

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

16 February, 2022

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Daya Feldwick	Loanhead
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Lorna Crook (LC)	Moorfoot
Moira Cuthbert (MC)	Penicuik
Jan Irvine (JI)	Poltonhall
Edith Cameron (EC)	Rosewell
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater

Apologies

Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot

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

Previous Minutes

Proposed: Andrew Watt

Seconded: Lorna Crook

Matters Arising

Single Midlothian Plan

- i There hadn't been any feedback about the process at the time of the meeting. This will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

ii Pharmacy in Rosewell

The appeal against the decision to refuse the siting of a Pharmacy in Rosewell has been rejected.

Local community have expressed their disappointment

iii Representation on the Community Planning Working group

Gordon Brown intimated that he is willing to represent MFCC on the group

Proposed: Robert Hogg

Seconded: Ann Stewart Kmicha

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade

- i** Bonnyrigg's part time Post Office is closing in March as the building is earmarked for re-development. A replacement Post Office, also part time, will begin operation in a shop in the High Street from Monday 7 March.
- ii** Diane Easton [Acting Chair, BLCC] met with Edith Cameron [Secretary, Rosewell and District CC] to discuss the failed pharmacy application. Residents in Rosewell are being expected to use pharmacies in nearby towns. BLCC discussed this at their February meeting and heard reports of people queueing for considerable periods outside pharmacies in Bonnyrigg; also, Councillor Milligan has discussed the issue in a local media report.
- iii** One of our community councillors wants to have a youth shelter installed in Bonnyrigg's King George V Park. They have a belief that community police will direct young people engaging in anti-social behaviour to the youth shelter where they will have somewhere safe to hang out. BLCC looked at this before and ad hoc feedback suggested that residents were not in favour; also, Midlothian Council did not view it as a priority for their anti-social behaviour strategy. However, with the current upsurge in anti-social behaviour, the Community Councillor wants it to be considered again; therefore, this will be added to our March agenda with a view to holding a full public consultation via our Facebook pages.
- iv** BLCC is delighted that Poltonhall and Hopefield Community Council has completed their consultation on the proposed merger. Both Community Councils are continuing to work together and looking forward to the proposal being considered at a Midlothian Council meeting.
- v** BLCC ran a Facebook consultation on the Sheriffhall South planning application. We received 104 responses from residents, all opposing the application for a variety of reasons. A letter has been sent to Midlothian Council along with a copy of the comments.
- vi** BLCC has passed requests for pothole repairs and grit bins to Midlothian Council Officers and is pleased that the requests have been actioned.

- vii BLCC is still meeting using Zoom. Our elected Councillors have agreed to speak with the Headteacher at Lasswade High School to see if any space can be made available for face to face meetings.

Dalkeith

- i A mine water treatment plant is being built
- ii Work has commenced on the development of the Town Centre

Damhead

- i Decisions on the A701 Relief Road options are going to be finalised by the Spring.
- ii A 'walk through' of the proposed route to assess the impact of the proposals has been undertaken.
- iii On Burnside Road, the Armco barrier is slipping down the banking
- iv The Bus Stop has been damaged and is in need of repair

Eskbank and Newbattle

- i Buccleuch Properties planning applications are giving cause for concern. EBCC will be working with neighbouring Community Councils to develop a joined up approach to addressing concerns.

Loanhead

- i Cost of Roads surfacing the Caravan park has increased
- ii There is concern about the poor state of the football pitches. They do not have 'all weather' surfaces
- iii Midlothian Council is going to be assessing facilities on a county wide basis

Mayfield and Easthouses

- i The Community Council is working on the Springfield and new schools developments. It is preparing a report that will be circulated to the local community.

Moorfoot

- i **Skyrora Rocket Testing Site at Broadlaw Quarry:** This facility is now in operation and schedules of testing dates and times are issued regularly. As these sometimes need to be altered, the most up-to-date version will be available from secretary@moorfoot.org.uk we will always be given at least one week's warning of a test. Skyrora will try to avoid weekend firings. When a firing is scheduled there will be warnings posted on site and sentries will be on site at these times.

This is an example of a recent schedule issued:

Test ID	Calendar Week	Date	Approx Start Time
000001	6	09/Feb/2022	1:00 PM
000002	7	17/Feb/2022	1:00 PM
000003	8	25/Feb/2022	1:00 PM
000004	11	07/Mar/2022	1:00 PM
000005	14	28/Mar/2022	1:00 PM
000006	14	01/Apr/2022	1:00 PM
000007	16	11/Apr/2022	1:00 PM
000008	18	25/Apr/2022	1:00 PM

- ii Skyrora want to work with the community and any concerns should be addressed to gary.young@skyrora.com
- iii **Village notice boards:** We have two notice boards that need either replacing or considerable maintenance done to them and we are investigating how these might be funded.
- iv **North Middleton Pump Track:** This is being financed from developers' contributions, with the money ring-fenced. However, the project is now well behind schedule and there is concern that the preferred contractor might no longer be given the contract. CC is asking our elected Cllrs to be involved.
- v At our February meeting, we had no Midlothian Councillor on our Zoom meeting and no update from them.

Poltonhall

- i Paperwork for the merger with Bonnyrigg and Lasswade has been submitted to Midlothian Council.
- ii The merger will be discussed at the Midlothian Council meeting on 25 March.

Rosewell

- i RDCC are in talks with Crown Estate Scotland regarding the use of Whitehill Estate. Before the independence referendum, it was run as a corporate venture from London, but is now managed by the Scottish Government. CES are consulting residents on its short, medium and longer term use.
- ii Fundraising with a book sale on 23rd April, Big Lunch in late summer as our Rosewell Development Trust is doing one in June.
- iii Would other CCs be willing for Paul to create a simple table with the 16 community council areas, the name of the representative and their email address, because Edith is still struggling with remembering who's who and where they're based.
- iv The volume and length of emails coming from all directions seems unmanageable for this voluntary position. Is there a way some of the information could be on Midlothian's website?

Roslin and Bilston

- i Due to the recent adverse weather conditions, building materials have scattered around the villages. Councillors Imrie and Winchester are following up with the Planning department in order to get the issues resolved.
- ii A successful Midlothian Council Small Grant application has been made and Information Boards will be funded

Tynewater

- i There are new people attending Community Council meetings
- ii A group, with aim of improving the provision of Christmas lighting, is being established
- iii Concerns have been expressed about the poor provision of Broadband across the area.
- iv Have had two meetings with Police Scotland and are developing good relationships with local officers.
- v Also developing good relationships with Midlothian Council's 'Place' directorate. Midlothian Council's officers have responded quickly to requests for information and support with local issues of concern.
- vi A 'Litter group' is being formed.
- vii Have participated in the Scottish Rural Parliament.
- viii Successfully made an application to the Midlothian Council Small Grants fund for a Networking event and development of communications and Social Media provision.

4. 16 MARCH MEETING – MEETING HOST AND MINUTE TAKER

- i RH (Mayfield) will ask Judy Thomson if she could be the Zoom host for the meeting
- ii EC (Rosewell) agreed to take the minutes for the meeting

5. MCAT REPORTS – USE OF MFCC EMAIL ADDRESS.

- i After some discussion, there was agreement that Police Scotland could be advised of Federation Googlemail address in order that the reports could be circulated to MFCC members
- ii There was recognition however that the mailing list should be kept accurate. PJ (Midlothian Council) highlighted that he and JT (Mayfield) as administrators of the account, maintain the list and are re mindful of this requirement. PJ will contact those people on the list with personal email addresses. They will be asked to confirm (by Friday 25 February) that they

wish their email address to be kept on the list otherwise; their email addresses will be removed.

6. MFCC REPRESENTATION ON THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT GROUP

- i An invitation had been extended for members of MFCC to attend the meetings of the group. There are 3 meetings (currently held online) each year. .
- ii RH proposed that a different member of MFCC could attend a meeting and then report back. RH will attend the first meeting.

7. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i AW (Dalkeith) had previously circulated his report.

8. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- i Care Homes in the county continue to restrict the number of people allowed to visit residents.
- ii Numbers of Covid infections the county remain high.

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i There will be an emphasis on reducing poverty
- ii Investing in Communities meeting will be held week beginning 20 February
- iii Next meeting is 31 March
- iv Community Planning Working Group – next meeting 17 March.

10. PLANNING

- i PJ highlighted that 'CLLE' and 'Planning' officers had met to discuss plans to roll out information on the development and creation of Local Place Plans
- ii National Planning Framework 4 – responses to the consultation are open until 31 March.
- iii Eskbank and Newbattle CC along with Dalkeith and District have met with Emma Hay (MC Planning) to discuss the review of the Conservation area.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- i Concerns expressed about the levels of Manganese in the River Esk
- ii Flooding is a concern in some new housing developments

12. INFRASTRUCTURE

- i Broadband provision needs to be addressed in new developments
- ii CN (Damhead) highlighted that good progress has been made in developing provision in the area.
- iii CN will send out details of Openreach contact details to TCC.

13. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS

- i Minutes of the January meeting have been circulated previously
- ii **Date of Next Meeting:** 4 April, Monday, 6.00 – 7.30.

14. A.O.C.B.

- i MFCC has been awarded £1200 for noticeboards, workshops, and £300 for administration.
- ii Zurich Municipal Insurance. PJ has emailed all Community Councils requesting invoices. Some have still to reply. PJ will organise processing and payment before the commencement of policies, on 1 April 2022.
- iii CCTV. Existing cameras will be upgraded. Mobile cameras will be purchased. CCTV will be monitored by Police Scotland.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85632141843?pwd=U3JFZzlOTkFqV1c2N0lvTm5MN3VCUT09>

Meeting ID: 856 3214 1843

Passcode: 257083