

# Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

15 February 2023

## ZOOM meeting Minutes

### Present:

Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle (Vice Chair)
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Chair)
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater and District

### In Attendance

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

Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tynewater and District
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot and District

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chair) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

### 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES (JANUARY) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

#### i Budget proposals update

- On behalf of Community Councils, RH extended thanks to all the MFCC members, who have worked to raise awareness of the concerns of residents, working jointly with the TSI and through contacting media outlets and elected politicians.
- BF (ENCC) noted that a demonstration to protest about the budget proposal had attracted a good attendance. He had sent a press release to STV.
- Midlothian Council is examining options for financial flexibility that will relieve financial pressures. Those present noted that it remains necessary to address underlying national issues with local government finances.
- RH (Mayfield and Easthouses) highlighted concerns that these issues will resurface next year.
- BF thanked JT (M&E) and RM (Gorebridge) for their work in collating responses to the budget proposals.
- Several MFCC members attended a meeting with Council Leader, Kelly Parry. They reiterated the solidarity of all Community Councils in engaging with the responses to the Budget Proposals.

- Kelly Parry has offered to meet with the wider MFCC group. There was agreement that this offer should be accepted.

**ii Next Midlothian Council Meeting – 21 February**

- ASK noted that at the last budget meeting, some cameras in the chamber were not operational. It is anticipated that for the February meeting all cameras will be operational.
- The public will be able to attend the February meeting and it is hoped that all available seating be used.
- RH proposed that there be a follow-up MFCC meeting after the February 21 Council. Those present agreed that there should be, and that the purpose will be to be review and then decide on what appropriate actions MFCC could undertake.

**iii Community Council Insurance**

- PJ (Midlothian Council) highlighted that Zurich Municipal have issued 2023-2024 insurance documents via an email link (including Invoices) to Community Councils.
- He requested that Community Councils check their inboxes and forward their insurance invoice to him at the earliest opportunity.
- Unless invoices are received for payment, insurance policies will lapse and Community Council will no longer have insurance cover for their activities.

**Action: Community Councils to forward invoices as soon as they receive them.**

**iv Questions for Alun Williams (Public Safety and Resilience Officer ) at March Meeting**

- PJ reminded MFCC members that Alun Williams (Midlothian Council) would be attending the March meeting to discuss requirements related to holding community-based events.
- RH highlighted that Alan McLaren (Loanhead) will also be attending the meeting.
- ASK noted that other legislation, such as Martyn's Law, may also have an impact on holding community-based events.

**Action: MFCC members or Community Councillors should submit any requests for information by Friday 10 March to [paul.johnson@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:paul.johnson@midlothian.gov.uk)**

**3. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

**Eskbank and Newbattle**

- i** BF has been engaging with the Active Travel Team. Funds are available for the installation of secure cycle storage.

**Action: MFCC / Community Councillors can send suggestion for locations for installation of secure cycle storage to [bfarrell@eskbanknewbattlecc.org](mailto:bfarrell@eskbanknewbattlecc.org)**

### **Mayfield and Easthouses**

- i Members have been busy with budget proposals and the impact upon the local community.
- ii Local Planning issues are being addressed.
- iii JT has been trying to engage with the local community on concerns about noise but has been subject to adverse reaction by Facebook users.

### **Roslin and Bilston**

- i A successful 'Bike Marking' session was held by the Community Police in Roslin, with 26 bikes marked.
- ii The Bilston Community Garden group has been awarded £200 as part of Scotmid Community Orchard project and Roslin Village Group, a similar sum.
- iii Loanhead After School Club has applied for a Community Asset Transfer of the Roslin Community Hall (50-year lease) which is out for consultation. Community group feedback is mainly positive and this is seen as a step forward in improving and extending the facilities and perhaps providing a new home for our Library, which is under threat?
- iv We have responded with concerns re the new Bellway housing development (395 homes) at nearby Auchendinny re roads infrastructure and the lack of commitment to a new primary school in the area leading to more pressure on Roslin & Bilston.
- v Community initiatives of note are the 'Friends of the Roslin Moat' have been doing sterling work supported by the Ranger Service to clear the 'Curling Pond', plant trees and shortly, will be putting up 70 nest boxes built by the Men's Shed with assistance from the Guides and Primary School Eco group.
- vi The First Responders are installing a Defibrillator in the empty phone box and a further Defibrillator has been installed at the Bowling Club.

## **4. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT & PLACE PLANNING TIMETABLE UPDATE (DRAFT)**

- i. PJ has circulated (15 February) an update that provides information on a draft timetable for engagement around NPF4, the Local Development Plan and Local Place Plans
- ii. Midlothian Planning Team members are keen to engage with MFCC (and other community-based groups). They will be leading a session at the Community Council training day on 25 March, (LHSC, 09:15 – 13:15).
- iii. Additionally, the Team would like to offer an engagement session before the training day. After a brief discussion, those present agreed that such a session would be beneficial.

**Action: PJ to consult with Planning colleagues to obtain some dates and then set up a poll for MFCC (and Community Councillors) members to agree a suitable date to meet.**

## 5. TRAINING

### i. Community Councillor – 25 March

PJ has circulated the programme. There will be 3 sessions, which all attendees will be able to join.

Midlothian Council will not be able to provide lunch. Those present agreed that the cost of providing refreshments would be met from MFCC funds.

### ii. P.A.S. - Planning

PJ had circulated information about training provision offered by P.A.S. (Planning Advisory Service). After discussion, there was agreement that MFCC would not be taking up the opportunity.

## 6. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i. AW has circulated the February report. He highlighted sections of it during the meeting

## 7. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- i. JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) circulated the report on 1 February.

## 8. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i. The Board has not had a meeting since January
- ii. Progress on CPP targets has been checked. Budget proposals may have an adverse impact upon them.
- iii. Funding for the IJB may also be adversely affected.

## 9. PLANNING

### i. Community Maps Scotland Seminar - Parish Online - Community Map Scotland project ([parish-online.co.uk](http://parish-online.co.uk))

- Some members of MFCC joined the seminar.
- Mixed feedback. Software is free for only one year. However, the software has very good potential for supporting the development of Local Place Plans.
- Cost may be as little as £100 p.a. after the first 'free' years

### ii. Planning Enquiries

JT (Mayfield) highlighted concerns about the availability of Planning Officers to discuss planning related issues. Noted that email exchanges are not the most equitable method of to discuss issues. Other methods of Communication (Teams / Zoom, Phone calls) would provide an improvement.

## 10. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### i. Mine water Discharge in the River Esk in the Dalkeith area

Further to discussion at the January meeting, ASK will circulate a draft letter of support, for consideration by MFCC members

## 11. INFRASTRUCTURE

### i. Sheriffhall Grade Separation

The public enquiry has been completed

### ii. **Broadband Provision in Tynewater**

GB reported that broadband speeds have dramatically improved with installation and provision of fibre broadband in the area.

## 12. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (NEXT MEETING, 13 MARCH 2023)

### i. Minutes of the January MTRaP meeting

Minutes of the last MTRaP meeting were circulated to MFCC members on 9 February.

### ii. Joint Priorities – Footways and Carriageways

- This is a joint initiative led by MTRaP members and Midlothian Council officers.
- Responses were provided by 8 Community Councils.
- The suggestions for expenditure will be considered for Roads Capital Expenditure 2023 – 2024.

## 13. A.O.C.B.

### i. MFCC 'in-person' meetings in person

There was a discussion about the return to in person meetings, possibly in Newbattle Community Learning Centre. Agreement that this could be reviewed, with quarterly meetings being in-person

## 14. DATE OF NEXT MFCC MEETING

*15 March 2023, 7:00 – 9.00 pm (Zoom)*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89175055747?pwd=MFozeFEzSEcxYWpYU3o3ajRid1hYUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 891 7505 5747

**Passcode:** 219257