

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

16 June 2021

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Joanne Gilles (JG)	Damhead
Claire Ross (CR)	Danderhall
Gina Temple (GT)	Loanhead
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Dougie West (DW)	Poltonhall
Ann Montague (AM)	Rosewell
Helen Blackburn	Rosewell
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tynewater

Apologies

Jan Irvine (JI)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Cath McGill (CMcG)	Gorebridge
Lorna Crook (LC)	Moorfoot
Vicky Milton (VM)	Danderhall

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council (Minutes)
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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

Downgrading of Dalkeith Police Station

The custody suite is being removed from Midlothian so there will be no facility for holding arrested people in cells in Midlothian. They will be taken to St Leonards Police Station in Edinburgh. This will mean that Midlothian residents will need to travel further once they have been released from Police custody. ASK noted that concerns had been expressed by elected members at a recent Midlothian Council meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Proposed: Ann Stewart Kmicha

Seconded: Myrtle Pont

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council

1. The meeting in June was not quorate
2. The Community Council was unable therefore, to take a final vote on the proposal to merge with Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council.
3. The next meeting will be in August
4. Due to illness of the current Chairperson, DE will taking over the duties in the interim.

Dalkeith Community Council

1. Several roads in Dalkeith are being resurfaced and consequently congestion has increased.
2. Pre Applications have been submitted for the Salters Park and Sheriffhall South developments.
3. South Esk – Mine works discharge. ASK highlighted that the cost of building a treatments works is going to be expensive.
4. Car Parking is going to free in the Town Centre.
5. The defibrillator project is almost complete.
6. AW highlighted a 'projector' project, proposed by the town's young people is likely to go ahead. He congratulated them on the initiative.

Damhead Community Council

1. Work of the Community Council has recently been focussed upon the Straiton West, New Pentland, and Aldi developments.
2. Damhead has been meeting and working with neighbouring Community Councils (Roslin & Bilston and Loanhead) on these developments.
3. Damhead is keen for the development of a Masterplan for the area.
4. After what appears to be a year when litter has increased, residents have working hard to remove litter from the area.
5. A 'Midlothian Litter Pickers' Facebook page has been created. [Midlothian Litter Pickers | Facebook](#)
6. Broadband – the service available to local people has deteriorated in recent months. On a positive note, BT Openreach, for the purpose of improved provision, has agreed that Damhead can be considered as a community rather than a collection of houses.

Danderhall Community Council

1. Planning a hybrid-style AGM on June 29th with majority joining via Zoom but with support from Councillor Curran in person at the Miner's Club for anyone who is not able to join via Zoom (with social distancing in place).
2. Information for the 'new residents' project has been completed. Compiled in association with local Church, it takes the format of a 4 page leaflet that includes the history of the area, information about community groups, phone numbers for local shops and services and meeting times of local groups. The leaflet has been posted through all Shawfair houses. In order that leaflets can be included in welcome packs, an electronic version has been sent to developers.
3. Two thousand A5 leaflets, promoting the work of DDCC and the AGM date. With the help of volunteers they have been posted through doors and also left in public locations
4. Targeted Facebook posting to recruit new community councillors is in progress and will be ramped up over the next week
5. There are four residents interested becoming community councillors as a result of the Secretary's Facebook posts alone
6. No obvious candidates coming forward yet for Chair / Minute Secretary roles
7. Working with Midlothian Council to develop Millerhill Park.
8. RH congratulated Danderhall Community Council on the work it has been undertaking on behalf of its community.
9. CR highlighted the support provided by Midlothian Council's Planning Officers. The Community Council has been able to be much more effective in their responses to planning applications.

Howgate Community Council

1. The Church has been sold
2. Incidents of speeding through the village are perceived to have increased in recent months. The use of the route by Heavy Goods Vehicles also appears to have increased.
3. The road surfaces on routes through the village have deteriorated, particularly the roundabout.
4. One of the area's elected members has been trying to address these issues.

Loanhead Community Council

1. After consultation with Damhead and Roslin & Bilston CCs, Loanhead Community Council has submitted objections to the proposal for the new Aldi Store at Pentland Road.
2. Loanhead Community Council has no objection to an Aldi store but it suggested that the proposed development should be sited within the Straiton Retail Park where a number of units remain empty, instead of building on a Greenfield site.
3. We have received confirmation from the Councillors that our three bids for Environmental budget funding were successful. Bids included: Fifty litter pickers; re-laying stones along the path to Straiton Wildlife Pond; and creating a Loanhead Heritage Trail. The latter has been agreed in principle but the specifics are still being discussed.
4. Loanhead CC discussed harmonising the date of the AGM in line with the other CCs. There has been no objection to this from our members. In fact, it was seen as a positive move that would raise the profile of the CC AGMs throughout Midlothian.
5. A repair is required to the railway line path, Roslin side of Viaduct - can anyone advise us who to contact about this. This path does not belong to Midlothian Council or the Edinburgh Greenfield Trust.

Mayfield and Easthouses Community Council

1. Have not received a Police Report
2. 1000 houses being planned
3. Have informed Police Scotland about the number people in the area using motorbikes inappropriately.
4. Fiona Robertson (Director of Education) has offered to attend a Community Council meeting to education provision in the area.
5. Have concerns about the proposed layout of roads in the Springfield development.

Moorfoot Community Council

1. **Query about NWH vehicles on B roads:** We have made contact with NWH and are hoping to arrange a meeting to get an update from them about the quarry infill and information about where the current materials are being moved.
2. **Skyrora Rocket testing site:** We have been in discussion with the group to set up a Community Liaison Plan. Quarterly meetings will be held when the firing schedule will be made available and advertised both on site and locally. The site will have 24/7 security and there will be a clear complaints procedure. Skyrora are keen to engage with the local community engagement. They have

been passed contact information for schools. It is hoped to have an Open Day once the facility is in place (unlikely before October)

3. No Midlothian Councillors were present at the June meeting and no reports received.
4. Moorfoot Community Council needs money to replace four notice boards, which are in a very poor state.
5. We are holding our postponed AGM in August and are investigating holding this face-to-face.

Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council

1. Community Councillors met but, due to some members being unavailable, the meeting was not quorate
2. The meeting was therefore unable to take a final vote on the proposal to merge with Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council. This may delay the merger of the two Community Councils until September 2021.

Rosewell Community Council

1. The grass on Verges and Roundabouts in the area are not being cut.
2. The U48 has been resurfaced but has been signed as a 'Private Road'. AM is going to check that this possible.

Roslin and Bilston Community Council

1. A new noticeboard has been erected in Roslin. The siting of board and has received positive feedback from local residents.

Tynewater Community Council

1. Have been chasing up Police reports
2. Concerns have been raised about a development that remains uncompleted.
3. MP noted that the recorded level of traffic passing through Pathhead is often at a greater level than that on the A1.
4. Highlighted that not all residents are keen on the proposed 20mph speed limit. MP has visited the Borders where there has been a mixed reaction to the 20mph speed limit.

4. EDINBURGH AIRPORT FLIGHTPATHS

- 1 There have been no Noise reports for the last three quarters
- 2 AW will circulate the Airport Noise report to MFCC members

Action:

AW to circulate report when available

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

1. Malcolm Spaven has resigned from his role in Midlothian Council.
2. RH highlighted the important role that he had played in promoting environmental issues in the county.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING

1. Community Planning Partnership has not met for the 3 months
2. Will be meeting on 17 June
3. Derek Oliver will be reporting on Roads infrastructure

7. CARE FOR PEOPLE

1. The group will be promoting an awareness raising campaign to encourage local people to adhere to regulations. There is concern that those who have received the vaccine believe that they will not get Covid-19.
2. There appears to be a mismatch between the number of people who wish to join groups but many groups are closing because of the lack of numbers of people wish to participate.
3. There would appear to be a lack of clarity of in guidelines for groups and activities restarting.
4. Parents and carers of schoolchildren are being encouraged to contact schools to ascertain what activities are being provided over the summer holidays.

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

1. Last meeting was on 31 May.
2. Was attended by Derek Oliver (Chief Officer Place)
3. PJ will circulate *draft* minutes of the meeting

Action

PJ to circulate minutes of MTRaP meetings

9. **A.O.C.B.**

1. **Retirement of David Wilson (Howgate Community Council)**

RH noted that David Wilson has decided to retire from Howgate Community Council and the Federation. RH noted that David had made valuable contributions to the representation of Howgate Community Council and the work of the Federation. On behalf of MFCC, he thanked David for the work he had undertaken and wished him well for the future.

2. **Police Scotland Reports for Community Councils**

RH noted that MFCC had been reassured at the April meeting, that Community Councils would be receiving reports for their areas and that officers would not be removed from their locally based duties.

Danderhall Community Council highlighted that generally they do have 'chase up' their reports. Currently they do not receive crime statistics for Millerhill

3. Those present noted that the number of Covid-19 infections in the county is increasing. Furthermore, a significant number of residents are not attending to get the vaccinations. RH highlighted the situation on Lothian Buses where frequently, there were more than the safe numbers of passengers, some of whom are not wearing masks.

4. **LEADER Funding**

RH highlighted the availability of LEADER funding. Tyne Esk LEADER has been allocated £3.49m in funding. A minimum of 10% of that is ring-fenced for rural enterprise projects, and another 10% minimum is ring-fenced for farm diversification. Most of the rest of the funds go towards community grants.

See more information here: www.tyneesk.co.uk

5. **Elected Members Environmental Funds**

In many Community Council areas the availability of access to these funds have not promoted openly. Expenditure of these funds generally has not been undertaken in a transparent way.

6. **Council Meetings on You Tube**

Some meetings have been posted on the channel but not all

Action

ASK will raise the issue of Police reports at the next Community Planning meeting she attends.

MFCC members are urged to promote the need to adhere to social distancing and other related regulations, on their websites and social media pages.

PJ to check again with colleagues and request that meetings between November 2020 and June 2021 be posted. In addition, request that a 'playlist of Council meetings is created.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, 7.00 – 9.00, Zoom Join
Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82969150498?pwd=WIhoNWtBKzdkZDY4SWFPa3dTdjFHZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 6915 0498

Passcode: 474524

Dial by your location

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 829 6915 0498

Passcode: 474524

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