

HUMBIE, EAST AND WEST SALTOUN AND BOLTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the 339th MEETING of the Humble, East and West Saltoun and Bolton Community Council held on WEDNESDAY September 1st 2021 on Zoom 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mrs R Greenhill (RG) Chair

Mr F Kirwan (FK)

Mrs S Jamieson (SJ)

Cllr Craig Hoy (CH) – till 2000

Mr I Galloway (IG);

Cllr S Ahktar (SA)

Cllr J McMillan (JMc) – from 1945

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sandy Wilson (AW), Cllr Tom Trotter (TT), Mrs M Hodge (MH), Treasurer Mrs B Roberts (BR), PC Colin Boyd (CB), PC Vivian Black (VB)

IN ATTENDANCE

None.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – NONE DECLARED

None declared

MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

FK noted that whilst the new speed signs had helped, their positioning signs in Humble was suboptimal. He would speak to JMc.

The CC encouraged elected members to adopt a hybrid of face-to-face and virtual councillor surgeries to suit community needs – and particularly those without suitable technology or broadband.

FINANCE

MH circulated an email summarising income and expenditure YTD. Current balances are healthy at £8,395.89.

TRANSPORT

Nothing to report

PLANNING

SJ expressed frustration about inconsistent decisions by LRBs on Bolton Muir Wood applications for huts. She noted that the first application had been rejected outright, whereas the second was likely to be agreed subject to conditions. SJ further noted that the minutes of the LRB meetings had not been published for the August meeting despite several weeks having elapsed. JMc suggested a meeting with planning staff to define a policy for development in the woods. JMc also noted that the applicants had been asked to speak to the community but noted that this idea was rejected.

An application has been filed for an entrance to a woods at Howden from the B6368, which appears unnecessary and is on a blind bend,

Action: JMcM to arrange meeting with planners.

Action: SJ to speak to planning officer

HUMBIE NURSERY

Five pupils attending with a sixth soon. RG thanked Humbie Community Councillors and Councillors for their hard work noting that this was an excellent result. Furthermore lessons should be learnt from this unfortunate situation.

Broadband

JMc advised that he would be meeting BT OpenReach to examine fibre roll-out across East Lothian. He noted that Bolton would be upgraded within 12 months by BT and that assessments were underway in other communities. It was likely that different providers would provide fibre in different villages. There is £60k fund in the ELC budget to facilitate the project to roll-out broadband roll and to coordinate the activities of the different providers. Concern was expressed about the limited communication with local communities – there appears to have been no communication with Bolton residents on the plans and timescales.

AREA PARTNERSHIP

There were several meetings over the summer. The online meetings seem more effective and more focussed. There was a presentation on a project to fill in mobile ‘not spots’ in East Lothian by 2027. RG noted that she was not impressed with the presentation as it did not address the timing of the PSTN (copper wire) switch off by 2025 nor was a definition of ‘good’ mobile signal given. She noted that at least 4 bars of a 4G signal is required to use the mobile signal as an internet hotspot.

POLICE REPORT

It was agreed that social media is not a good way of advising folk of police ‘pop-ups’ as many residents do not use this form of communication. It was agreed that it would be helpful if the community council could be alerted in advance would allow better notification. As a result, only one person attended the recent event in Humbie.

No current priorities apply to our area.

Police presence in Haddington Farmers' Market in late August was well received. The new Sergeant, Rhona Meikle had been in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing outstanding.

WEBSITE

There are now 80 followers, which is encouraging.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Details of imminent Community Council elections have been circulated. RG intimated her intention not to stand for re-election – her contribution as Chair over four terms was much appreciated. There appears to be a full complement of candidates in Humbie; not clear in the Saltouns; or in Bolton (where BR does not intend to seek re-election).

Some Humbie residents have been concerned about being able to carry the boxes which will replace wheelie bins. JMc noted that assistance is available for vulnerable customers and that they should contact the Council. A number of queries have been received about what will happen to redundant red and blue wheelie bins – some folk have said they intend to just put things into the landfill bins in future.

Action: JMcM will seek clarification on what will happen to redundant wheelie bins when the new policy is introduced.

SJ queried the absence of a 20mph limit in Bolton, which is recommended by police. SA and JMcM have written to officers in support. IG expressed similar concerns about East Saltoun.

MH has raised concerns about an individual with criminal record being rehoused in Humbie. JMcM advised that following his enquiries Police advise that this individual poses no threat; that ELC Housing is exploring other options for accommodation. SA confirmed that local concerns have been registered.

SA is working with ELC to see whether additional equipment can be added to the Humbie playpark.

Covid cases are rising in EL which is close to the top of the incidence league table.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the above will be held on 3 November at 1930.