

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

19 January, 2022

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Joanne Gilles (JG)	Damhead
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Caroline Brown (CB)	Howgate
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Lorna Crook (LC)	Moorfoot
Moira Cuthbert	Penicuik
Dougie West (DW)	Poltonhall
Edith Cameron (EC)	Rosewell
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Mirabelle Maslin (MM)	Roslin and Bilston
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater
Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tynewater

Apologies

Linda Pender	Danderhall and District
Andrew Marshall	Newtongrange
Paul McGrath	Moorfoot

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council (Minutes)
Annette Lang (AL)	Midlothian Council, Group Service Manager CPP & CLLE
Rebekah Sullivan (RS)	Midlothian Council, Development Officer - CPP

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

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

2. **ANNETTE LANG - GROUP SERVICE MANAGER, CPP AND CLLE**

AL introduced Rebekah Sullivan who has been appointed to the post of 'Development Officer - Community Planning Partnership'.

Rebekah's initial priorities will include updating Communications (Twitter, Website, etc), and reviewing Community Planning Outcomes.

i Community Planning Board Outcomes

AL asked those present to consider the current and new vision for the Community Planning Board and its 3 year outcomes (see documents presented at the meeting and subsequently circulated).

Responses included:

- The vision needs to be achievable
- The requirement to be know how we judge what a 'fairer place' means.
- Is Midlothian an 'unfair' place to live at the moment?
- Is 'fairness' or lack of it able to be addressed?
- It would be helpful to have access to statistics to be able to make assessments.
- The current vision is OK – it is more neutral and realistic. Wording could be improved.

ii 3 Year Outcomes

AL highlighted that:

- the evidence that underpins the creation of the outcomes is taken from the Midlothian Profile
- Deprivation is largely geographic and focus of work in the 3 'priority areas' although there is recognition that there are small areas of deprivation across Midlothian.
- There is a considerable amount of in-work poverty, particularly where food and fuel are concerned.

Responses included

- The need for improved standards for everyone is not reflected in the Outcomes.
- Policy is more important than the phraseology and it is important to focus on *how* we are going to improve outcomes
- How is Midlothian going to get better paid jobs, there is a requirement to establish an improved industrial base. AL noted that Economic Development are working on this.
- People in Midlothian need the skills and knowledge and a workforce ready to be employed.
- Requirement to focus on people who need the most support.

iii Local Outcome Improvement Plans

AL noted that fewer resources are available and levels of poverty have been increasing, asking:

- Do we focus on the 3 Priority areas?
- Do we just do a 'Poverty Action Plan'?
- In addition to the 3 priority areas, should we look at areas where there is experience of poverty?
- Should there be an overarching Midlothian plan to reduce poverty?

Responses included

- It *is* important to recognise that there is deprivation in other areas.
- Plans and initiatives should include people in small areas of poverty.
- Important to focus on the 3 areas but still include small areas of deprivation.
- It is very important to involve local community organisations especially in rural areas
- Midlothian Council Officers could be more imaginative in the way they interact with local communities.

AL asked if residents would be comfortable with using the term 'Reducing Poverty'?

Responses included:

- We could be using a more positive term.
- Important to have a positive slant in initiatives.
- 'Levelling Up' is a good phrase. Words are important, people react to words.

iv MFCC Representation on Community Planning groups

AL highlighted that it is important that there are representatives from MFCC on the Community Planning Working Group and the Improving Opportunities Midlothian group.

Those present highlighted that this had been discussed at the AGM in December.

Action:

AL will provide brief descriptions of the roles involved and circulate to Federation members.

v Community Planning Conference November 2021

RS provided feedback on the Community Planning conference (see document previously circulated).

vi Engaging with local people

Some of those present noted that, in order to fully understand the issues that local communities are experiencing, it would be helpful if Midlothian Council Officers took the opportunity to come out into the community to see what is happening. They then could meet with representatives of community groups and organisations. Such visits could be part of an induction when a person starts work with Midlothian Council.

Action:

AL – will speak to HR to investigate how holders of Key Posts could be supported to effectively engage with local communities as part of their induction.

vii Community Councils

Those present highlighted considerations with regard to the involvement of local community members, both young and older.

Community Councils need to be seen to be relevant to local communities

The Chairperson (RH) thanked Annette and Rebekah for their attendance and engagement at the meeting.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Previous Minutes

Proposed: Dougie West

Seconded: Edith Cameron

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade

- i** A couple of major developments are starting in Bonnyrigg. Ground work has started on the new care village which is located on the site of the old St Mary's Primary School. The assisted housing development on the site of the old Scotmid Co-op is due to start in the next few weeks.
- ii** Traffic and parking issues around the new St Mary's School. An external contractor has completed a site visit and Midlothian Council are working on next steps.
- iii** One of our elected Councillors is looking into environmental health and waste disposal issues at local businesses.
- iv** We are concerned about the outcome of the decision to refuse an application for a pharmacy at Rosewell Community Hub. Residents are expected to use pharmacies in other areas, eg Bonnyrigg, however we have anecdotal evidence that our local pharmacies are not coping with current demand. Liaising with local Councillors on next steps.

- v One of our Community Councillors has asked us to look into providing assistance towards setting up a Post Office in Bonnyrigg. We are interested in the community post office that was recently set up by Midlothian Council in Newtongrange Library. Bonnyrigg residents do not have access to Lasswade Library during the day, so alternative premises would have to be found.
- vi We have a new Minute Secretary!

Damhead

- i The proposals for the A701 relief road continue to be the main topic of interest and concern for the community
- ii Engagement is planned with Montagu Evans re Destination Hillend proposals, including A702 access and improvements
- iii These are being considered within the wider context of the proposals for A701 relief road because improvements to the Hillend Triple Junction would in itself contribute significantly to easing congestion on the A701 (one of the key justifications given for the relief road).
- iv A decision on the preferred A701 Relief Road option is expected early in the New Year.

Gorebridge

- i Seeking new members to join
- ii May have to reschedule AGM

Mayfield and Easthouses

- i New schools announced – Easthouses Primary School and a new Mayfield Combined School
- ii An announcement of 1,000 new houses proposed & plans submitted for Mayfield & Easthouses and the Newtongrange area.
- iii Planning Proposal Consultations – Very few people have been invited. The timescale of 2 months is far too short

Moorfoot

- i Nothing to update for this period

Newtongrange

- i AGM held, roles and personnel remain the same. One new community councillor joining.
- ii CC liaising with Midlothian Council on additional landscaping to Welfare Park. Working towards Centenary event.
- iii Development of Community Flyer - we are collaborating with Newbattle HS pupils to format and produce graphics.

- iv Agreed refocus on Springfield Development with imminent planning application.
- v NCC engaging Midlothian Council on Listed Building Items within the Village - looking to protect items from local modifications.
- vi Engagement with Midlothian Council on Village centre masterplan and relocation of Library into church redevelopment.

Rosewell

- i Still having zoom meetings, possibly hybrid from February
- ii Still pursuing the creation of a pump track by Midlothian Council
- iii A Tennis Club is being created, anticipated that it will be open in spring.
- iv Pharmacy Practices Commission has refused permission for Rosewell to have a pharmacy.
- v Hoping to have community events such as a book sale coffee morning, and a Big Lunch in June.
- vi Shiel Burn clean up aspiration for April 2022 (litter and fly-tipped waste), but uncertainty remains about funding for a skip. If any other CCs have experience of cleaning up their stretch of the North or South Esk - could they contact Edith Cameron (rosewellcc@gmail.com) with any information which would help.

Tynewater

- i Nothing to update for this period

5. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS TO 'MEETINGS' AND 'CONTROL OF FINANCE'.

- i The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that Community Councils are operating differently. Meetings are now often online and electronic banking, to undertake financial transactions, is now used.
- ii PJ asked MFCC members to check that their Community Council Constitutions have been amended to reflect changes in the way that they operate.
- iii Once amended (as outlined in the existing Constitution), revised Constitutions are required to be submitted to the CLLE worker who supports their Community Council.

Action:

**PJ to circulate examples of the text that can be used to make appropriate changes to 'Meetings of Community Councils' and 'Control of Finance'.
Community Councils to make amendments as per their existing Constitution and forward to their Liaison officer.**

6. NOTICE BOARD – HOWGATE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

On behalf of Howgate Community Council, there was request for support with the purchase and installation of a new Notice Board in the village.

They were advised that a sum of £570.00 would be available. Once purchased, the receipt should be submitted to the MFCC Treasurer.

7. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i AW (Dalkeith) had previously circulated his report

8 CARE FOR PEOPLE

- i RH (Mayfield and Easthouses) noted that there are still in restrictions in place for residents of Care Homes
- ii Afghan refugees. 2 families have moved to Midlothian.
- iii The Health and Social Care Consultation is now live.

9 COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i Next Meeting will be on 27th January

10 PLANNING

- i Those present noted the excellent presentation / question and answer session on planning matters provided by Peter Arnsdorf at the MFCC AGM. MP (Tynewater) highlighted that PA had provided a presentation with clear information and full answers to the questions asked
- ii RB – highlighted concerns about issues relating to the ‘Green Belt’ in the county. This was particularly important to residents in the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade, Eskbank & Newbattle, Danderhall and Dalkeith Community Council areas. There was a wide ranging discussion about how the recent developments had arisen and been permitted.

11 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- i EC (Rosewell) is collating information on behalf of the Midlothian Litter Pickers groups.

Action:

MFCC members to contact EC (Rosewell CC - rosewellcc@gmail.com) with information about their Community Council’s Environmental group if they have one.

12 REMEMBERING TOGETHER

- i Following on from information disseminated in December PJ highlighted the project and invited MFCC members to join the group.

13 MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS

i Date of Next Meeting: 21 February, Monday, 6.00 – 7.30.

Contact PJ who will provide the Zoom link for Community Councillors who wish to join the meeting.

14. A.O.C.B.

i Active Travel Survey Links

General Information

[Consultations - Help us get more local people travelling actively | Midlothian Council](#)

Online Survey

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=fQWQf6A-kawfOBWhicIG2w2pTCE2ntKvoQZ7fd5JipUMEtSSEwzNjM1VU9PSkQyRiUyMzBYTEIBUC4u>

ii Defibrillators in the Eskbank and Newbattle area

ENCC members are commencing work on installing additional and finding the location of existing defibrillators in the area.

iii Pharmacy in Rosewell

EC will provide an update about the request for a Pharmacy to be situated in Rosewell at the February meeting.

iv Use of the Federation Zoom Account

Community Councils are reminded that the booking of Zoom meetings is a **2-step** process.

Step 1 - is checking that a slot is available and then choosing *Account 1* or *Account 2* to book the meeting on the Calendar (<https://tinyurl.com/mfcc-zoom>)

Step 2 – the meeting is booked on the Zoom Website (<https://zoom.us>).

See the previously circulated guide attached with the Minutes.

v Grit Bins

There had been reassurance that the Grit Bin list has been updated at the January MTRaP meeting. JT (Mayfield) noted that the list was still inaccurate. Residents are able to comment and obtain further information about Grit Bins on the Midlothian Council Website:

[Grit bins in Midlothian | Grit bins | Midlothian Council](#)

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2022, 7.00 – 9.00, Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81696577098?pwd=WE5qNXhiZVFhT003YmhMa3lpR21OUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 9657 7098

Passcode: 538147