**Dechmont Community Council**

**Minutes of Zoom Meeting, 21st October 2020**

**Present:** Sarah Macdonald, Lynda Mcgivern, Ian Ferrel, Jim Watson, Siân Williams, Greg Colhoun,

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Diane Calder, Cllr Angela Doran,

**Apologies:** Susan Gothard, Cllr Chris Horne, Cllr Janet Campbell, Liz Swarbrick, Vikki Kennedy.

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

**Sculptures-grand opening/reveal**

* Thanks to Sarah and Laurie for laying stones in the beds around the sculptures.
* Proposed ceremony- to remain on agenda
* It was suggested that solar lights could be purchased to illuminate the sculptures. Cllr Calder informed that it is not necessary to obtain permission from West Lothian Council

**Actions**

**Sarah to investigate the cost of solar lights. Jim will ask Ambassador Group if they would be willing to contribute to the cost of plaques for the sculptures as part of their ‘art’ project (on-going). Once a date is agreed we will advertise the opening ceremony on the website and on Twitter (on-going).**

**20 mph Speed limit**

* Ian pointed out that the introduction of the new speed limit was not communicated well and the signs throughout the village are inconsistent and difficult to see clearly. There was a complaint from one resident who finds it difficult to cross the road safely when cars pass through the village at speed. The Community Council agreed that we would like the 20mph limit to remain in place permanently and be implemented on all roads in Dechmont not just the Main Street.

**Actions**

**Ian to contact Stuart Geddes in the transport Department to follow up on the points discussed.**

**Bangour Sub-Group Report**

Jim Watson revealed that there was not much to report about Bangour site.

* The Farm Road has been closed as builders appear to be widening the road.it was queried whether this has reduced the volume of nuisance intruders experienced by locals but it was reported that the local farmers are still experiencing problems with their property being accessed by unwanted individuals. Bangour site security are aware of the problems as are the police. Sarah has contacted Ian Wells (Police Scotland) but the reaction has not been pro-active.
* Cllr Calder confirmed that the ‘Bangour’ sign on the main road had been removed.
* Ian (Ferrel) informed Jim that he can access the site plans via West Lothian website.

**Actions**

**Sarah and Lynda to plan future provisional dates for meetings in order that we can invite Ian Wells to participate and discuss the issues being experienced by the local community also to invite a representative of Ambassador to take part.**

**Sarah to suggest to the local farmer that they contact the Farmers Union to see if they can assist with the problems they are experiencing.**

**Community Council Membership**

* It was suggested and agreed that Sian, Greg, Susan and Jim become full members of the Community Council

**Action: Lorraine McCrorty will provide a notice which will be displayed on the village noticeboard inviting any interested residents to apply to become Community Council members. Sarah will organise the correct membership forms for distribution and completion.**

**Current applicants:**

**Sian’s proposer will be Liz seconded by Sarah**

**Greg’s proposer will be Lynda seconded by Ian.**

**Jim’s proposer will be Ian seconded by Sarah.**

**Susan’s proposer will be Sarah seconded by Lynda.**

**Sarah will check how much of this can be done via e mail.**

**Forward Planning**

See all points.

**Joint Forum Community Council Blueprint**

* The Blueprint was discussed. Cllr Calder explained the role of the Joint Forum of Community Councils and the potential benefits to local Community Councils and communities. She revealed West Lothian Council’s plans to devolve more responsibility for projects etc. to Community Councils.

**Actions**

**All members to take time to read over the Blueprint and forward any comments to Lynda or Sarah. Monitor the progress of the Blueprint and keep it as an on-going point on future agendas.**

**Counsellor’s Report**

Cllr Doran reported that there is to be an Executive Council Meeting tomorrow (22nd October). Community Councils will have the opportunity to apply to bid for money for any potential projects. Cllr Calder said that it was hoped that the deadline for applications would be extended due to lack of notice.

Cllr Calder also reminded everyone that the public can log on to Council Meetings online.

**AOB**

**Financial accounts**

The accounts were distributed but not everyone has had time to check them.

**Action**

**Sarah and Ian to meet to discuss the accounts and to arrange a hand-over.**

**Lynda to post the accounts on the website.**

**Member photographs**

Lynda asked for photographs for the website. Not all members want their photograph published which is their prerogative.

**Zoom participation**

Not all Community Council members are able/willing to participate in Zoom Meetings, it was agreed that anyone in this position would be kept fully informed and invited to contribute to meetings in any manner that they wish.