

**Midlothian Federation of Community Councils.
Annual General Meeting Minutes.
14 December 2022
Zoom**

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
Michelle Strong (MS)	Midlothian Council - Education Chief Operating Officer

Apologies

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

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Robert welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES (December 2021) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Moved: Robert Hogg (Mayfield and Easthouses)

Seconded: Andrew Watt (Dalkeith)

2. INPUT FROM MICHELLE STRONG - EDUCATION CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Ms Strong informed those present that:

- i** The Education Chief Operating Officer role covers all aspects of Education (7 Secondary Schools, 32 Primary Schools, and 2 Nursery schools) and the work of Communities, Lifelong Learning, and Employability (CLLE).
- ii** The work of the department is informed by the Single Midlothian Plan
- iii** The department has made a range of new appointments including a Data Officer whose role is to gather data to support improvement and develop training, a Learning Estate Estates Officer to manage new projects, a Parent and Learning Liaison Officer who helps to shape service delivery.
- iv** Have £10.5m to purchase equipment for learning including the supply and provision of 14,000 digital devices that support:
 - Improving the learning experience
 - Engagement with learning
 - Improving attainment
- v** Rapid growth and development have meant that the Council has to meet the demands of a growing population. This has led to a greater demand on available budgets and resources.
- vi** The impact of the recent Covid-19 pandemic has seen an increase in the numbers of young people requiring support who need the right support at the right time.
- vii** The findings of the National Education Review require to be taken into account.
- viii** The department has received additional funding: Pupil Equity Fund, Attainment Challenge and will be required to report on these.
- ix** New digital devices – need to evaluate impact of provision of devices upon attainment and work in class.
- x** Appointment of ‘subject leads’ has been undertaken.
- xi** The appointment of an Executive Business Manager – Learning Estates strategy has been approved at a Council meeting.
- xii** Scottish Government provide lead funding for investment projects and will include.
 - Replacement Beeslack High School
 - Mayfield Campus
 - Refurbishment of Penicuik High School
- xiii** It is anticipated that school capacity breaches may occur in Kings Park PS and Newbattle HS in 2023. Additional accommodation temporary or extension with new builds will be provided.

Projects in Planning

- i** Will depend on council decisions and funding.
 - Bonnyrigg – funded by Developer contributions.
 - Gorebridge High School – options appraisal to serve catchment area.
 - Shawfair – development of a 3 – 18 campus. Will be looking at being a ‘school of excellence.’
 - Newtongrange PS refurbishment
 - Lawfield PS refurbishment and extension

- New Beeslack High School location will be co located within the University of Edinburgh’s Easter Bush Campus. It is anticipated that the school roll will be between 1200 – 1600 and will have a dedicated learning space for children with Additional Support Needs (ASN). Architects have confirmed that the current design can increase facilities and the take into account of anticipated increase in population of Loanhead. Beeslack High School HS will be a ‘school of excellence’ for STEM subjects.

RH (Chairperson) noted that the extent of new development is exciting for local people. He thanked MS for her attendance at the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF 2021 AGM

Moved: Robert Hogg
 Seconded: Andrew Watt

4. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

- i** Robert expressed his thanks for the dedication and hard work of Federation attendees and members of Midlothian’s Community Councils during the past year. He thanked them for the work they had undertaken, during the last year, to work and support their local communities.
- ii** He thanked MFCC members for their work when attending other groups as representatives of MFCC.
- iii** He noted that that it was good to see new representative of Community Councils attend Federation meetings.
- iv** He observed that that the Zoom meetings had proved to a successful mode for holding MFCC meetings.
- iv** During the past year, the Federation had maintained its representation on a wide range of groups including Environmental issues, Care for People, Midlothian Traffic Roads, and Paths, Planning and Community Planning. This has meant that the Federation has had an increased influence on the planning and delivery of service provision in the County.
- v** Robert went on to express his appreciation for the support provided by Midlothian. Council Officers and in particular that provided by Communities Lifelong Learning and Employabiity Team members.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Opening Balance				£4687.30
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Income:				
Midlothian Small Grant	£1200.00			
Midlothian Small Grant	£300.00			
Total Income	£1500.00			

Expenditure				
Annual Fee for 2 Zoom Licenses	£287.26			
Total Expenditure	£287.26			

Balance for the year	£1212.24			
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Closing Balance				£5899.54
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6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Robert offered to stand down from his position as Chairperson of the Federation. Those present acknowledged the dedication and hard work that Robert brings to the role of Chairperson, highlighting the fact that he plays an anchor role within the Federation and that they wished him to stand for re-election.
(See nominations on next page)

Chairperson

Nominated

Seconded

Robert Hogg

Andrew Watt

Brian Farrell

Vice Chairperson

Nominated

Seconded

Brian Farrell

Robert Hogg

Helen Blackburn

Treasurer

Nominated

Seconded

Anne Stewart Kmicha

Joanne Gilles

Brian Farrell

Edinburgh Airport Noise Board

Nominated

Seconded

Andrew Watt

Brian Farrell

Robert Hogg

Community Planning Working Group

Ann Stewart Kmicha will continue to be the MFCC representative.

Community Planning Board

Gordon Brown (Tynewater) will continue to be the MFCC representative.

OTHER NOMINATIONS

- i Members were asked to consider whether they would be interested in representing the Federation on these groups.
- ii AW is happy to remain as the contact for EANB but is keen that another member of the Federation acts as someone who could attend in his absence.

7. REPRESENTATION OF MFCC AT OTHER MIDLOTHIAN WIDE GROUP MEETINGS

- i As noted in the Chairperson's report, members are able to represent the views of the Federation on a range of groups, including:
 - Licensing Forum - (Robert Hogg)
 - Improving Opportunities Midlothian
 - Climate Challenge Board
 - Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths
 - Access Forum
- ii There was agreement that a short description of the roles of representatives would be circulated.

8. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

15 November 2023