

Central Wishaw Community Council

Meeting

Of

5th December 2017

Central Wishaw Community Council held their regular bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, 5th December 2017 at 7 00 pm in Houldsworth Community Health Centre Library, Wishaw. In the absence of the Chairperson, Carol Anne Foley and the Vice Chair, Catherine Cusack, the Secretary, Alan Love welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped that with their assistance we would get through the business as quickly and as efficiently as possible. A special welcome was given to Barbara Vincent a visitor to our meeting and to Councillors Bob Burrows, Angela Delaney and Fotheringham all of whom arrived a little late from attending another meeting.

Apologies: Catherine Brown, Margaret McNeil and Councillor Jim Hume.

Sick: Carol Anne Foley, Catherine Cusack and the husband of Marion Fellows MP.

Bereavements:

Minutes of the last stated meeting

The minutes of the last stated meeting were read and adopted on the motion of Cathie Inglis and seconded by Kathleen McFarlane.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Backcourts Wishaw Main Street

The secretary reported that some properties in Main Street and Kirk Road should be commended for the significant effort they had made to clean up the area surrounding their properties while sadly others had made little or no effort at all. While he was unsure as to whether the ownership of the problem belonged to the shop owners or the owners of the properties above the shops there clearly was a health and safety issue with the possible attraction of vermin or the risk of fire. The general consensus of the meeting was that it was hoped that the leader of the council, Councillor Logue would stand by the statement he made to the Wishaw Press and take those responsible for neglecting the ground around their property's to task.

Public Inquiry – The Closure of Belhaven Home – Presentation of Petition

It was reported that the aforementioned property had now been demolished and while the money to rebuild was still available a decision had yet to be made by the Finance and Organisational Business Sub-Committee to replace Belhaven Home with a much needed new intermediate care home build at a suitable site in Wishaw. The elected members present were reminded of an article in this week's Wishaw Press that although there had been a 25.8 % reduction in hospital mortality at the University Hospital, Wishaw patients were still dying and would continue to die unless Belhaven Home is replaced and that we as a Community Council would continually remind the leaders of all political party's within North Lanarkshire that they had all publicly supported our campaign. The Community Council will await the report from the Finance and Organisational Business Committee in due course.

Councillors Report

Although there were no reports available all three councillors contributed to the discussions that took place.

Police Report

Sargent Alex Pilu informed the meeting of a reduction in alcohol and or drug crime, public disorder and public nuisance offences particularly due to the pro-active efforts of the police around the town centre.

Correspondence

- The Secretary, Alan Love read his response to correspondence from Paul Jukes, Chief Executive, North Lanarkshire Council informing Central Wishaw Community Council that minutes from our meetings had not been published since October 2016 because the Council was of the view that our minutes are contrary to legislation which prohibits local authorities from publishing material which either refers to a political party, or opposes a point of view on a point of political controversy, referring directly to criticism of members of North Lanarkshire Council relating to their political affiliation, and in addition, the minutes appeared to have overtly support another political party.

In his reply to our correspondence, Archie Aitken, Head of Business for Legal and Democratic Solutions noted that the Community Council's members did not support the views of any one political party and that no complaint had been received regarding our minutes.

While the Community Council feel it would be irresponsible of them not to oppose decisions made by North Lanarkshire Council which would impair the quality of life of those most vulnerable within our community, the Council is under no obligation to publish our minute.

- Enclosed copies of the December 2017 newsletters from Marion Fellows MP and Councillor Fiona Fotheringham.
- Invitation to the Annual General meeting of Made4U IN ML2.
- Electronic Christmas card from Clare Adamson MSP.

This being all the business the acting Chairperson was congratulated for the very capable manner in which he had conducted the business.

Next meeting, Tuesday, 6th February 2018 at 7 00 pm prompt in Wishaw Library.