

HUMBIE, EAST & WEST SALTOUN AND BOLTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes 360th Meeting

Tuesday 6th February 2024

19:30

Bolton Village Hall, Bolton

Present: Iain Galloway, Frank Kirwan, Margo Hodge, Alexander Wilson, Tom Trotter, John McMillan, Carla Ward

In Attendance: Carrie Murray - Humble Primary School PTA

Agenda
item

Action

1. Apologies

Robin Grenfell, Janet Beck, Derek Logie, Shamin Akhtar, George McGuire

2. Disclosure of Interests

Nothing declared.

3. Approval of previous minutes and action update

Approved

- IG noted that he had not yet made the addition of the Budget Consultation to the website.
- Visit to chicken farm - MH will speak to Charlie to set up the visits.

4. Finance

Spreadsheet was shared ahead of the meeting.
MH provided a brief overview of the finances.

5. Humble Village School

Carrie said that they had met with Nicola McDowell, Head of Education. She met with parents to sound out opinions. Some parents feel that the school is too small for good social growth and learning. Other parents find that the small size of the school is preferable for children with additional needs. Nicola had indicated that no decision had been taken yet and a final decision as regards mothballing would be made by the end of the school term. If they proceed with the mothballing, it will happen at the end of the school year. Once the school has been mothballed, they would then need to wait 2 years before closing the school.

They would review which schools the children would have to go to.

The concern is that if the school closes, the community will suffer.

Carrie noted that the non-catchment children at the school are children with additional needs. Parents opted to send their children there because the small school allows their children to have a more personalised education.

The query was raised as to what happens to the school building during the mothballing period.

MH wondered whether the building would be available to rent. JM will follow up on this.

MH noted that she thought the building would be ideal for a private nursery.

JM noted that there is a lot of potential for the building.

Carrie wondered if it would be an option for a training venue for the Council. It would keep people coming into the community.

Carrie stated that the school PTA are keen to keep running the events. She noted that they had raised a good amount on money and she wasn't sure what would happen to those funds if the school were mothballed. Ideally, they'd like to keep the funds in Humbie.

6. SG Capital Allocation to East Lothian

FK noted that according to the document that Shamin shared, we receive the least amount of all the local authorities in Scotland.

JM noted that he had met with the DFM in October and had taken her around East Lothian and she went away with a list of asks from the Council.

JM stated that the table that Scot Gov uses for the allocation had been agreed on many years ago and no longer reflects the current situation.

TT noted that the Council is facing difficult times ahead and harsh decisions will have to be made.

MH queried whether there would be staff redundancies and JM indicated that it is an option.

JM noted that there may be funding coming from Barnett Consequentials which may allow them to relook at the draft budget.

7. Planning Applications

- Bughtknowe Racetrack - comments have been requested from interested parties. FK feels that we should comment.
FK will draft a comment and share for feedback.

8. Correspondence (since last meeting)

NA

9. Website - no additions from this meeting

We need to send out the link to the website in the community emails.

10. Any other business

- CAAP - MH attended the meeting. She raised the issues as regards the speed checks in the village and requested the cardboard cutout. The police were in the village carrying out speed checks and interaction with the community, but as we had received no notification that they would be in the area, there was very little interaction. They have agreed to come out to Humbie and Gifford and will bring the speed gun. However, they will not let us know independently, we will have to keep an eye on their Facebook page.

JM will email Ben Leathes to follow up.

MH noted that she had raised the lack of response to the 101 line. It's simply not being answered.

JM will let Jon Fleetwood know.

MH stated that it's of utmost importance that the emergency line is well manned.

11. **Date of next meeting**

5th March 2024

19:30

Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun