

MINUTE of MEETING of the BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 5 MARCH 2021.

Present – Councillors Angela Doran (Chair), Chris Horne, Diane Calder and Janet Campbell

In Attendance

Craig McCorriston, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Eirwen Hopwood, Nets, Land & Countryside Services, West Lothian Council
Steve Lovell (Principal Planner, West Lothian Council)
Phyllis McFadyen, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Stuart McNiven, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland
Irene Bishop (Uphall Community Council)
Keith McLeod (Broxburn Community Council)
Lynda McGivern (Dechmont Community Council)
Nick Knox (Winchburgh Community Council)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled in terms of Standing Order 11 that agenda item 10 (*Town Centre Fund Update 2019/20 & 2020/21*) and agenda item 12 (*Timetable of Meetings 2021/22*) would be considered before agenda item 5 (*Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Quarter 3 2020/21 Performance*) in that order.

3 MINUTES

a The committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 6 November 2020.

b The committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 22 December 2020 subject to adding the following declaration of interest:

Irene Bishop declared an interest in agenda Item 5 as she was a member of Uphall Community Council. She would take no part in the discussion.

4 TOWN CENTRE FUND UPDATE 2019/20 & 2020/21

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

updating members on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by the Local Area Committee on 4 October 2019 and 22 December 2020.

Officers assured members that they would focus on ensuring timely completion of projects. The Broxburn community gardens project in particular was discussed and it was noted that planning permission process was proceeding and likely to be completed by 31 March, with planning conditions added to cover pending soil testing results. Meetings would be facilitated between the various stakeholders and every effort would be made to ensure mutual agreement on any points of disagreement.

It was recommended that the local area committee note the updates for Town Centre Fund 2019/20 and 2020/21 projects for this ward.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2021/22

The committee considered the timetable of meetings for 2021/22 (a copy of which had been circulated).

Decision

To approve the timetable of meetings for 2021/22.

6 SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE QUARTER 3 2020/21 PERFORMANCE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31 December 2020.

It was recommended that the committee note and provide comment on the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7 POLICE WARD UPDATE

Councillors Diane Calder and Janet Campbell left the meeting during consideration of this item and did not participate in the remaining items of business.

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31 December 2020.

Members of the public were encouraged to call 101 if they became aware of antisocial behaviour. It was also noted that Police were working with the community to limit antisocial behaviour especially as lockdown conditions were being eased.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8 HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the Broxburn ward.

In response to queries from members, officers explained that due to Covid emergency legislation there had been no evictions during the lockdown period except in extraordinary circumstances. Tenants were continually advised on actions to take in order to receive support and the council had robust information sharing practices with the Department for Work and Pensions and other organisations able to provide advice and support.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 3, 1 October to 31 December 2020.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9 SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services updating members on the recent activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note the work carried out to date and future planned work; and
2. Advise of any areas that require further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10 WEST LOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION PROGRAMME - FIRST REVIEW (2020) - UPDATE FOR WARD 2: BROXBURN, UPHALL & WINCHBURGH

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of the West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) Action Programme First Review – 2020 as it related to Ward 2 - Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh.

Discussions were taking place between Network Rail and Transport Scotland and in order for a site to be identified for the new rail station and park and ride facility proposed under project P-91, while discussions were also ongoing regarding the community facilities or partnership centre proposed under projects P-93 and P-94.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11 PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2020/21

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of the final allocations that had been made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2020/21 to groups in the Broxburn Uphall and Winchburgh ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The committee was asked to note the impact that COVID – 19 had had on the application and allocation process regarding the fund. The panel was also asked to note the additional option developed to provide a pre-prepared meal to groups who had indicated their interest.

It is recommended that the committee note:

1. The effect of COVID-19 on the arrangements regarding the Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund in 2020-21;
2. The inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option; and
3. That five groups had been supported through the Pensioners Christmas Fund in 2020-21.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12 WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

1. To note the workplan.
2. To add Bangour development updates to the workplan.