

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

14 December 2022

ZOOM meeting Minutes

Present:

Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Joanne Gilles (JG)	Damhead
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Ross McEwen (RMcE)	Gorebridge
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Chair)
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater

In Attendance

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities & Lifelong Learning
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Apologies

Douglas West	Bonnyrigg and District
Daya Feldwick	Loanhead
Paul McGrath	Moorfoot
Edith Cameron	Rosewell
Myrtle Pont	Tynewater

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chair) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES (OCTOBER) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Moved: Brian Farrell (Eskbank and Newbattle)

Seconded: Anne Stewart Kmicha (Dalkeith)

- Approved with the following changes: Section 8 (i) from '28 available places had not been taken up' changed to 'The Conference had been fully booked but 28 places that had been booked, had not been taken up'.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Damhead

- i** Road works are due to start shortly on the A702 at the entrance to the ski slope as part of the new Snowsports Development plans. Although a safer junction and pedestrian crossing at the ski slope is welcomed, the community is particularly concerned that no consideration has been given to the impact that this will have on safety at the Hillend 'triple junction'.
- ii** The triple junction is also likely to be adversely affected because of the A701 relief road, development at Calderstones and the Swanston bike trail development, which will share the Snowsports Development road entrance.
- iii** DDCC has been seeking, for some months now, engagement with RPS who is progressing plans for the new A701 relief road on behalf of Midlothian Council. After initially accepting our invitation to join the December DDCC meeting, RPS then declined to take part. It is not clear whether this means the project has been postponed.
- iv** Proposals for the relocation of Beeslack High School have not yet been seen, so it is not yet clear what impact increasing the proposed pupil roll from 1200 to 1600 will have on the suitability of the site for this purpose.

Gorebridge

- i** The community council hosted a public meeting about planning proposals in the area. Midlothian Council office gave a presentation on plans for education provision in the area.
- ii** GDCC are looking to obtain further information and data relating to the population and the requirements for school provision.
- iii** Although those present welcomed the attendance of Council Officers there was concern about the Redheugh development and additionally the duties of Developers after they have completed their projects.
- iv** Peter Arnsdorf (Senior Manager Planning Sustainable Growth and Investment) has agreed to deliver a presentation on the Midlothian Planning Process.

Loanhead

- i LDCC has appointed a member to the position of Secretary
- ii New Pentland development has gone to the appeal.
www.midlothianview.com/news/22-4m-pentland-project-appeal-to-scottish-ministers

Moorfoot

i. Pre-Planning Consultations

Wull Muir Wind Farm

- Is situated in the Scottish Borders near Heriot but will be visible above the Moorfoot escarpment.
- We are in the process of informing Moorfoot and Gorebridge residents of this and hoping to have a public presentation for the community before our 1 February meeting.
- Further information will be made available on the Moorfoot Facebook page.

NWH proposal - Recycling plant at Middleton Quarry

- NWH proposes a pre-application consultation of the local community in relation to the NWH Group Ltd's proposal to apply for planning permission to operate a recycling plant at Middleton Quarry, recycle imported waste and landfilled waste, and to infill the landfill void and reinstate the land.
- There are meetings scheduled for 24 January and 16 February.
- Already the local community is aware and voicing concern about this.
- Further information will be available on our Facebook page as it becomes available.

ii. Pump Track in North Middleton,

- The track, financed from Developers' Contributions, is now completed and seems to be very well received, though some lighting for it, to allow it to be used during the winter months, would have been useful.

iii. Other Business

- Attended the presentation given to Gorebridge CC about proposals for a new High School in the Gorebridge area.
- Attended the Speed Policy Briefing.

Tynewater

- i We have submitted a list of the 'red tape' requirements that need to be fulfilled before it is possible to put on an annual Gala Day or Firework Display. This was raised by one of our Village Hall Committees. We would like the Federation to take this subject up on behalf of all Community Councils. This is an enormous disincentive to already overworked volunteers.
- ii The Pathhead Christmas Lights, fully funded locally and organised by a sub group of TCC + villagers, were switched on 24 November. A crowd of approximately 400/450 residents came out to enjoy the event which included music supplied by local singers/musicians. A gathering followed at the Foresters Pub in the Main Street. TCC's vision of 'lifting spirits' across Tynewater was boosted enormously. Huge thanks to all who were involved in putting on this successful event.
- iii The maintenance of the No 51 Bus Service provided by Borders Buses is now high on our Agenda. We are looking for serious support on this matter as the pressure on MC funding continues to increase. This is a lifeline for our rural communities.
- iv MP will be unable to attend the AGM. MP will be in London at Westminster Abbey as part of the Princess of Wales' Carol Service, where representatives of Charities and Community Organisations across the whole of the UK, will gather. To be televised on ITV at Christmas.

4. SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) EVENT REQUIREMENTS

- i There was a wide-ranging discussion about completing forms, applying for licenses, and generally complying with the requirements of the Safety Advisory Group. The following points were highlighted.
 - Community groups believe that they are having to meet an increasing number of requirements in order to hold events.
 - This has led to a threat to the capacity of groups to be able to hold small-scale events.
 - RH highlighted work that had previously been undertaken by Alan McLaren (Loanhead)
 - Small community groups appear to be treated the in the same way that large commercial companies are treated.
 - There is recognition that safety is paramount but that it is becoming more difficult to organise and stage events
 - Agreed that a Midlothian Council officer be invited to the March meeting

Action: PJ to contact colleagues

5. CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK – UPDATE

- i There was an update on the development of the Midlothian Climate Action Network.
- ii An invite has been extended to the Federation to be represented on the Network and at the meeting; there was agreement that the Federation would join the network.

6. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i AW provided an update on the work of the Board. He will circulate a report.
- ii AW highlighted that it would be desirable to for another MFCC member or Community Councillor to act as a representative of MFCC at EANB meetings. He will compile a short description to circulate to Community Councillors.

Action: AW to circulate a report and information about what is involved in attending EANB meetings.

7. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- i JT has circulated notes from the last CFP (1 December) meeting.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING

ii Midlothian Profile

Further to the Midlothian Profile document being circulated on 16 November, ASK (Dalkeith) highlighted that Community Councils can send any updates about entries relating to their area to rebekah.sullivan@midlothian.gov.uk.

iii Climate emergency Survey

ASK will circulate a link to the survey.

iv Sheriffhall Grade Separation

An independent inquiry into the redevelopment of Sheriffhall roundabout is due to start on January 30 and is expected to run for two weeks. It will be based in Dalkeith Miners Club.

Action: Midlothian Profile - CC's to send information updates they have

9. PLANNING

i Community Planning Conference

ASK noted that there were concerns about the format of the evaluation of the event.

ii Completion of Developments

RH advised Community Councils to keep up to date on planning issues. He highlighted that some developers are not completing work as per the development planning requirements and conditions.

iii Air BNB

BF highlighted that the provision of Air BNB's is required to go through the planning process.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

i Nothing to report at this meeting

11. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (NEXT MEETING, 30 JANUARY 2023)

i December Meeting Notes

PJ will circulate notes of the December meeting

ii Joint Priority initiatives

Members are asked to provide suggestions (2 footways and 1 carriageway for each CC area) by **20 January** for consideration at the next MTRaP meeting (**30 January**).

These are resurfacing schemes as opposed to localised patching or 'Pot Hole' repairs.

Action: CC's to send suggestions to PJ by 20 January

12. A.O.C.B.

i Mainstream Participatory Budgeting

PJ informed the group that the proposed workshops / consultations have been postponed until the Midlothian Council budgetary discussions have been completed.

ii ICO Registration / GDPR

There has been no update. PJ will contact colleagues.

iii Condition of Bus Shelters

- BF has written to Lothian Buses. The company will audit all shelters / stops and note any damage and repairs required.
- Residents can contact the Midlothian Council Travel Team if they wish to raise any concerns about the condition of Bus Shelters.
travelteam@midlothian.gov.uk or call 0131 561 5443
- Bus Shelter cleaning positions have been removed. RH noted that the Federation should have been informed of this decision.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18 January 2023, 7:00 – 9.00 pm (Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86407585634?pwd=Tkt0TzhaNU9rU3N3WGhUbDI5bmV2Zz09>

Meeting ID: **864 0758 5634**

Passcode: **622439**