

## **PRESENT**

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Jan Irvine (JI)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Ailsa Carlisle (AC)	Damhead
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Brian Wailes (BW)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Cath McGill (CMcG)	Gorebridge
David Wilson (DW)	Howgate
Gina Temple (GT)	Loanhead
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Lorna Crook (LC)	Moorfoot
Andrew Littlefair (AL)	Penicuik
Dougie West (DW)	Poltonhall
Ann Montague (AM)	Rosewell
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Joan Higginson (JHsn)	Tyne water
Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tyne water

## **Apologies**

Vicky Milton (VM)	Danderhall
Mirabelle Maslin (MM)	Roslin and Bilston

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council (Minutes)
Inspector Jim Robertson	Police Scotland
Sergeant Michele Lindsay	Police Scotland

### **1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

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

### **2. Police Scotland - Inspector Jim Robertson, (Deputy Local Area Commander) & Sergeant Michele Lindsay (Community Policing Team)**

RH welcomed the officers to the meeting.

Inspector Robertson highlighted the Command Structure for the area. (See Page 7 of these minutes)

## **Police Scotland Priorities**

The priorities for Midlothian are:

- Protecting the most vulnerable people
- Reducing violence & anti-social behaviour
- Reducing acquisitive crime
- Improving road safety
- Tackling serious & organised crime

## **Protecting Vulnerable people**

- Engage with residents in care Homes
- Work with Midlothian and East Lothian Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP)
- Choices for life online programme
- Work with youth forums
- Domestic abuse prevention – engaging with local communities
- Support Midlothian’s communities to report abuse confidentially
- Work with local people to prevent offending

## **Reducing violence & anti-social behaviour**

- In Midlothian, target ‘hotspot’ areas identified through analysis of information and data
- Work with and share information with Edinburgh and East Lothian colleagues. Most recent example is vandalism on buses where there were 25 incidents, relatively small but have been successfully addressed.
- Work in schools to support prevention and reduce potential risk of offending.
- Have a ‘junior cop’ programme.
- Work in partnership with a range of organisations, including Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Midlothian Council (Communities and Lifelong Learning) to develop and run programmes of diversionary activities
- Engage with young people, parents and carers to prevent and reduce risk of offending.
- The ‘Pub Watch’ programme has also led to a reduction some aspects of incidents of alcohol related offending.
- Community based officers are working in partnership with residents and staff on Neighbourhood and rural watch programmes.
- Using a range social media channels to promote awareness and information.
- Midlothian Partnership Against Rural Crime, which started at the end of 2019, was formally launched in February 2020. Its aim is on prevention by providing education to the public and those use who use our countryside,

along with tracing those responsible and carrying out enforcement where appropriate to reduce crime and provide reassurance to our local communities.

- People living in rural areas are encouraged to lock up valuables, machinery etc. Farmers and local people are encouraged to report any activity they consider to be suspicious.

### **Improving Road Safety**

- Youth Community officers are working with young people in schools to discuss road safety, e.g. working with young people in the 15-17 age group to prepare and raise awareness in preparation of them eventually learning to drive.
- Speeding Initiatives – Midlothian based officers are acting when they receive reports of motorists driving at excessive speeds.
- An increasing number of officers are being trained in the operation of hand held speed cameras and will inform local communities, (through Social Media), when they have carried out initiatives to reduce speeding in urban areas.

### **Tackling serious & organised crime**

- In Midlothian the service are supporting potentially vulnerable residents where they may be targeted to get involved in crime. They will provide support and reassurance if required for those at risk.
- In rural areas, work is being undertaken to support workers who may be at risk of being exploited.

### **QUESTIONS FROM MFCC MEMBERS**

#### ***Numbers of Police Officers – have they increased or decreased?***

- All Police Officers are trained and skilled in working in a diverse range of job roles.
- Midlothian Council funds 12 Midlothian Community Action Team (MCAT) officers. The Federation welcomed the support by Midlothian Council of the MCAT officers.
- There are Community-based officers attached to each of the six council wards. These community officers are generally people who have had strong links with the local community and therefore know their community well.
- There is no set tenure for Community Officers but they are encouraged and supported to stay in post for at least 2 – 3 years.
- There are 4 Youth Officers based in schools.

### ***Use of the Zoom Platform and Police Scotland attendance at Community Council meetings***

- The Zoom platform is not considered to be a secure network for use and interaction by Police Scotland. Police Officers therefore are not permitted to use the platform.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that Community Officers were sometimes moved to fulfil other duties to support the Police Scotland response.
- Police Scotland attendance at Community Council meetings will be based on guidance from the Scottish Governance.
- Once face-to-face meetings are permitted, officers will be able to join Community Council meetings once again.
- If the assigned officer is not able to attend, all attempts will be made to identify a replacement, where a replacement is not found and as a last option, a Police Report will be submitted.

### ***Police Scotland Experience during the last year***

- Police Scotland have been working with the '4 E' approach of Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce during the past year. Focus has been on encouragement of voluntary compliance with restrictions and regulations.
- We anticipate that there will be an increase in crime particularly online and cyber-crime. Along with reports of domestic abuse and latterly anti-social behaviour. There has been a decrease in reporting of alcohol related offences and violent crime.
- Experience of The COVID-19 pandemic has had some positive outcomes in term of the work of Police Scotland.
- Partnership work with other organisations such as Midlothian Council, SFRS and third sector organisations has been improved, developed, and strengthened.
- The pandemic has encouraged a review of operational procedures and resulted in an effective, increased use of technology and ultimately, an improvement in service provision. The service has invested in technology, greater use of statistical analysis and resulted in an increase in productivity. A report on the work of Police Scotland during this period will be published after the upcoming election.

Chairperson, Robert Hogg thanked Inspector Robertson and Sergeant Lindsay for their detailed presentation and response.

**Further questions were invited from those present.**

***Stability of current community based officers remaining in post.***

- 5 – 6 officers have been recruited
- Abstractions from their community roles will be reduced where possible
- In the context that individual officers may wish to seek career development or promotion, officers will be encouraged to remain in their community roles as long as possible.

***Proposed reduction of urban speed limit to 20mph***

- If the proposed reduction in speed limit is enacted, Police Scotland will initially focus on education and awareness raising but Police Scotland as is normally the situation will enforce adherence to speed limits.
- Midlothian officers will be consulting with colleagues in adjoining areas where there is already a 20mph urban speed limit in place.

***Use of Zoom***

- As discussed previously, Officers will not be able to join online meetings.
- Sergeant Lindsay will seek clarification about whether officers would be able to join meetings using the telephone.

***Population Increase in Midlothian and impact of police services***

- There is recognition that the increase in the number of housing developments will have an impact on police services.

***Neighbourhood Watch***

- Sergeant Lindsay confirmed that officers would provide support to Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

***Excessive Noise from Motor Cars and Bikes***

- Driving or riding with an excessively loud exhaust system is considered to be anti-social behaviour and Road Policing officers will address these issues where detected.
- MFCC members are asked to encourage reports if they are aware of any types of behaviour they consider to be anti-social.

## **INFORMATION FROM POLICE SCOTLAND, RECEIVED AFTER THE MEETING**

### **Zoom Meetings**

- Following further consultation with the Local Command Team, please see conformation of national instruction regarding police officers using the 'Zoom' platform.
- With regard to any request for Community Officers to dial into Community Council Meetings via Zoom, please be advised that Zoom is **not** available for use or permitted by Police Scotland officers or staff. As previously mentioned, Microsoft Teams is the meeting/conferencing platform Police Scotland use.
- With consideration to this guidance, officers have therefore been instructed to continue to submit written reports to Community Councils groups, prior to their meetings taking place on any platform other than Microsoft Teams.
- Community Council groups can still engage with their local community officers by email or telephone.
- Community Council groups can contact Police at any time using 101 or 999 in an emergency.

### **Microsoft Teams**

- Should Community Council Groups choose to hold their future meetings on the Microsoft Teams platform, then our Community Officers would be able to participate via audio and video link.

### **Future Meetings**

- As discussed at Wednesday's meeting, as soon as the Scottish Government guidance permits Community Council Meetings to return to a face-to-face format, our Community Officers will be delighted to attend in person.

### **Police Scotland – Midlothian based contact details.**

- Details of who the Community Officer is, along with their contact details, are contained in the police reports that are sent to Community Councils.
- Further information can be found here: [www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/)
- [www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/midlothian/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/midlothian/)
- Call 101 for advice or to report a crime, or 999 if it is an emergency

### **Area Command Structure**

- See next page

### **Action:**

PJ will send out a document with contact details for local officers.



## The Lothians and Scottish Borders Division

### Local Police Commander

Ch. Supt. John McKenzie

#### Operations

T/Supt. Gill Geany

#### Support & Service Delivery

Supt. Gregg Banks

#### Partnerships, Preventions & Resilience

Supt. Debbie Forrester

#### Crime & Public Protection

Det. Supt. Alwyn Bell

#### East Lothian LAC

T/CI Neil Mitchell

#### Midlothian LAC

CI Arron Clinkscales

#### Scottish Borders LAC

CI Vinnie Fisher

#### West Lothian LAC

CI Alun Williams

#### Divisional Co-ordination Unit

CI Stevie Duncan

#### Public Protection Unit

T/DCI Ben Leathes

#### Public Protection Unit

T/DCI Keith MacKay

#### Crime

DCI Bryan Burns

### **3. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Correction to Minutes**

The word 'each' to be added after £40,000 in Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council updates

#### **Previous Minutes**

**Proposed:** Jan Irvine

**Seconded:** Gina Temple

### **4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

#### **Bonnyrigg and Lasswade**

- i** Cyclists are speeding on the railway walk, particularly the stretch from Rosewell to Bonnyrigg. BLCC have been advised that Police Scotland and CAT teams have begun patrolling the area on quad bikes and speaking to cyclists.
- ii** Planning Committee has approved planning permission in principle to a development of 1000 houses at Hopefield, Bonnyrigg. Elected member advised that included in the conditions are:
  - A community school incorporating community and health facilities
  - 25% allocation to affordable housing
- i** Midlothian Council is applying for new bus route development funding. Hoping to introduce a new bus route to improve connectivity between Hopefield, Dalkeith, Gorebridge and Straiton
- ii** Developer contributions, intended for the A7 urbanisation, should not be made at the cost of local community facilities.
- iii** *Old St Mary's Primary School site.* A public consultation has started on Midlothian Council's proposal to build a 'care village'.
- iv** Merger preparations continuing and work is well under way on the new constitution and website.
- v** Public consultation ends on Wednesday 19 May [also the date of next MFCC meeting].
- vi** *Premises licence application issue.* A Local golf club is refurbishing and has applied for significant extensions to their licence. BLCC had no objections. However, a resident has come forward after the consultation period to complain that they had not received notification of the application and had not been able to comment in time. They claim that the only notification came in the form of posters on temporary fencing which is usually taken down during the day to allow access to the building works. Resident has written to the Licensing Board anyway and has asked for our assistance. BLCC will write to the Licensing Board and ask for clarification on the notification process.



### **Gorebridge**

- i Local residents concerned about blocked drains and potential flooding risk
- ii Are exploring the provision of 'welcome to Gorebridge signs.

#### **Action:**

**Gorebridge CC members advised to take pictures of instances of blocked drains/flooding and send to Ian Lennox ([ian.lennox@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:ian.lennox@midlothian.gov.uk))**

### **Moorfoot**

- i Are using Facebook more frequently and would like to know if other Community Councils have a 'code of conduct' that they could use.
- ii JT has is developing a draft code of conduct document and will circulate to Federation members

#### **Action:**

**JT to circulate code of conduct / social media audit**

### **Roslin and Bilston**

- i Sid Gardiner has arranged a meeting with Peter Arnsdorf (Midlothian Council Planning) for Tuesday 27 April

### **Tynewater**

- i Myrtle Pont and Joan Higginson were welcomed to the Federation Meeting.
- ii Tynewater Community Councillors would be interested in some training around the planning system.

#### **Action:**

**PJ to contact PAS and or Midlothian Council Planning re providing a short session. To be added to May MFCC agenda**

## **6. EDINBURGH AIRPORT FLIGHTPATHS**

- i AW presented information about use of current flightpaths
- ii Highlighted that the Ministry of defence are requesting use of addition airspace for training and exercise purposes

## **7. USE OF FEDERATION GOOGLMAIL EMAIL ADDRESS / MFCC EMAIL ADDRESS FOR MC WEBSITE**

- i There had been concern that the Federation Googlegroup email address could have been misused. PJ had removed that email address from the MFCC entry on the Midlothian Council website
- ii There was agreement that a new email address be created to enable contact with Federation members.
- iii Emails sent to the address ([contact-midlothianfederation@googlegroups.com](mailto:contact-midlothianfederation@googlegroups.com)), will be forwarded to RH and CMcG.

**Action: PJ to update MFCC entry on Midlothian Council Website**

**8. CHANGES TO MFCC CONSTITUTION**

- i Changes to the Constitution relating the use of the MFCC bank account and meetings were accepted and adopted. (see revisions below)
- ii **9. Meetings of the Federation.** *The Annual General Meeting of the Federation shall be held each year in November, where the Chairman shall deliver a report and Treasurer shall provide the Audited Account. Thereafter, the Federation shall meet throughout the year at intervals not exceeding three months. Dates of regular meetings during the year, the times of meetings, and the venue, shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting.*

*The Federation may conduct virtual (on-line) meetings by means of a telephone conference, video conferencing facility or similar communications equipment - so long as all Community Council representatives participating in the meeting can hear each other; a Community Council representative participating in a meeting in this manner shall be deemed to be 'present' in person at the meeting. For the avoidance of doubt, a vote given by an attendee participating in the meeting through any of these methods will be taken to be given personally. Hybrid (combined regular and virtual) meetings of the Federation shall be valid provided they are conducted in the same manner as meeting described above.*

**15. Control of Finance.** *All monies held by the Federation, from whatever source, are solely to further the objectives of the Federation, and shall be held by an elected Treasurer on behalf of the Federation. The Treasurer is authorised to receive monies on behalf of the Federation, and when approved by the Federation, to disburse the money held. All disbursement shall be by cheque or by Banker's Automated Clearing System (BACS). Payments by cheque must be signed by any two office-bearers who are authorised signatories of Midlothian Federation of Community Councils. Authorised signatories may not be related to each other or co-habitees. BACS payments shall be made on the authorisation and recorded confirmation of two unrelated, not co-habitees and authorised office bearers. Receipts for expenditure must be obtained and held by the Treasurer. The Treasurer is to keep a written account and is to prepare and have the accounts independently examined for presentation and approval at the Annual General Meeting.*

**8 GALA DAY GRANTS**

- i The Chairperson had received a request for information about the availability of grant funding to support Gala Day celebrations in 2021.
- ii PJ had contacted colleagues in Midlothian Council and although they had replied, the information was not that which had been requested.

- iii RH noted that the response from Midlothian Council had been disappointing and the matter required to be pursued.

## **9 ENVIRONMENT**

- i No issues were raised
- ii Noted that the Penicuik Recycling Centre has reopened.

## **10 INFRASTRUCTURE**

- i No issues raised

## **11 COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- i Next Meeting is in June
- ii The vacancy of Community Planning Manager has not yet been advertised.

## **12 PLANNING**

- i Recordings of the virtual meetings of the Council and Planning Committee (from June 2020) are available on the Council's Youtube channel and live viewing of these meetings is also now available. Midlothian Council meetings are available to view online. Further information is available here: [Midlothian Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/Meetings)
- ii AW has been searching the Scottish Government (SG) website to try to access information about Developer Contributions (DC).
- iii He has contacted SG but, at the point of discussion, has not received any reply.
- iv He noted that Inverclyde Council has a document about DC, Midlothian Council does not.
- v BLCC is going to write to Peter Arnsdorf to clarify the position on closing dates for submissions in response to planning applications.
- vi RH encouraged Community Councils to monitor applications for planning development
- vii ASK highlighted the availability of the RAMPS system for checking proposed planning developments.
- viii RH raised concerns about the potential 'coalescence' of the Mayfield & Easthouses, Newtongrange, and Gorebridge communities. At a recent meeting, an elected member had suggested that this could lead to improved service provision.

## **13 CARE FOR PEOPLE**

- i Alison White is leaving to take up a new post.
- ii There were 98 deaths in Midlothian Care Homes related to COVID19.
- iii There was a suggestion that COVID infections may have been related to the movement of sessional staff between Care Homes.

**14 LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW (PAPERS CIRCULATED 22 MARCH) - SET DATE TO DISCUSS**

**15 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND AGM'S**

- i PJ noted that in other local authorities, area Community Council elections / AGM's were held during a fixed point (week or month) during the year.
- ii Would Midlothian Community Councils consider operating in a similar way?

**Action:**

**MFCC members to discuss at their community council meetings to gauge opinion**

**Set as an agenda topic for an MFCC meeting later on in the year.**

**16 MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 31 MAY 2021)**

- i B7003 is not being closed (see proposal in 2020)

**Action**

**PJ to invite Tynewater Community Council members to next meeting**

**PJ to circulate document on Capital Expenditure**

**18. A.O.C.B.**

- i ASK informed the group that the Clydesdale Bank do not charge for Community Councils to use their Services.
- ii C McGill highlighted concerns about the number of HGV vehicles that appear to be using rural routes particularly in the Tynewater, Gorebridge, and Tynewater areas.
- iii If trying to assess the number of vehicles using these routes, reminder that they should be counted going in both directions.

**19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 19 MAY, 7.00 – 9.00, Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82756931145?pwd=WnZQc1BiVXFQdWxVRUZGdVZ5dDF6Zz09>

**Meeting ID:** 827 5693 1145

**Passcode:** 693531