

MINUTE of MEETING of the FAULDHUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 12 JANUARY 2021.

Present – Councillors Cathy Muldoon (Chair), David Dodds, Pauline Clark

In Attendance –

Alan McLaughlan, West Calder & Harburn Community Council

Anne Greechan, Stoneyburn Community Council

Stuart McNiven, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Errin Anderson, Polbeth Community Hub

Alice Mitchell, Economic Development Manager

Douglas Benson, Community Regeneration Officer

Sandy Ross, Housing, Customer & Building Services, WLC

Christopher Nelson, Income Maximisation Manager, WLC

Tony Fleming, Operational Services, WLC

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 5 – Polbeth Community Hub Presentation and Agenda Item 11 – West Lothian Response to Covid-19 - Councillor Cathy Muldoon declared an interest in that she had a family member who worked in the Advice Shop.

2. MINUTES

- a) The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 12 March 2020 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- b) The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 8 December 2020 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. PRESENTATION - POLBETH HUB

There was a presentation by Errin Anderson, Manager at Polbeth Community Hub providing an overview of the activities and development delivered by the Hub.

It was noted that within the Hub there was a community shop and café run by volunteers providing low cost meals to families and individuals within the community. It was also noted that there was an initial counselling service pilot that had been completed and was successful on a small scale. Work was now being done to develop a service plan on how to roll out a 5 day a week service via employed counsellors.

The committee was advised of a number of Covid-19 projects being

carried out including providing food parcels to most vulnerable, befriending support to the elderly, provision of a wellbeing pack in partnership with Forth River Trust and the provision of emergency family grants in partnership with Cash for Kids.

The Hubs plans for 2021 included exploring development of the extension on the building, securing core funding for manager post and to continue to develop relationships with other key organisations to support sharing of skills and resources.

Decision

To note the presentation.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - QUARTERS 1 AND 2

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 the ward for quarter 1 for the period up to 30 June 2020 and quarter 2 up to 30 September 2020.

The report recommended that the committee note the report and provide comment on the ward performance.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. POLICE REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PC's Philip Wilkin and Andrew Hendry providing an update on the West Lothian Policing within the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward for the period un to 28 October 2020

The committee noted that there was no representative from Police Scotland present at the virtual meeting to speak to the report and therefore agreed to note the contents without discussion.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. 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 Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward.

The report recommended that the Committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2020.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the NETs, Land and Countryside Services teams for the period 1 February to 30 November 2020.

The report recommended that the committee:

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. 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 advising of the final allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2020-21 to groups in the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Local Committee area, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

The committee was asked to note the impact that Covid-19 had on the application and allocation process regarding the fund. The committee was also asked to note the additional option developed to provide a pre-

prepared meal to groups who had indicated their interest.

The report recommended that the committee:

1. Note the effect of Covid-19 on the arrangements regarding the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund in 2020-21;
2. Note the inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option; and
3. Note 13 groups were supported through the Pensioners Christmas Fund in 2020-21

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

9. WEST LoTHIAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the work done to support communities across West Lothian and in the ward during the Covid-19 crisis.

The report recommended that the committee:

1. Note the role and partnership work carried out between West Lothian Council and the third sector to support communities through Covid-19;
2. Note the funding directed to support the third sector in its response;
3. Note the opportunities to build on this partnership working in the future; and
4. Note the work to support local business and employment support.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

10. WORKPLAN

To agree the workplan