**Dechmont Community Council**

**Minutes of Members Meeting, 26th August 2020**

**Present:** Sarah Macdonald, Lynda Mcgivern, Ian Ferrel, Liz Swarbrick, Jim Watson

Siân Williams, Greg Colhoun, Vikki Kennedy.

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Diane Calder

**Apologies:** Susan Gothard, Cllr Chris Horne, Cllr Janet Campbell, Cllr Angela Doran

The chair Sarah McDonald, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

**Sculptures-grand opening/reveal**

* Sarah re-introduced the idea of having a ceremony to reveal the sculptures. Once the current Covid situation is under better control, DCC will invite attendees.
* Sarah proposed that ‘gold quartz stones’ should be put down at the base of each sculpture to make them ‘stand out’. It will be necessary to create an edge for base of the sculpture at the East end of the village. Daffodil bulbs have been collected from the Bangour site which need to be planted in the beds before the end of November.
* It was proposed that plaques are made to explain the significance of the sculptures for the benefit of future generations.

**Action**

**Jim will ask Ambassador Group if they would be willing to contribute to the cost of the plaques as part of their ‘art’ project. Lynda to post pictures of the sculptures on the website and once a date is agreed we will advertise the opening ceremony on the website and on Twitter.**

**Bangour Sub-Group Report**

Jim Watson updated those present about the progress of the Bangour site as follows:

* Andrew Corton has been in touch to advise that there still needs to be a public consultation about the schools. Winchburgh will be the secondary school to cover the catchment of pupils from Bangour
* There are still problems with heavy site traffic passing through Dechmont `village a complaint was posted on Twitter
* Iain Wells of Police Scotland reported that the TTRO is working well to dissuade unwanted visitors to Bangour however this is contrary to the experience of locals. There are stories of trespassing, gang fights and other disruption with some feeling unsafe in their own home and ‘living on the edge’ in fear of retaliation if they confront intruders.
* There has been a request to remove the ‘Bangour’ sign from the main road as it related to the old hospital and is therefore irrelevant and may make the site more difficult to find
* DCC has been made aware of websites that have been created to advertise Bangour

**Action**

**Both Cllr Calder and Sarah will contact Police Scotland to inform them of the current situation and to request an extension of the TTRO.**

**Cllr Calder will make a request to the council to have the Bangour sign removed.**

**Ian will make notes and compile a formal reply to the Bangour planning application in relation to: proposed number of houses, traffic, trees and schools.**

**Community Council Membership**

* Gillian Anderson (former Chairperson) has now formally resigned a member of the community council.
* Sarah proposed that all sub-group members become full members of the community council
* Diane Telfer has not responded to any e mails or requests for contact therefore it is assumed that she no longer wishes to attend, participate or contribute as part of the sub-group

**Action: Sarah will organise the correct membership forms for completion**

**Meeting times**

* It was proposed and agreed that until further notice, meetings times will be brought forward to 6.00pm.

**Member photographs**

* Member photographs need to be updated on the DCC website

**Action: All members to forward a picture of themselves to Lynda**

**Forward Planning**

* It was agreed that continued communication and negotiation with the Ambassador Group is essential

**Action: Jim Watson to contact Robert Faulds - Ambassador Site agent and Robert Hill -Head of Security to ask for regular updates. Once normal meetings resume we will invite them to attend.**

**Counsellor’s Report**

Cllr Calder advised of the Council’s position in the current climate and will continue to update DCC with any relevant information. She also reported that DCC was the only community council in West Lothian that has had any outdoor meetings during the corona virus period.

**AOB**

**Health and Well-being survey-** the deadline is Friday

**Action:** Lynda to complete on behalf of DCC and the local community

**Insurance –** Sarah has checked DCC insurance policy regarding cover for the sculptures.

**Action**: Sarah will contact Lorraine McCrorty to include the sculptures this will be paid by West Lothian Council.

**Covid 19 figures-** Greg asked if it was possible to obtain figures of Covid 19 cases in the local area in order that we can inform residents.

**Action:** Cllr Calder agreed to get the figures and pass them on.