

One Voice Committee Meeting of Thursday 12 October within Westwood Parish Church

Attendees

Gary Larkin (CC Chair), Angela Goodlet (CC Vice Chair), Elaine McDougall (Councillor), Mary McDermott (Pals Plus), R Murray (L Cameron MP Office), June Harpum (Pals Plus), **George ? Can't read surname (Red Deer Activities in Retirement)**, James Gillespie (Westwood CC), **Elaine Murray** (Red Deer Art Class), Billy MacDonald (Red Deer Bowling Club), Mandy Ramsay (RDBC), Rosemary Smith (new local resident).

As we were using the church, Rev Kevin McKenzie also present (committee member?)

Opening Remarks and Committee Formalisation

Gary Larkin (Westwood CC Secretary) opened the meeting and asked for some positions to be agreed for the One Voice – Friends of Westwood Sub Committee; these were agreed as follows:

- Secretary : Mari Roden (responsible for meeting minutes, comms, etc) EM can also support.
- Chair – Angela Goodlet (chair meetings)
- Vice Chair – Neil Dunipace (chair meetings in absence of chair)
- Treasurer – we agreed at the meeting that we should request the CC treasurer to carry this out if possible. We may revisit.

Gary also advised that he would be standing down as Westwood CC Secretary in October due to personal reasons but would be continuing on the CC

Mari, not sure of there are other things that need to be done to constitute the committee, I think Gary gave you some paperwork.

Update from Cllr Elaine McDougall

- Press covered our campaign and merged it with input from local MSP Collette Stevenson – link ->https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/in-your-area/lanarkshire/east-kilbride-community-up-arms-31140299?fbclid=IwAR0xtu-7_RC2HksFzL8ytOpxy0RariOy8BQuUgGW8uWFgXXLHUL-ZkfGGMo
- Attended meeting at South Parish Church on 5th October, arranged by East Kilbride Connect. This was an overview of what Calderwood Connect had been able to achieve in conjunction with other organisations to increase usage of local facilities and improve health and wellbeing for local people. They had started out by mapping local facilities and groups using the website tool provided by VASLAN (Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire). They will measure improvements by increasing numbers of groups using the facilities as well as people becoming involved amongst other metrics. I hope this will not be achieved at the expense of other areas, and that we can learn from this.
- VASLAN advised me that although there are a number of funding opportunities, they get very few applications from East Kilbride – I expect this is because people and groups don't know about this. Elizabeth Robinson is the contact for EK. I would be happy to put people in touch if you have any issues.
- Local children's music charity, Brass Dynamica, had been in touch and are interested in a possible CAT for the Westwood Hall if we cannot resolve any other way, and would make the hall available to community groups for the vast majority of the time. (I believe there may be other interested parties as well, but don't have details yet). Obviously this is not our first preference to CAT the hall, but is an option.
- I asked Council re timescales and have had no response – I will follow up again. RDBC reps said they had been told there is no set timescale. (Expect they will be exploring buyers etc though!)

Update from Red Deer Bowling Club (RDBC)

Mandy and Billy advised that the group had met with housing (JF) and that their situation is a bit different as they have a contractual lease agreement with the council. They had been told that the building is at the end of its life. (We should ask for evidence/costs.) They were advised of a couple of possible routes:

- CAT for green only, which would mean reduction of lanes to put modular building in place. We discussed whether it would be possible to keep the lanes and lease ground from the council for the modular buildings (portacabins, which could also be leased). It would be possible to grant assistance to build a business case etc, expect that Iain will advise.
- There will be a further meeting on 13th October with CAT officer Iain Mulholland to further discuss options re CAT.
- Another option would be to merge with another club, eg Murray. But council officer advised that there is no guarantee of the revised configuration of the 'Murray Hub'. The main facilities in the Murray are upstairs and not very accessible. (EM – this is worrying.)
- A partnership may be an option.
- Note that the current Murray configuration would be unable to host the art club, for example.

Update from Chair of Education In Retirement

- Concerned about the ongoing availability of daytime facilities in Westwood as many of the users would be unwilling / unable to travel further afield
- Very much opposed to the closure of Red Deer facilities and asking why the council can't find the funds to upgrade the building from its large budget
- Current facilities are very practical, ramps, buses right outside etc

Update from Mari (now Secretary)

- Mari has asked the council for background materials on how these proposals came about, noting that the papers that were approved by the Housing & Technical Resources Cttee in August noted that there were no background papers on which these proposals were based. (FOI)
- Mari has started a petition and the first 50 signatures will ensure it is heard. We were able to gather the 50 at the meeting.
- The plan is to gather more signatures, online and in person (Angela and James offered to go round doors). A leaflet may also be useful.

Other Actions/ Notes

- Cllr McDougall was asked to obtain running costs for the properties from the council for the last few years.
- Advised that not possible to CAT the Red Deer Centre as it's not viable – we want evidence. Did the government not recently pay to repair the roof, for example, fur use as covid centre? Front door also recently repaired.
- Question about how money from developers from the many new houses that are being built in EK is being spent – should this not be coming back into communities? Cllr McDougall to request information on this from council. (Section 75 via Planning)
- Elaine to update the contact list
- Communications – we need ways to communicate as a committee, as a full group and with the community. Do we have any offers to update the CC FB page? An offer was also made by Rev Kev of use of church website page although this would be church 'branded'. Although a 'secular' and non party political group. group was happy with this to get started anyway. The church also has links to other local churches, eg Lady of Lourdes.

- Kevin also said that we could use the church free of charge for meetings and was thanked for this kind offer.
- A whatsapp group could be set up for this committee in the meantime.

Thanks to all who were able to attend etc

Just need to get the next meeting date agreed and in the diary now, others may also still want to join the committee. Would be ideal to have someone from every group.

Note that Rev. Kevin has also made available a space on the church website, which we can review at the next meeting.

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