

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
17 February 2021 via ZOOM
Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Jan Irvine (JI)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead
Vicky Milton (VM)	Danderhall
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Hazel Kerr (HK)	Gorebridge
Mary Davidson (MD)	Gorebridge
Gina Temple (GT)	Loanhead
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Lorna Crook (LC)	Moorfoot
Dougie West (DW)	Poltonhall
John Aitchison (JA)	Poltonhall
Ann Montague (AM)	Rosewell
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell
Mirabelle Maslin (MM)	Roslin and Bilston
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council (Minutes)
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APOLOGIES

Cath McGill (CMcG)	Gorebridge
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1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

- a. Robert welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies of those members unable to attend the meeting were noted.

2 INVITATION TO MICHELE LINDSAY (POLICE SCOTLAND) TO MEETING

- a. PJ had passed topics for discussion to Sergeant Lindsay in preparation for the meeting.
- b. PJ informed the group that due to being called to other duties, Sergeant Lindsay was now unable to attend the meeting. Sergeant Lindsay is unable to attend the March meeting but is available to attend the April meeting.
- c. Those present agreed that Sergeant Lindsay would be invited to attend the April meeting of the Federation.

Action:

- **MFCC members are to send any items to be discussed at the April meeting at the earliest opportunity.**

3 PREVIOUS MINUTES (JANUARY) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Potential use of Gorebridge Leisure Centre as a Vaccination Centre

- a. Discussions have been ongoing and there is no official announcement at this point.
- b. Gorebridge CC has been informed that GBLC will open as a vaccination centre. Trained staff are required to be in place but it is anticipated that once trained staff are in place, the Leisure Centre will open to provide vaccinations.

Elected Member's Environmental Budgets

- a. Depending on which Community Council they attend, not all elected members are highlighting that they have funds for their CC to access. MFCC members expressed concern that there appears to be a lack of transparency about the way elected members are choosing to spend their funds.
- b. It is not clear how local community groups can access this available funding.
- c. Community Councillors are still being advised (by their elected members) of a range of amounts of funding available.
- d. Those present noted that elected members are unlikely to pool resources or work together to make funding available.

Attendance of the public at Council Meetings

- a. There is still no clarity about whether the public are able to attend Council meetings during the current restrictions, (although the press are able to attend).

Action:

- **RH and ASK will write a letter to the Council's Chief Executive**

Developers Contributions

- a. As requested at the last meeting, PJ has contacted Midlothian Council Planning Officers to highlight the issues members raised at the January meeting.
- b. Matthew Atkins (Lead Officer Planning Obligations) is going to meet with members of a prospective 'Developers' Contribution' MFCC sub-group on Thursday 4 March at 2.00 pm.
- c. There are 8 MFCC members attending

Action:

- **MFCC members to send PJ examples of when Developers Contributions have been spent without them being consulted at an early stage or at all (by Tuesday 2 March).**

Previous Minutes:

Approved by: Jan Irvine.

Seconded by: Douglas West.

4 LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council

- a. Is releasing a press statement about the merger with Poltonhall and Hopefield to the Advertiser
- b. Boundary change with Eskbank and Newbattle has been implemented.
- c. Has a set up a 'Planning' sub-group.
- d. Temporary traffic lights (7.00 – 10.00, Monday – Friday) in Lasswade have been installed.

Dalkeith Community Council

- a. Held its Annual General Meeting during the previous week
- b. Has recruited 2 new Community Councillors and another 2 people have expressed an interest.
- c. Aldi have started development of building
- d. The T.S.B. Bank has closed

Damhead Community Council

- a. As with Loanhead Community Council, Damhead Community Council is closely following the progress of the planned Straiton West development and share concerns about the impact.

Danderhall Community Council

- a. Planning meetings with Shawfair developers have been held
- b. Shawfair developer is putting FAQ's page on its website.
- c. Midlothian Council Planning Officer joined the planning sub-group meeting to provide information on the planning process.
- d. A sizeable number of local residents joined the meeting using the 'dial-in' facility.

Eskbank Community Council

- a. Will be holding its AGM in December
- b. Local residents are attending Zoom meetings
- c. Potentially has 2 more members
- d. The Community Council has a new member who has been supporting measures to reduce speeding in the area, (Camera, 30mph zone stickers on refuse bins).

Gorebridge Community Council

- a. There have been some issues with the use of the Zoom account.
- b. Community Council members have had access to the Hunterfield Tavern Trust minutes.
- c. The Community Council has requested an update on the proposals for the development of the new High School from Midlothian Council.
- d. The Community Council is considering creating sub-groups in order that local issues can be given more time and consideration and therefore dealt with more effectively
- e. Would like some support with developing a Resilience Plan

Action:

- **PJ to ask Brian McGuff to contact Gorebridge Community Council about support to develop resilience plans or activities.**

Howgate Community Council

- a. PJ highlighted that he had been at the Howgate Community Council meetings and that information, agenda's, minutes etc are being sent to Howgate Community Council representatives
- b. There will be a HCC meeting on 24 February and he will highlight the next Federation meeting on 17 March.

Loanhead Community Council

- a. Members are meeting with representatives of Aldi to discuss a proposed development on Pentland Road
- b. Concerns expressed about the increased amount of traffic as result of the proposed New Pentland development.
- c. The Annual General Meeting has been postponed until November.

Mayfield and Easthouses Community Council

- a. One of the elected members has resigned and on 25 March there will be a by election.
- b. The Community Council has welcomed the input of the other 2 elected members
- c. The Y2K (Youth Group), Manager is resigning and a new Manager has been appointed.
- d. The Community Council acknowledge the value of the work undertaken by Y2K and recognise the transformative work that the Manager has led on.
- e. Parking at the Mayfield and St Luke site is still an issue of concern. New measures restricting parking around the school are being implemented.
- f. Although members of the public are joining meetings using the Zoom platform, not all previously regular attendees are able to join Zoom meetings.

Moorfoot Community Council

- a. Meetings have been successful, with good attendance
- b. 2 elected members attended the last meeting
- c. The Community Council wishes to be involved in the discussions about the development of the new high school. Members will liaise with Gorebridge Community Council.
- d. No Police report at last meeting

Newtongrange Community Council

- a. No Report

Penicuik Community Council

- a. No Report

Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council

- a. A 90 – day notice of the proposed merger with BLCC will be disseminated week beginning 22 February.
- b. There has been more members attending the Community Council meeting and now it is able to have meetings that are quorate.
- c. Has co-opted 1 new member
- d. Is working with BLCC on details of the merger and creating the draft constitution.
- e. Will be working on merging the content of the 2 Community Council websites.

Rosewell Community Council

- a. No Police report at last meeting
- b. A Tennis Club is being started in the village
- c. Has received 80 books for distribution on World Book Night, 23 April 2021.
(See www.worldbooknight.org).

Roslin and Bilston Community Council

- a. MM has discovered drains that were previously blocked and need to be cleared.
- b. Community Grit Bins
- c. Still working on information on developer contributions and environmental contributions

Tynewater Community Council

- a. RH has been in contact with Henry Gibson (former Chairperson) who has indicated that there have been some changes in personnel in the Community Council.
- b. It is anticipated that a new representative will be attending future MFCC meetings.

Action:

- **PJ will follow-up with contacts in Tynewater Community Council.**

5 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SUB-GROUP MEETING, 4 MARCH, 2.00 – 3.30

- a. Discussed in Matters Arising

6 ATTENDANCE OF CLL TRAINEES AT MARCH MEETING

- a. As an element of their induction training, the Communities and Lifelong Learning team requested that 2 of their trainees attend the March MFCC meeting. Those present agreed that this would be OK

7 COMMUNITY COUNCIL INSURANCE – ZURICH MUNICIPAL INVOICES

- a. PJ highlighted that Community Council Insurance invoices are being sent out to individual Community Councils
- b. Midlothian Council will pay the invoices
- c. When received, invoices should be forwarded to PJ who will arrange for them to be paid.

Action:

- **Community Councils to forward invoices to PJ.**
- **Community Councils to check the other documents they receive from Zurich Municipal, to ensure that the information is correct.**

8 CHANGE TO MFCC CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT USE OF ELECTRONIC BANKING

- a. A motion to make a change to the MFCC Constitution to enable electronic banking will be made at the March MFCC meeting.

Action:

- **PJ and ASK to discuss the wording of a motion to be submitted at the March MFCC meeting.**

9 COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITES – COMPLIANCE WITH ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS

- a. PJ highlighted the information distributed in an email of 25 January.
- b. As public sector bodies, Community Councils are required to comply with accessibility regulations.
- c. There is recognition that in order to comply this *may* be considered to place a disproportionate burden on small organisations
- d. All public sector bodies must have an accessibility statement on their site.
- e. See sample statement and further information here (click on link).

[Sample accessibility statement \(for a fictional public sector website\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/sample-accessibility-statement)

Action:

- **All Community Councils that have a website, to place an accessibility statement on their site.**
- **PJ to resend the email with supporting information.**
- **Contact PJ if Community Councils would like some support.**

10 CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- a. The Food Fund continues to receive a high number of applications for support on daily basis.
- b. Citizens Advice Bureaux are providing follow-up support where appropriate and requested.
- c. The number of COVID-19 infections is decreasing
- d. School (P1-P3 and some Secondary) students) are returning to education.
- e. All residents of Care Homes for older people have been offered a vaccination.

11 COMMUNITY PLANNING

- a. RH thanked ASK for circulating her reports of the meetings.
- b. Alasdair Mathers is retiring from his post as Midlothian Council Communities and Performance Manager at the end of March. RH (on behalf of MFCC and the communities across the county) expressed thanks to Alasdair for the work he had undertaken in his various roles to support community engagement within the county. RH noted that Alasdair had been a 'good friend' to Community Councils and the communities that they represent.

12 PLANNING

- a. Sherrifhall South. Those present expressed concern about the potential loss of green space and coalescence of communities if proposed developments in this area were to go ahead.
- b. ASK will send out link to the National Planning Framework 4 Consultation.
- c. If members wish to respond to a development consultation they should submit their comments in a PDF file

13 INFRASTRUCTURE

- a. No Update

14 MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (5.30, MON, 25 JANUARY 2021)

- a. Minutes of this meeting were circulated to members.
- b. Next meeting of the group is Monday 8 March, 5.30, Zoom.

15 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- a. Concerns about ongoing pollution levels in the Esk were raised.
- b. Members noted that some discolouration of wastewater might be due to grit and salt from roads.

16 EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- a. If wishing to contribute, members can contact AW about details of the Airport Noise Consultation.
- b. In order to facilitate training exercises the RAF are proposing an exclusion zone. AW will provide further details when he has them.
- c. ASK has provided a cheque for the MFCC contribution for secretarial support to the Noise Board. (See MFCC minutes October 2020).

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17 March, 7.00 – 9.00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87043872181?pwd=K001RGZNU0RBNzZJSUE5MHMwOURldz09>

Meeting ID: 870 4387 2181

Passcode: 840954

Dial in: 0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 870 4387 2181

Passcode: 840954