

East Calder &

District Community Council

Minutes of AGM

Tuesday 2 October 2018

East Calder Partnership Centre, 143 Main Street, East Calder, EH53 0EP

Present -

David Philip, Chris Davidson, Janet Davidson, Kenny Ireland, David Ogg, Neil Lovett, Morag Lyall

In Attendance -

Alan Wright, Ray Kirk, Councillor Carl John, Councillor Dave King and One member of the public

Apologies -

Councillor Damian Timson, PC Peter Robertson

Minutes of Previous Meeting (2017)

Proposed - Kenny Ireland

Seconded - Chris Davidson

Declaration of Conflict of Interest -

David Philip explained the Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none

Chair's Report -

Outline of the Community Council -

Provided an overview of the Community Council meeting structure, standard agenda.

Elected Members Liz Rae and Caroline Wright stepped down from the Community Council, thanks to both for their hard work over the years.

Activities in 2017/18 –

Over the last year the Community Council has been hard at work trying our best to engage with the Community to offer support and assistance regarding many important matters. We have covered many varied areas of concern. Everything from our usual planning advice to answering general community concerns. As we are a statutory consultee, when we make an objection, we cannot be dealt with by officials under delegated powers. We have helped raise awareness of the proposed positive uses for the redevelopment of the East Calder Park next to the Doctor's Surgery.

We committed to paying for an advert in the Konect Directory to try and boost survey responses for the 'Friends of the Park' Group, this was after listening to the feedback that not everyone is on social media.

We have been involved in helping Doctor Ian Macleod and his surgery team,

to try and put pressure on the NHS to realise how much our local surgery needs the attention/refurbishment it is due – we should have a very positive update on this soon.

We have spent a lot of time fighting the proposed changes to the Airport Flight Paths with some of our members attending many consultation meetings.

There has been a major rejuvenation of our local website [www.eastcalder.com](http://www.eastcalder.com) which helps to put people in the right direction for all our local services and discussions.

We recently helped reform the existing Community Council Association, in the new name and format, as The West Lothian Joint Community Council Forum. I am an Office Bearer on the new board which is already helping to give us greater access to improved, joined-up thinking in West Lothian.

We have liaised with West Lothian Council regarding the Recycling Bin challenges that they have gone through and kept the public informed when we have been able to. The recent changes to the Recycling Centre rules for access with vans/commercial vehicles etc were helped to be changed back slightly.

Our members have attended many different consultation meetings whether they have been about developments/football pitches/parks etc, all out of our own time as volunteers.

We've helped share charity posts and lost dog posts on our Facebook page and have answered queries and concerns through our website.

We have challenged West Lothian Council and other private developers with our concerns of the many arising issues such as potholes/lorry wheel cleaning/speed bumps/operating times in the area, we always continue to look out for the safety of our road users and residents.

We have passed on information about the local primary and high schools for parents including the brand new West Calder High School, we are continually attempting to answer questions about the proposed Calderwood High School however we do not have all the answers...nor the money to make this happen ourselves!

We have engaged and given a platform to the local charity Cyrenians to help them voice their message, they have attended some meetings and have also been featured on our website.

Police Scotland had been working alongside ourselves and helped explain the local numbers of crimes however their limited resources and financial strains have made things very tight lately therefore we are continuing to look for transparency with regards to crime levels and numbers on a higher level now.

We have tended to our relocated noticeboard at the corner of Main Street/Langton Road, keeping the Community up to date with any relevant information.

Our members have attended the local openings of the Partnership Centre and the new Larder at Calderwood.

We've helped update and share information on road closures/congestion/accidents/bad weather etc via our Facebook page and local online community pages.

We've been attending the local East Calder Community Recreation Association meetings to help do our bit in exchanging information.

We have helped the local councillors to get the best outcome for the Community with our new bus service.

A lot of our time has been taken up this year with the recent Proposed Broompark Development plans, we ended up having to take on the reins of a flawed public meeting and then compiled everyone's feedback properly. We then hosted our own, well-organised, public meeting where we explained the main concerns of the community including 583 negative responses and only 1 positive to support the pre-planning idea. The next course of action will happen when the actual planning application goes in. They are the main points we have covered but there is a lot of hard work always going on behind the scenes with the help of our members and network.

Plans for 2018/19

Our next monthly meeting will be at 7pm this Tuesday the 6th of November 2018

December meeting will be held at the Larder Cafe. We want to make the Calderwood residents aware that we are here to help, we can do so much more together if we work as a team and engage with one another's committees.

Continue to oversee/update on various planning developments throughout our area (East Calder, Calderwood, Wilkieston and Morton).

Engagement with neighbouring Community Council's (Kirknewton, Mid Calder & Pumpherston)

Going ahead we are in the process of organising a litter pick now that the main holiday season is out of the way again after a successful one previously.

Boost membership of Community Council.

Approval of Accounts -

The audited accounts were presented and approved unanimously by the Community Council, with the current balance £2,088.92 credit.

Proposed - Chris Davidson

Seconded - David Ogg

Confirmation of Office Bearers -

We are at the end of year one therefore re-electing as follows -

Office Bearers -

David Philip - Chair

Chris Davidson - Vice Chair

Morag Lyall - Treasurer  
Morag Lyall - Acting Secretary

Proposed - Kenny Ireland  
Seconded - David Ogg

Associate's

Alan Wright  
Dr Iain MacLeod  
Ray Kirk  
Rev Alistair Cowper

Proposed - Neil Lovett  
Seconded - Kenny Ireland

Any Other Business & Conclusion of Formal Business -

Alan Wright asked what challenges for the area did the Community Council see going forward?

David Philip / Chris Davidson said Parking, Green Space, Wildlife. Transport the A71, Council Cutbacks.

The Joint Forum for all Community Councils in West Lothian will be a positive working together as all areas have the same issues therefore can learn and share experiences.

Another positive is the NHS are progressing with a new Health Centre for East Calder.

We will base things on facts rather than hearsay.

Neil Lovett - How do we communicate with Calderwood and Wilkieston?

Discussion from all Community Councillor's present it was agreed to look at engage by holding a meeting in The Larder at Calderwood and Wilkieston.

Surveys to find out what all residents in our Community want from East Calder & District? How do we get message across about the Community Council - Kirknewton and Mid Calder have higher attendance at their meetings - could we attend to see their format?

Local Development Plan was due 4 September 2018. David Philip has emailed Lorraine McGroarty as the copy is not yet in the Library. Councillor Dave King advised it could possibly be end of October to give Developer's etc time to object/appeal.

There being no other AGM business the meeting was closed.