**Dechmont Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting 18.00, 1st September (postponed August meeting) 2022**

**Present:** Sarah Macdonald, Lynda Mcgivern- Ian Ferrel, Liz Swarbrick, Greg Colhoun, Sian Williams, Gillian Anderson, Isabelle Gall,

**Apologies:** Milissa Beveridge, Jim Watson, Cllr Diane Calder, Cllr Janet Campbell

The Chairperson, thanked everyone for attending the re-scheduled meeting

**2. Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting were proposedby **GC** and seconded by **LS.**

**IF** presented a copy of DCC audited accountsto be kept on file by the secretary **LMc**

**On-going actions from previous meeting (not on the agenda)**

* **JW still to approach developers of Bangour Village re: the possibility of them contributing to the finance of the traffic calming**
* **DCC to provide a letterbox to allow residents to make suggestions and comments concerning the village**

**3. Burnhouse Farm Update**

**GA** reported that she had been in contact with Wendy McCoriston of WL Planning Department to enquire about the appeals procedure. The developers have 3 months from the date of the decision letter (11th November) to appeal the council’s decision. **IF** said that a government Reporter will be allocated and it will be down to them on how things proceed, historically it has taken 12-18 months to get the result of an appeal. **GA** maintained that the Council’s Planning Portal has still not been updated

**SMac** produced copies of a Planning Consent letter which were distributed in relation to the land beside Craiglaw. This development is ongoing and has already been agreed, the letter is for the information of nearby residents.

**Actions**

* **GA will continue to monitor proceedings and report back to the cc members**
* **GA will contact WLC in relation to Planning Portal**

**4. Traffic Calming update**

**IF** informed members that he had approached WLC representatives and invited them to attend our community council meeting, the response was that they were too short staffed. **IF** has also contacted Nicola Gill regarding the footpaths but received no response.

**IF** pointed out that the council will be implementing a 20mph speed limit around all schools. He reminded members that there is no longer a school crossing person to assist people to cross the road.

**Actions**

* **IF will continue to pursue WLC regarding their plans**

**5. Elm Cottage Care**

**Discussed later in the meeting**

**6. Possible exhibition/fund raising**

**GC** has been investigating the possibility of a Summer Fete in 2023 and he suggested various ideas i.e. inviting Uphall Pipe Band; the Art Club; Broxburn Woodwork Club; organising a five-a-side football; pizza oven etc. all to help raise funds to support community needs.

**IG** has met with local historian Sybil Cavanagh. Sybil has lots of information about the history of Dechmont, Bangour and the local vicinity. Isabel suggested that a presentation reminiscing about the history of the area could be set up in the Memorial Hall for a week prior to and during the summer fete. This suggestion was met with encouragement from all members. **IG** also suggested creating Xmas cards but only if the village shop was not going to offer the same. **SW** said that at a recent art fair, baking had been supplied and this could be considered as an additional way to raise funds.

The Chair suggested forming a separate group within the cc who will concentrate on fund raising. **IG, GA, GC** and **LS** all volunteered to form a fund-raising committee.

**Action**

* **All members to suggest ideas for fund raising for the fete**
* **IG will find out if the shop intends to sell Dechmont Xmas cards**
* **The Fund-Raising Committee will liaise with each other and communicate any requirements to LMc.**
* **SW to investigate baking for the fete**

**7. Bangour Village Update**

**JW** had updated members via email. In general, there was minimal activity to be reported and Ambassador showed little interest in interacting with DCC at this stage. They have still not recruited a site manager for Bangour Village.

**Action**

* **GC will follow up on Bangour in JWs absence.**
* **Keep this item on the agenda**

 **8. LAC**

The LAC takes place Friday 2nd September.

**Action**

* **LMc will attend the LAC on behalf of DCC and raise any relevant points**

**9. Neighbourhood Watch**

**LMc** is overseeing the set up. Information relating to NW is viewable on the DCC website. **LMc** has enlisted the help of another West Lothian NW scheme for help and advice.

**Action**

* **LMc will continue to roll out the scheme locally.**

**10. Scottish Tech Army**

**LMc** met (virtually) with representatives of Scottish Tech Army in relation to improving the DCC website to make it compliant with council regulations. After consideration, there does not appear to be any benefits to using this organisation.

**Action**

* **LMc will contact Lorraine McGrorty to find out exactly what the requirements for the website are re: policies, procedures, GDPR, accessibility, then consequently make any requires changes/improvements.**

**11. Recruitment of Vice Chair**

The Chair (Sarah MacDonald) reminded members that the previous Vice Chair had resigned due to work commitments but suggested that she (Sarah Madden) could become an Associate Member instead. The currant Youth Member is struggling to commit fully to her role so it was suggested that she might also be made an Associate Member. All agreed that this was a very good idea. The Chair went on to explain the importance of recruiting a new Vice Chair as soon as possible.

**Action**

* **SMac will prepare the appropriate paperwork for Associate Members and enquire about the possibility of the Youth Member becoming an Associate Member**
* **DCC should encourage new members to join**

**5. Elm Cottage Care**

The Chair explained that the care home had been experiencing some difficulties with members of the public and complaints from one person who claimed to be a member of the community council. While the nature of the issues is a police matter and not the remit of the community council, concerns were voiced that DCC were being falsely represented and this must not be tolerated.

**Action**

* **LMc and SMac will arrange to visit Elm Cottage Care home to identify the complainant who is claiming to be a DCC member.**

**12. Counsellors Report**

No counsellors present.

**AOB**

* **None**

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

**The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 28th September 2022**