Siân Williams). Send photographs and local history information to Ratho Byres Forge (Siân Williams). Lend book about Bangour Hospital to Ratho Byres Forge (Liz Swarbrick).**

**Hearing loop**

A village resident asked for the hearing loop system in the Memorial Hall to be replaced as it does not appear to work correctly. Upkeep and maintenance of the system is the responsibility of the building’s owners, West Lothian Council. Community Council funds may not be used to assess, repair or upgrade the current system. This is a matter to be investigated and managed solely by WLC. **Action: Raise the issue of the hearing loop system with WLC’s Facilities Manager and identify plan of action to repair or upgrade the system (Cllr Chris Horne).**

End.