

HUMBIE, EAST & WEST SALTOUN AND BOLTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes 376th Meeting

Tuesday, 7 October 2025
19:30
Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun

Present: Alexander Wilson, George McGuire, Tom Trotter, Janet Beck, Margo Hodge (Acting as Chair), Janet Beck, Shamin Akhtar and Mandy Harrington

In Attendance: Sharon Dirkin and Billy Agnew

Agenda
item

Action

1. Apologies

Ian Galloway, Frank Kirwan, Robin Grenfell, John McMillan and Carla Ward

2. Disclosure of Interests

NA

3. Approval of previous minutes and action update

Minutes approved as accurate.

4. Finance

The report was circulated ahead of the meeting. MH stated the Community Council's annual Accounts are now with East Lothian Council in accordance with normal practice.

5. Smart meters

As discussed on 2 September, Billy Agnew from East Lothian Council who has responsibility for digital connectivity was invited to attend this meeting and outlined his role and how best to take forward problems with their smart meters (a) not working and (b) people not being able to secure appointments to have smart meters installed. In short, consumers should raise complaints with their Energy Supplier and exhaust their complaints process. If that provides no resolution, consumers should ask OFGEM to investigate their complaint. BA takes the view it is for the Energy Supplier to ensure consumers have functioning smart meters (notwithstanding that Energy Suppliers say it is ultimately for DCC to do this).

BA is happy to be approached by consumers for any assistance he can give and has undertaken to provide a short note with his contact details on what consumers should do to be added to the Community Council's website. District Councils 'have no teeth' in this regard. Only by consumers making and taking forward their complaints to OFGEM and leveraging the power of communities, including through

media channels, is it likely progress will be made in (as he sees it) in having Energy Suppliers meet their responsibility to provide properly working smart meters to everyone who wants one. Gifford Community Council (and also Garvald) have sought to move forward the issues surrounding smart meters and BA recommended we speak with Gifford / Garvald to establish where they have got to on this subject.

BA was thanked for his attendance and sharing his knowledge and experience with the meeting.

The meeting agreed the Community Council should look to take this matter up and as previously suggested by FK, Saltoun and Bolton may wish (like Humble already has) carry out a survey of smart meter problems in their areas.

It was agreed there may be benefit in discussing this issue with the Association of East Lothian Community Councils.

This item will again be carried forward to the next meeting.

6. Planning Applications

NA

7. Correspondence (since last meeting)

MH drew attention to the feedback sought (as previously circulated by CW) from residents on the services provided by East Lothian Council. (This has subsequently been circulated in Humble's Community email and could usefully be promoted on the Community Council's website.)

CW to add to website

8. Website

This item is a carry forward from our 2 September meeting. "Flag up smart meters - good to get feedback from folk before next meeting".

IG to add smart meter information

9. AOB

It was noted 5 Community Councillors (out of a possible 8) stand elected with effect from 9 October and the next Community Council meeting on 4 November.

Each of Janet Beck, Frank Kirwan and Ian Galloway who are standing down were thanked for their contribution to the Community Council during the past three years.

MH proposed (and it was agreed) CA be asked if going forward she is prepared to maintain our website. MH to speak with CW

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 4 November 2025
Humbie Village Hall
19:30 - 21:00