

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

15 June 2022

ZOOM meeting Minutes

Present:

Dianne Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Ailsa Carlisle (AC)	Damhead
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Chair)
Lorna Crook (LC)	Moorfoot
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Douglas West (DW)	Poltonhall & Hopefield
Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tynewater

Apologies:

Paul McGrath	Moorfoot
Edith Cameron	Rosewell
Gordon Brown	Tynewater

In Attendance

Paul Johnson	Midlothian Council – Communities & Lifelong Learning
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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES (APRIL) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

i Pharmacy Provision

Group members discussed lengthy queues at pharmacies in the county. ASK highlighted that previously, a member of the Integration Board had been invited to an MFCC meeting to provide an update on Health Care provision (GP Surgeries, Pharmacy provision and Dentistry).

JT (Mayfield) noted that she had written to the Care for People group to raise similar issues.

Action: PJ to invite a member of the Health and Social Care partnership to the September meeting of the Federation

ii Mainstream Participatory Budgeting

PJ informed the group that work would be undertaken in the short term to commence consultation on the process.

iii Sheriffhall Grade Separation project

PJ clarified that at the recent meeting with Transport Scotland and AECOM, there was representation by MTRaP and MFCC members.

Proposed by: Brian Farrell

Seconded by: Judy Thomson

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade

i Meeting on 16 June will be the first in-person meeting since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

ii Work to merge with Poltonhall and Hopefield is still in progress. Required to be discussed at a Midlothian Council meeting. PJ highlighted that CLLE is working with Midlothian Council colleagues to get the process completed at the earliest opportunity.

Damhead

iii Damhead is involved in the Climate Action Group

iv Main concern is the A701 Relief Road, which will dissect the community.

v Damhead Community Council remains opposed to the road in principle. It is unclear that the road will benefit travel in Midlothian and further afield.

vi There are concerns that more houses will be built alongside the new road

- vii In addition, at his crucial time environmentally to get rid of prime agricultural land to build the road and extend into building more houses seems absurd.
- viii DDCC encourages all CCs to object to the proposals when they come out later this year.

Eskbank and Newbattle

- i Over Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend, unauthorised tree works took place within Newbattle Conservation Area with 4 mature trees felled and several others limbs removed before the contractors were challenged by nearby residents and fled. A substantial Planning Enforcement Enquiry is now underway, as no permission had been sought. Works were also unsafe with a large branch narrowly missing a car driven by local resident.
- ii Sheriffhall South (21/00982/PPP) application Class 4 business including drive thru Costa scheduled for Planning Committee on 14 June. Consent granted to application despite substantial concerns raised by ENCC and BLCC over tree loss, drive thru being out with zoning and associate litter issue.
- iii Graffiti issue on footpath linking Tesco to Eskbank Station and College, Elected members requested to ask Council Officers to engage with property owner to find a solution.
- iv Working with Edinburgh College and ScotRail additional bins have been installed to tackle littering around College and Station, College have increased litter picking around their campus. Edinburgh College have conducted two sets of comms with attendees and there has been a noticeable reduction in littering.

Mayfield and Easthouses

- i Update for Mayfield and Easthouses CC: We held our AGM in June,
- ii We are now lucky enough to have two Planning Officers (one with remit for Local Place Plans) and 10 members.
- iii At our main meeting, we had a member of the public ask for help with getting prescriptions. This results in much conversation and agreement that pharmacy services are unsatisfactory. Opening hours, staff issues, and wait times were all mentioned. Judy tasked to bring this up with Care for People group.

Moorfoot

- i. Our June meeting was held in North Middleton village hall.
- ii. We were sent some very good feedback from Michele Lindsay, the Community Sergeant at Dalkeith, following our discussion on a number of local issues with her last month.
- iii. **Gladhouse Reservoir** There has been very positive feedback about the new parking restrictions currently in place.

- iv. Scottish Water is preparing to apply for planning for the proposed new car park. This would allow some 40 parking places which would be ticketed. There would be no further parking available.
- v. Other business of the evening was largely Moorfoot 'in-house' matters.

Rosewell

- i Development of a Rosewell Rusties Canary trail is underway - walking routes with metal art along the way. Maps of the walking route will be created and local residents who live on the route can display a canary.
- ii Rosewell Tennis club are renovating the courts. Opening late summer '22. It is very likely that Judy Murray will come to open it (we are trying to invite one of her sons too!!)
- iii Police attended our meeting and arranged a few community drop in events.
- iv The Rosewell Development Trust are hosting cinema events

Tynewater

- i We continue to be very busy responding to Residents' issues, which include speeding through villages, potential extension of a path/track from Whitehills to Vogrie, planning anomalies re PVC windows and retrospective planning requests (refused).
- ii We met with A68 Landscaping Team to deal with issues on the Trunk Road as it passes through Pathhead.
- iii C. Beattie has also been requested to help resolve dangerous overtaking issue on the Lothian Bridge.
- iv Planning for our Community Day on 1st October and subsequent publication of a local Directory of Groups/Societies is well under way.
- v Feedback from MTRaP meetings has been very helpful.
- vi Recent Vogrie concert was uneventful because of prior positive meetings with MC. No complaints were received re excessive noise levels.
- vii An appetite for more concrete measures to address the Net Zero agenda is evident.
- viii MT requested information support for creating a community group Constitution. MFCC members present advised MT to contact Midlothian Voluntary Action (MVA). They would be available to provide assistance.
- ix Advised those present that TCC members were of the opinion that the Access Officer post should be reinstated. PJ advised that colleagues would be providing information for the MTRaP meeting on Monday 27 June.

4. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS.

- i** PJ (Midlothian Council) advised that Community Councils are required to make amendments to their Constitution to support the meetings being held online. If they are using online transactions to service their Bank Accounts an amendment may need to be made

Action: PJ to check existing Constitutions and inform Community Councils that they may need to make amendments to their Constitutions.

5. LOCAL PLACE PLANNING

- i** PJ (Midlothian Council) highlighted the information he had circulated (sent on 15 June) in response to a request for information made at the May meeting.
- ii** There is recognition that Midlothian Council are moving forward on LPP's but will need to wait until final clarification by the Scottish Government
- iii** Those present agreed that MFCC would support a workshop on the development of Local Place Plans being held in late September or early October.
- iv** MFCC will write to the Planning Department

6. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i** AW had circulated the latest report (14 June). Members can email Andrew if they have questions relating to the report.
- ii** AW (Dalkeith) highlighted that there has been a good response for Midlothian's Community Councils (9 out of 16), to the Survey

7. MFCC EMAIL AND DOCUMENT STORAGE

- I.** JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) highlighted that it would be beneficial for a MFCC email address to be created. This would enable communications to be sent from one central location, supporting the process of ensuring agreement on the content of such communications.
- II.** As discussed at previous meetings, having a secure central storage location for MFCC related documents could provide a great benefit for local community councils. Historical documents could be referenced, the size of downloads or emails could be reduced and coordinated responses to consultations could be made more easily.
- III.** JT is conducting research potential solutions and will report to MFCC members with suggestions.
- IV.** RH thanked JT for her work on this subject.

8. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- i JT noted that the last meeting of the group was on 31 May.
- ii JT will circulate the minutes of the meeting.

Action: JT to circulate notes of the Care for People meeting

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i. ASK highlighted that there are great concerns around the cost of living and the increased cost of purchasing fuel and food for families and individuals within the community.
- ii. The Single Midlothian Plan has been published on the Midlothian Council website and can be found here: [Single Midlothian Plan documents | Single Midlothian Plan 2022/23](#)
- iii. ASK advised that the 2022 Community Planning Day is likely to be on 8 November at Newbattle Abbey College, although the date and venue are still to be confirmed.
- iv. Derek Oliver (Chief Officer Place) had provided an update on the delivery of Neighbourhood Services in the county.
- v. Edinburgh College has changed the location (from Midlothian to Granton) of several of its courses. This has had an adverse impact upon Midlothian's residents and upon the time taken to travel to the Granton campus. Young people have been particularly affected.
- vi. ASK had raised concerns about the changes to the No. 15 bus timetable.
- vii. BF (Eskbank and Newbattle) highlighted that Lothian Transport had sustained heavy financial losses). He also suggested that a Public Transport Strategy for the county is required.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- I. Members highlighted concerns about the slow progress toward the commitment to make the council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030.
- II. Penicuik and District Community Council have agreed to participate in the development of a Climate Action Plan (see MFCC April minutes).

11. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS AND PATHS

The next meeting will be on 27 June. If members wish to attend, they can contact PJ.

PJ will send the minutes of the meeting to MFCC members.

12. A.O.C.B.

i. Elected Members Environmental Funds

There was discussion as to whether there was transparency in the process of expenditure of these funds. Those present noted that there appeared to be little or no consultation with local communities before funds were distributed.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 21 September 2022, 7 - 9PM (ZOOM)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84248971088?pwd=VWdMRFdudHY2cU1zcGF0Zm5pMjZFdz09>

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