

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

19 May, 2021

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead
Vicky Milton (VM)	Danderhall
Cath McGill (CMcG)	Gorebridge
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Lorna Crook (LC)	Moorfoot
Andrew Marshall (AM)	Newtongrange
Mirabelle Maslin (MM)	Roslin and Bilston
Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tynewater

Apologies

Dougie West (DW)	Poltonhall
Jan Irvine (JI)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Gina Temple (GT)	Loanhead

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council (Minutes)
-------------------	------------------------------

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

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

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Correction to Minutes

Although AM (NGCC) had been present at the April meeting his attendance had not been recorded. PJ to amend April minutes.

Previous Minutes

Proposed: Cath McGill

Seconded: Andrew Watt

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council

Annual General Meeting

- a. Held on 13 May
- b. One Community Councillor and the Minute Secretary stood down.
- c. Proposal to hold future AGMs at the same time as other Community Councils was discussed and there were no concerns raised. The new CC will revisit the proposal after the merger is complete.

Update on merger with Poltonhall and Hopfield Community Council

- a. The public consultation closed on 19 May.
- b. Next step: both Community Councils will hold a public vote. The outcome will be recorded and sent to the CLL team for action.
- c. Then, legal papers to be submitted to special meeting of Council to be held within 90 days.

Dalkeith Community Council

- a. Road surfacing is being undertaken in South Street. Although diversions have been in place, there has been considerable congestion.
- b. The Scottish Government have installed a COVID Test centre in Ramsay Croft car park for those already showing symptoms of COVID.
- c. Filming is being conducted in the town.
- d. There is a perception among some residents that Midlothian Council are not keeping local people informed about developments in the town

Damhead Community Council

- a. There are concerns about the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases.
- b. Members have met Loanhead and Roslin & Bilston Community Councils re the Straiton developments.
- c. A resident is pursuing the improvement of Broadband services in the area.
- d. Residents are also pursuing the reduction of speed limits in the area. Currently this is 60mph and in the interests of safety of residents and motorists alike, the Community Council believes this should be reduced.

Danderhall Community Council

Annual General Meeting

- a. The Annual General Meeting is being held in June. The current Planning representative and the Chairperson are resigning.
- b. Will be promoting the Community Council at the Church Fair on Sunday 23 May. Will also be using printed and social media.
- c. Attendance at the Community Council's Planning specific meetings has reduced.
- d. 'Guerrilla Gardeners' is an independent group that recently have had a good promotion in the Advertiser. Members are taking over responsibility for clearing of weeds in the area. The groups' work is being driven by its members desire to resist the use of Glysohate in the area

Millerhill Park

- a. Residents have resisted the introduction of a 'pump track' in the village. There have been other proposals that have also been rejected. The developer is now working with residents to ascertain their needs and support the design of an alternative project.
- b. Millerhill has very poor broadband speeds. Residents are now examining a Government voucher scheme that may enable them to have improved speeds by 2022.
- c. If other Community Council members would like further information about the voucher scheme, they can contact Danderhall Community Council.

Local Housing Plan

- a. On behalf of Danderhall Community Council, Cllr Curran has invited a member of the Council's Housing team to join the September meeting following discussion of the Local Housing Plan at the Council meeting last week.
- b. Concerns have been raised that 'Danderhall' & 'Shawfair' seemed to be referred to interchangeably throughout the report. This is a highly contentious identity point for people living in the area, which they believe the Council should be leading the way on presenting accurately.
- c. In addition, the phasing plan for Shawfair for 2021 agreed with the Council in February shows that some of the sites referred to in the Local Housing Plan will not be started in the timeframes the Plan states. Danderhall CC is curious about how those site start delays will affect their property stock projections.

Food waste provision

- a. There is inequality of service provision across the area.
- b. Newton Village, Shawfair Farm, Harelaw, and Millerhill do not have the food waste collections at present, despite the Lorries collecting these from elsewhere in Midlothian and driving past them on the way to the Millerhill Recycling Centre.
- c. Previously, Midlothian Council (MC) had indicated that they were complying with Scottish Government requirements for provision of the service for villages over a certain number of houses, and that MC was unable to deviate from those minimum statutory requirements to include other adjacent areas despite the populations increasing as the new sites are completed. (For example, new Bellway and Miller new builds get the service here but the Dandara and MacMic sites 2 minutes' drive away do not because of their proximity to Danderhall even though they have all being moved into in the same year.)

There appears to be an update on this position as of last month. This may be of interest to wider Midlothian CCs - Derek Oliver has advised that:

- a. *The Council can, and will, introduce a kerbside collection of food waste in areas that do not currently receive this service. Clearly, there will be a cost associated with doing so.*
- b. *The food waste fleet (7.5t vehicles) is currently operating at full load carrying capacity.*
- c. *This will be scoped into the wider waste strategy and, timeously, the current fleet of food waste vehicles is due for renewal.*
- d. *Consideration is being given to replacing the 7.5t vehicles with those of a larger 12t size, which would allow MC to collect more waste from the increasing number of new build estates, with an additional vehicle allowing MC to introduce kerbside collections in the areas not currently offered this service.*

When asked for details that are more specific:

- e. *MC will be submitting a funding bid for the difference in price between the 12t and 7.5t vehicles to the Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund. The deadline for expressions of interest for funding in the first year is 19 May.*
- f. *MC have been advised that there is a currently a delay in vehicle manufacturing and it does not expect to take delivery of any new vehicles until mid-2022.*
- g. *The actual rural areas that will be offered the service has yet to be determined. It is likely to be conurbations of more than 50 properties, and homes on main roads between these areas. MC would expect Millerhill and Newton Village to be included but farms and individual properties situation off the main route our vehicle would travel between larger developments not to be.*
- h. *A 12t vehicle would not have any issues servicing properties located in areas that are currently served by a 26t vehicle for the collection of their wheeled bins.*

Gorebridge Community Council

- a. There has been lengthy discussion with Springfield, developers at Lingerwood. Concerns about type of houses for example different needs of the community e.g. affordable / downsizing / retirement, green space, employment, access to shops, impact on roads
- b. The council planning meeting highlighted some discussion about schools that may have an impact on the new Gorebridge High School that is still planned for 2025. Consultation will not start until 2023/24. GDCC have created a sub-committee in collaboration with Moorfoot CC who should be in the catchment area for a new school. A site for the new school has yet to be identified.
- c. There is a potential that the St Andrews RC Primary may be closing as the council review the provision of denominational schools
- d. The installation of 'gateway' signage around all main routes in to Gorebridge has been agreed.
- e. Speeding on Barleyknowe Road continues to be an issue of concern.
- f. 30 mph stickers will be put on wheelie bins in problem areas including Barleyknowe Road/Hunterfield Road/Powdermill Brae and Gorebridge Main Street
- g. An unexpected planning permission in principle application, at Stobs Farm, was discussed and the general consensus was to object on a variety of grounds including it not being allocated on the local plan for housing/inadequate infrastructure/impact on schools and health services and current level of building in Gorebridge
- h. Redheugh was only briefly discussed, similar concerns to other planning
- i. A sub group discussing comms and websites has been formed. The intention is to create a 'one-stop shop' for everything going on in Gorebridge.
- j. The 'station adopters' have restarted work on replanting.
- k. A project to paint planters to highlight the work of the resilience partnership is underway. Planters currently at Emily Court will be moved to the Hive and outside the Beacon.
- l. Some discussions about how to lobby local councillors on issues raised at the meeting continue and more information on this will be added to our website and maybe an FAQ section.
- m. C McG will pass on contact of details of the Newlandrigg resident, who has information on HGV's passing through the village, to MT (TCC).
- n. Drains in Gorebridge still flooding – CMcG was advised to contact Ian Lennock. He had responded quickly in other situations

Action

CMcG to contact forward details of Newlandrigg resident to MT

Mayfield and Easthouses Community Council

- a. As noted elsewhere, MFEC are working in partnership with neighbouring Community Councils to address issues of concern around the 'Lingerwood' developments.
- b. Will be providing a joint response and in addition, a response that will focus on the interests of Mayfield and Easthouses residents.
- c. The combined primary school is receiving funding for development.
- d. There is concern about the shortage of Catholic Primary School teachers and its potential impact on St Lukes PS.
- e. The new Easthouses Primary School is like to have three streams. Further information from Midlothian Council Education department is required.

Moorfoot Community Council

Update on the Skyrora planning application (Rocket testing facility at Broadlaw Quarry)

- a. Permission has been given but with a number of conditions, that addressed the concerns we had with the application.
- b. One being that there should be a Community Liaison Plan. This would include a complaints procedure and a method of notification of firing schedules.
- c. MP will be in discussion with Skyrora about this later this month.
- d. The first six tests will be subject to a noise compliance monitoring report.
- e. In parallel with organising the Community Liaison Plan, the group will develop a Community Participation Programme. This will include primary and secondary schools outreach and other community activities such as Gala days, fetes etc.
- f. CN (Damhead) highlighted that the planning permission document should be carefully read to ensure that Moorfoot CC are clear about the conditions of the documents.

AGM and Election Dates

The possibility of bringing the AGM and elections into line with the other CCs has been discussed. It was felt this could be problematic because of the fixed timings controlled by our AGM.

Neil Williams Haulage (NWH) Lorries complaints to Gorebridge CC.

The Community Council is looking into re-establishing the liaison that it originally had, with NWH. However, the number of trips was never limited and was always going to be market led and could be as many as 30 Lorries doing five trips per day.

Newtongrange Community Council

- a. A funding application for improvements in Welfare Park has been successful. There is a focus on new LED lighting, drainage works, MUGA improvements and new trees. The aim is to 'sort the big stuff first'. In addition, some work to improve poorly surfaced paths will be undertaken.
- b. Springfield Developments – NCC is taking community through the process and the best way to respond formally to the application.
- c. Specific VC consultation meeting with NCC representatives held on 18/05.
- d. Work, led by Newtongrange Development Trust is ongoing, at the Pool; – plan to include the police community team in next event for bike security and general community engagement.
- e. Working in partnership with local councillors, there has been good engagement with Midlothian Council on clearance of drains.
- f. Work is commencing to create the next issue of the Newtongrange Flyer (NCC Newsletter).
- g. Review of possible Twinning initiative.

Poltonhall Community Council

- a. The Annual General Meeting has been held. Now have seven members with five being able to attend online meetings.
- b. The period of public consultation about the proposed merger has ended.
- c. The community council will vote on the proposal at the next meeting.

Roslin and Bilston Community Council

- a. MFCC members passed on their good wishes to Margaret Littlewood who is unwell at the moment
- b. There are issues with Taylor Wimpey developments.

Tynewater Community Council

- a. Has been working on GDPR requirements. Members expressed their thanks to Rosewell CC for their support.

4. MFCC / LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS - LOCATION OF MEETINGS

- a. Those present discussed the impact of the remaining restrictions upon the possibility of Community Councils to be able to meet in person.
- b. There was agreement that decisions as to when they would or could return to face-face meetings would be made by individual Community Councils.
- c. In the short term, there was agreement that community councils will continue to meet virtually and, in September, will be able to make a more informed decision.

5. EDINBURGH AIRPORT FLIGHTPATHS

- a A review of the work of the Noise Board has been undertaken. The report will make recommendations
- b A Strategic Plan for the year ahead is being developed.
- c The Annual Report is almost ready for publication. AW will distribute once it has been completed.
- d Currently there are few flights over Midlothian but this is likely to increase as restrictions are relaxed.
- e Complaints about excessive noise can be made via the Airport website.
<https://flighttracking.casper.aero/edi/enquiry/index.php>
- f If any MFCC member would be interested in joining the Noise Board meetings, contact AW.

Action:

Once the Annual Report has been completed, AW will circulate to MFCC members. MFCC members should contact AW if they are interested in representing the Federation at Noise Board meetings.

6 ACCESS / PATHWAYS / LAND REFORM ACT

- a. Roslin – A stile has been removed to be replaced by Deer fence
- b. Members discussed the advantages of Midlothian Council having a position of 'Access Officer'.
- c. There still many examples of public access being blocked by Landowners.
- d. PJ had contacted James Kinch about this and had asked for an update. James Kinch requested information about paths that have restricted access or where access has been blocked. Those present agreed that they would provide information for RM to be able to submit a document to James Kinch containing the information he has requested.

Action

**MFCC members / Community Councillors to submit information to RM by 28 May
RM to submit information to James Kinch.**

7 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- a. RH noted that in Mayfield and Easthouses, weeds are becoming a big problem. At the moment, there are not any community-based groups that can tackle the problem and therefore the community is solely reliant on Midlothian Council to address the issue.

8 INFRASTRUCTURE

- a. ASK highlighted the proposed downgrading of Dalkeith Police station and its potential impact on Midlothian's communities.
- b. PJ indicated that he is collating information provided by Police Scotland in response to requests made at the April MFCC meeting.

Action

PJ to circulate Police Scotland structure for Midlothian

9 COMMUNITY PLANNING

- a. There has not been a Community Planning in the period since the last MFCC meeting.

10 PLANNING

- i Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) does not respond to planning applications of developments of less than 100 units. HSCP could get developer contributions for new building and resources in areas of development.
- ii HSCP will comment on the Lingerwood development as it could be up 1000 units.

11 CARE FOR PEOPLE

- a. Lateral Flow Test kits can be requested here: www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
- b. The Red Cross have now ceased their initiative for shopping and prescription collection support for community members.
- c. RH highlighted that access to Residential Care Home is still restrictive and this is causing concern for families with relatives in these homes.

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

There have now been some local responses made by Community Councils. Agreed that this item can be removed from the agenda.

13 COVID TEST CENTRES

- a. Testing will be provided in Dalkeith Arts Centre: 1 – 5 June and 8 – 12 June (11am – 6 pm).
- b. Lateral flow home testing kits can be picked up at a Mobile Testing Unit in the Ladywood Leisure Centre car park from **Monday 24 May to Saturday 29 May** inclusive.

- c. Locations and opening times for the Asymptomatic Test Centres will change in line with need.
- d. The latest information about Covid testing can be found here:
www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200296/coronavirus/699/covid_community_testing

14 MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 31 May 2021)

- a. RH noted that the group has been working well with Midlothian Council. In particular, he highlighted the contribution of Alan Heatley who has regularly attended meetings and has provided a great deal of useful and relevant information that has been supportive of the work of the group.
- b. RH requested that an update about additional funding for road improvements

Action

PJ to seek an update about the recently announced increase in funding.

18. A.O.C.B.

- a. Those present noted that there had been good attendance at the Midlothian Vaccination centres but there had been an increase in numbers of Covid19 infections.
- b. There was recognition that local residents need to remain careful and follow guidelines and restrictions.
- c. Community council elections and AGM's - There had been responses from some community councils. However, members are encouraged to seek discussion with the members if they have not been able to thus far

Action

Community Councils to seek the views of their members about coordinating election dates and AGM's so that they are held with the same period in the year.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE, 7.00 – 9.00, Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82157158181?pwd=UVoyR2NhV0lUSDDnNFJzMDNhdzdBUT09>

Meeting ID: 821 5715 8181

Passcode: 342914

Dial In

0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 821 5715 8181

Passcode: 342914