

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

19 April 2023

ZOOM meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Jan Irvine (JI)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Ailsa Carlyle (AC)	Damhead and District
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle (Vice Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Chair)
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange and District
Jamie Tennent (JT)	Penicuik and District
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Lorna Crook (LC)	Moorfoot & District
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater and District

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chair) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES (MARCH) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Moved: Jan Irvine

Seconded: Andrew Watt

i Community Council Training Event

There had been 28 attendees representing 10 of the 15 Midlothian Community Councils at the event.

ASK (Dalkeith) extended thanks to Midlothian Council officers for the work that had been undertaken to organise and facilitate the training event focussed on the Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 and the development of Local Place Plans.

PJ noted that an evaluation survey using Survey Monkey is available. The responses will be collated and the submissions will inform the planning and content of training events in the future.

ii Input from guest speakers

Jl (BDCC) raised a concern about the length of time given to guest speakers and the potential adverse impact up the work of the Federation.

PJ (Midlothian Council) noted that guest speakers are given a slot for their input, (generally 15 – 20 minutes) to present. MFCC members are then able to present questions or responses to the input – an important aspect that facilitates engagement.

It is possible to determine the length of the initial input but the time given to questions is more difficult to manage and this is a decision that that would be required to be made by Federation members rather than the speaker.

Potential Solutions:

- MFCC members agree on a predetermined length of time (with some flexibility) to be given to responding to guest speakers.
- When guest speakers are present, the number of items on the meeting agenda is reduced.
- MFCC members forward requests for information from the speaker before the date of the meeting. The speaker provides the information in written form.

iii Local Community Council Updates

Similarly there was discussion about the length of time given to local community council updates. There has been agreement that that MFCC members would provide an update in time for the meeting. PJ then compiles and circulates for the meeting.

Potential Solutions

- If a written update has been forwarded then there wouldn't be a requirement for an input at the meeting.
- If there hasn't been a written update and there is nothing of any significance to update, then MFCC members would not need to provide an update at the meeting.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and District

- i** There is a vacancy for the position of Treasurer
- ii** The transition from 2 Community Councils representing the area to one has been completed. The new Community Council is now finding its feet and functioning well.

Dalkeith and District

- i** Normandy Court - House building programme nearly completed.
- ii** Living Well in Central Dalkeith and Woodburn – Event being held on 5 May
- iii** Central Dalkeith and Woodburn Pantry – have been successfully reaching out to the local community, with a very good response to the provision.
- iv** Dalkeith / Jarnac Twinning group is being revitalised.
- v** Work is being undertaken to expand facilities at Woodburn Primary School.
- vi** A Miners Memorial is being sited in Kings Park (September).

Damhead

- i** At our last meeting we were consulted on a potential residential-led development (more than 400 houses) at Straiton North. This would be on the opposite side of the A701 from the retail park. When the A701 relief road route is chosen we were told it would be incorporated into the above plans.
- ii** We will be holding our next DDCC meeting in person, after some years of Zoom meetings. We plan to alternate between holding future meetings ‘in person’ and using Zoom.

Danderhall and District

No update.

Eskbank and Newbattle

- i** Lobbying has been undertaken with SEPA with regard to a waste storage facility.
- ii** BF is attempting to address an issue with graffiti in the area. He has contacted several organisations, none of whom appear to want to take responsibility for its removal.

Gorebridge and District

No update.

Howgate and District

No update.

Loanhead

No update.

Mayfield and Easthouses

No update.

Moorfoot

- i **Skyrora engine testing** at Broad Law Quarry: the testing schedule has been sent.

Test	Date
Engine 002 Upgrade Check	05/04/2023
Engine 003 Test 002	12/04/2023
Engine 003 Test 003	27/04/2023
Engine 003 Test 004	05/05/2023
Engine 003 Test 005	17/05/2023
Engine 003 Test 006	26/05/2023
Engine 003 Test 007	02/06/2023
Engine 003 Test 008	09/06/2023
Engine 004 Test 001	14/06/2023
Engine 004 Test 002	22/06/2023

- ii **Torfichen Wind Farm proposal:**

A response to the scoping report has been submitted by the CC. RES, the developers, are invited to our meeting on 3rd May.

iii Gladhouse Reservoir:

The re-introduced parking order at Gladhouse means that no-one can park there until the car park is in place. This means that a much loved facility for Midlothian residents is effectively no longer available. The CC asked our Midlothian Cllr to raise the question, where are Midlothian residents to park to visit and enjoy Gladhouse Reservoir?

Newtongrange

- i** The National Mining Museum is working with local groups to develop a village exhibition.
- ii** Work on developing a Community Garden (next to the Leisure Centre) has commenced.
- iii** Work to start a Climate Action Plan has commenced.
- iv** 26 bikes have had security markings in a programme that may be rolled out to other areas.

Penicuik and District

- i** Twinning Committee (L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue) is being reformed. Some members of the Community Council are willing to join the group.
- ii** Concerns raised about the number of new housing developments and the adverse impact upon local services.
- iii** Developing criteria and application form for small grant funding for local community groups.

Rosewell and District

- i** Held their AGM.
- ii** New Chairperson and Vice Chairperson have been elected.
- iii** Fund raising events generated £700.00 that will contribute to the Rosewell Community Calendar.

Roslin and Bilston

No update.

Tynewater

No update.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL - LETTER OF COMPLAINT

A letter of complaint has been submitted to the Chairperson. The letter concerned an issue that occurred out with the period specified in the complaints procedure. It was about an issue that did not relate a Community Council activity. The complainant did not include their contact details. Those present agreed that the submission of the complaint would be noted, but no further action could be taken.

5. REVIEW OF THE SCHEME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

PJ highlighted that he has been working on a draft review of the current scheme. Nationally, a review has been undertaken. In addition to elements of other LA's, PJ has incorporated the elements of the National review. There is a formal process to commence and undertake the review. PJ has been in contact with colleagues in the Council's Legal department and is awaiting a reply as to what format this will take.

6. MIDLOTHIAN ORBITAL BUS STUDY CONSULTATION

- i Midlothian Council in partnership with the regional transport partnership for South East Scotland, SEStran, have commissioned transport consultants AECOM to complete a study into the potential for introducing enhanced bus priority measures along four key bus corridors in Midlothian.
- ii The Virtual Consultation Tool and online survey is available until 15th May 2023.
- iii There will be a public Drop-In event between 3pm and 7pm on Thursday 4th May, 2023 Outer Space Room, One Dalkeith Centre, Eskdaill Court, EH22 1AG.

7. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i AW provided a short update.
- ii Stage 2 of the Airspace change proposal has been completed. In stage 3, residents will have the opportunity to comment on the proposals.
- iii It is anticipated that there will be more use of the airspace over the Firth of Forth. The airspace may be affected by use by the Ministry of Defence but this is likely to be on only 3 weeks during each year and for a limited number of hours.
- iv Communities Fund – grants may be available. Further information can be found here: [Edinburgh Airport Community Fund | Edinburgh Airport](#)

8. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- i** JT has forwarded the Minutes of the March meeting to MFCC members.
- ii** Noted that the work of the group does not cover 'care' only but has a broader remit.
- iii** Vogrie House may be used to accommodate refugees.
- iv** Concerns have been expressed about the use of a hotel in Dalkeith to accommodate young male refugees.

9 SCHOOL CATCHMENT CONSULTATION – EASTHOUSES PRIMARY SCHOOL

- i** 4 members of the public attended the meeting.
- ii** Location of the meeting within the school was not ideal as the space used was not the most accessible.
- iii** A lot of work had been undertaken on 'focus' group consultations.
- iv** Noted that it is good to have a primary school based in Easthouses. The Plans for its designs look good. There appears to be a great deal of 'green space' for young people to use.
- v** The school will have a large catchment area (Newtongrange, Dalkeith, Mayfield and Kippielaw).
- vi** There are some concerns about Road Safety for young people travelling to and from schools.

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i** There are proposals for changes in the Community Planning structure. There are currently 5 groups.
- ii** The new Single Midlothian Plan will last for a period of 4 years. There will be 5 plans feeding into it with Poverty being a strand on its own.
- iii** ASK requested that Community Councils have a look at the document and get back to her with their views about it.
- iv** ASK requested that members consider being a representative on the group (for situations when she is unable to attend).
- v** Gladhouse reservoir parking. Midlothian Council are in discussions with Scottish Water about development of parking facilities.

11. PLANNING

- i** MLDP2 consultation dates have been advised.
- ii** Appears to be confusion between MLDP2 and Local Place Plans.
- iii** Request that Community Councils are able to have access to data collected by Midlothian Council planning team.
- iv** Mayfield and Easthouses have someone who is leading on LPP and has been in touch with Gordon Brown (Tynewater)

12. INFRASTRUCTURE

Nothing to report at this meeting.

13. ENVIRONMENT

RH will contact Daya Feldwick to see if there are any updates.

14. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (NEXT MEETING, 24 APRIL 2023)

- i** Minutes of the March meeting were have been circulated.
- ii** If a member of a Community Council wishes to attend they should email PJ for the Zoom meeting Link.

15. A.O.C.B.

i Elected Members Environmental Funds

- Those present noted concerns that although some Community Councils are being informed about the availability of Elected Member's 'Environmental Funds', some are not.
- There doesn't appear to have been any promotion of availability and there are no clear criteria (apart from having to be on 'Capital' expenditure).
- Eskbank and Newbattle has requested for a Defibrillator from their elected members.
- Community Councils are encouraged to discuss with the elected members who attend their meetings.

ii Condition of Mayfield PS – Freedom of Information request

RH noted that although he had submitted a Freedom of Information request there had been not reply. A response to the FOI requesting is now overdue.

iii Budget Cuts

- There will be an update at the next Midlothian Council meeting on 9 May.
- BF (Eskbank and Newbattle) noted that he had not received any responses from the MSP he'd communicated with.
- Those present highlighted concerns about the potential gaps in available budget in the coming financial years. They observed that the 'chronic' underfunding by the Scottish Government needs to be addressed.

iv Document Storage for MFCC, MTRaP and Community Councils

- JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) has conducted research and will be setting up a website.
- The cost will £103.00 pa. Further information will be available in due course.

v Rosewell CC – Software for Laptop

- RDCC has purchased a Laptop. Software on the machine could be improved. HB asked MFCC members if they were aware of opportunities to get the software upgraded.
- Suggestions included contacting the Digital Team at Newbattle High School Centre or checking with Higher Education providers to ascertain whether they would be able to provide a license.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17 May 2023, 7:00 - 9.00 pm (Zoom)

Zoom Meeting Details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84726091453?pwd=WmJzeWlweUF1ZHovUFlhWnV0MUNOQT09>

Meeting ID: 847 2609 1453

Passcode: 217880