



UPHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 17th June 2022 held in Uphall Community Centre and via Zoom

In attendance: Irene Bishop (chair), Lynne McEwen, Jonathan Moore, George Scott, Cllr Diane Calder, Cllr Janet Campbell, Cllr Anne Davidson, Cllr Angela Doran Timson

Apologies: David Flight, Pippa Plevin

1. The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed.
2. Chairpersons report

In order that we were able to hold meetings to enable us to conduct business during the Covid 19 lockdown we used the Zoom platform. When restrictions were eased it was decided to continue with hybrid meetings. To improve these meetings we worked with the Community Centre Management Team to purchase equipment which would enhance the meeting experience and could be used by other groups. The Community Council purchased a 380-degree microphone and various cables whilst the Management Committee bought a wide angled camera.

We have made good use of our Facebook page and website to help us circulate and collect information throughout the year. We have produced 2 Newsletters on line. With financial support from our local councillors we managed to print a limited supply of our second newsletter for those who didn't have online access. We have also conducted surveys on Facebook eg traffic issues in Alexander Street. We also followed this up with a face to face street survey. The residents of Alexander Street were also given a copy of the survey to complete and return. The results were discussed at a meeting and we hope to progress this further now that restrictions have eased.

Community Council elections were held last year and these coincided with boundary changes which means that we now cover a wider area than previously as we now take in the properties to the south side of the A89 Graham Whitelaw presided at the inaugural meeting in October.

We were deeply saddened by the death of Fraser Graham not long after the Inaugural meeting. Fraser had served as a member of this community council for almost forty years, latterly holding the position of Treasurer. George Scott has now taken on that position.

In November I represented the community council at a Remembrance Day service where I laid a wreath on behalf of the Community Council.

Last year we were able to do something for the children in the village. Santa toured almost every street in Uphall. The route was well planned and advertised on Facebook. Thanks to Jonathans IT skills Santas progress was documented every step of the way. A big thank you to Santa for visiting Uphall but also to Julie Devaney and Emma Craig and Mark Heap for their help on the night. It was great to have the support of local residents for this venture. The look of wonder and excitement on the children's faces made this worthwhile and it is hoped we can do it again this year.

David and George took on the painting of trees in King George V park as part of the Queens Canopy. They had support from the local community and used the event to promote the work of the community council.

Two trees were also planted to the side of the Community Centre. People who were born in 1952 were asked to put their names forward to have them put on a tree via a QR code.

We worked in conjunction with the Centre Management Committee to host one event for the Platinum Jubilee Celebration. The Management Committee unveiled a Jubilee bench in the Community Garden and the same evening a plaque for the trees was unveiled. David was asked to unveil the plaque as he is the longest serving member of the community council. Sadly, for personal reasons David was unable to attend so I unveiled the plaque ably assisted by the Depute Lord Lieutenant Lord Hopetoun who had been invited by the Management Committee. The Management Committee provided the buffet, and the drinks were supplied by the Community Council.

Jonathan and I represented Uphall Community Council at a Platinum Jubilee service at St Michaels Linlithgow by West Lothian Council.

When Town Centre funding became available we once again reached out to our Facebook page to ask our residents what they would like to see incorporated into the village. We took their suggestions on board and discussed these before deciding the projects we could put forward for funding. Applications have been put forward for outdoor equipment and a solar talking post. We await decisions on these projects.

We have also supported our neighbors in Dechmont by putting forward objections to a planning application and have also put in objections to a planning application for Uphall.

I would like to thank the members of the Community Council for their hard work throughout the past year. It has been a pleasure to be part of this group who genuinely care about their community.

3. Treasurers report: The audited accounts were agreed and will be forwarded to West Lothian Council.

4. Election of office bearers

Chair: Irene Bishop

Vice Chair: Jonathan Moore

Secretary: Lynne McEwen

Treasurer: George Scott

Planning Secretary: Jonathan Moore

There being no other business the meeting was concluded.