

# HUMBIE, EAST & WEST SALTOUN AND BOLTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes 354<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
19:30  
Bolton Village Hall, Bolton

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**Present:** Iain Galloway, Frank Kirwan, Margo Hodge, Janet Beck, Derek Logie, John McMillan, Tom Trotter,  
George McGuire, Carla Ward

Agenda item	Action
<b>1. Apologies</b> Shamin Akhtar, Robin Grenfell, Sandy Wilson	
<b>2. Disclosure of Interests</b> Nothing declared.	
<b>3. Approval of previous minutes and action update</b> Approved	
<p>Shamin reported back on meetings with Environment. John stated that he would be meeting with Lynne as regards a contact point over weekends.</p> <p>John stated that DC1 is a barrier. There have been proposals for changes to the document that will then allow it to do what it's meant to do. It was noted that the growth plan policy will be coming out of community proposals. As regards the development of a new local plan, it was noted that anyone can identify available land, they don't have to own it.</p> <p>Frank noted that as regards the situation with Bughtknowe, a cascade system has been proposed with only 2 or 3 emails. An email was subsequently sent to Shamin, John, Tom and George with the email addresses for the system, on the 21<sup>st</sup> June.</p>	
<b>4. Finance</b> The report was circulated ahead of the meeting. Payments have been received from East Lothian Creditors. Iain stated that we need to find sources where we can use the funds.	
<b>5. Planning Applications</b>	

NA

**6. Humbie Nursery**

Margo noted the CC disappointment in the closure as after the last closure, the CC expected some form of consultation ahead of any action being taken. The school's PTA has contacted the Head of Education.

It was noted that there were still 3 children in the nursery. 1 or 2 were trying to apply and were ignored or told it wasn't an option as it was being mothballed.

They CC feels that there should be a 12 month delay on the mothballing. It was noted that the nursery is a feeder into the primary school, so this has a big impact on the community.

Iain noted that it seems that the same process was followed as with the previous closure.

Tom stated that he had met with officers and they had indicated that no applications where they were refused entry. It's not in the officer's interest to turn anyone away.

John noted that applicants to the nursery were notified personally of the mothballing.

The mothballing decision was made based on the low number of attendance.

Tom noted that it is important to note that the nursery has been mothballed and not closed. This is positive. There is a commitment from the Council to review the situation in 12 months' time.

Janet noted that there seemed to be differing information. She asked whether if we found that the information that the council has is incomplete and there are 3 or 5 children that want to attend the nursery, is the decision reversible.

Tom stated that the decision is not reversible but that the council will continue to review the situation.

Frank stated that if the information that the council holds is found to be incorrect, then surely there should be a review.

John said that if there are any parents that applied and did not receive any feedback or were turned away, we should send the information through to him.

Frank noted that the last time that the nursery was closed, we were promised that we would be consulted, should there be a decision to close the nursery again. There was no consultation, so that should be basis for a formal complaint.

Janet said that it would have been useful to have had communication ahead of the decision being made.

Iain noted that he received notification after the decision had been taken.

Tom noted that had the housing application for Humbie gone ahead, then it's unlikely that we would have been having this conversation.

Frank requested that John ask why there has been no response to the request from the Humbie PTA, for the minutes from the meeting where the decision was taken to mothball the nursery. The request was sent through on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May and they had not yet received a response.

Janet noted that in hindsight, the Humble residents didn't think that the nursery was in danger of being mothballed. If we had been consulted before the decision was taken, we could have worked harder to get more children into the nursery.

Margo will follow up with the parents that put in applications and received no response.

Frank asked whether there was a minimum amount of children required to re-open the nursery. George stated that there isn't a set number. The decision is made around numbers of children in terms of development requirements.

Derek pointed out that the low number of children in a facility will affect the parental decision.

## **7. Correspondence (since last meeting)**

### AELCC

Janet noted that Margo spoke beautifully at the last meeting and thanked her for sharing the information.

Margo noted that they have a pot of money. They have received a lot of applications that aren't what they are looking for.

Tom stated that the organisation has shown that it works and there are a lot of organisations that have benefited.

### Herdmanflat Meeting

Margo noted that there was a meeting held as regards this property. She stated that it was the old psychiatric hospital. There is currently 1 listed building left on the property. The facility was shut in 2002 and has been left standing till the council purchased it in 2019. There were consultations held over a period of 4 months. She noted that there's still about 40 interested parties wanting to purchase the property.

The council's proposal is to build housing for older people, with open areas of land left around the buildings. The council notified the public of their intentions in January. There were no objections in the 4 month period.

There is currently a drive to obtain signatures to oppose the councils' proposal for the property.

Tom noted that this was a very fair summary. He stated that the process that the council followed in this case was excellent. There was ample time for the public to object.

### Development Plans

As regards the local place plans, Iain wanted to know if there are no plans in place, will the village be disadvantaged.

John stated that no, it wouldn't but noted that it's a good opportunity for villages. He further noted that he will be challenging DC1.

He stated that we need to bring in things around well-being and the 10min neighbourhood etc.

Derek noted that Saltoun has been through the "where do you want to see development" process.

## Churches

Margo noted that there had been a meeting. The proposal is for Humble to join Yster, Bolton and Saltoun.

There will be consultations as regards the frequency of services and times or services.

Derek stated that it would be good to know if there are discussions happening regarding the sale of the church in Saltoun.

### **8. Website - no additions from this meeting**

### **9. Any other business**

Derek will send Margo the invoice for the annual insurance of the defibrillator inside the phonebox in West Saltoun. Margo will pay the invoice directly.

Margo will check to see that the website fee has been paid.

### **10. Date of next meeting**

5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

19:30

Fletcher Hall, Saltoun