

**Midlothian Federation of Community Councils**  
**20 September 2023**  
**ZOOM Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Ailsa Carlyle (AC)	Damhead and District
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater and District
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange and District

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council – Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability
Stephen Liddell (SL)	Mayfield and Easthouse Community Council

**Apologies**

Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle (Vice Chair)
Daya Feldwick (DF)	Loanhead and District
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

RH (Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

**2. PREVIOUS MINUTES (MAY) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING**

**Moved:** Andrew Watt

**Seconded:** Robert Hogg

**i Local Place Plans**

GB (Tynewater) noted that a great deal of work to promote and develop the Tynewater area LPP has been undertaken.

RH & JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) noted that in their Community Council area, surveys had been undertaken with community members and groups. The response could have been better.

HB (Rosewell) informed those present that a questionnaire had been circulated and a meeting in the Church had been organised.

**ii Resilience Resources**

PJ noted that he had not received any further requests for resources (see June Minutes).

He will facilitate collection of resources for those people who had requested them.

**Action: PJ to contact those Community Councils who have made requests for resilience resources. He will organise collection from Fairfield House.**

**3. PLANNING / HOUSING ALLOCATIONS**

**i** Stephen Liddell raised concerns about the possibility of more land being allocated for housing in Midlothian Local Development Plan 2. He highlighted that Midlothian Council has already met its allocation for housing and therefore further housing allocation is not required.

**ii** He proposed that the Planning department be approached to request that no further housing be allocated and is looking for support from MFCC when writing a letter to the Council's Planning department.

**iii** GB (TWCC) noted the points that SL had made but highlighted that *there is* a need for further housing. In the Tynewater area (and in other areas in Midlothian), there is a need for smaller, affordable housing to accommodate both younger people and those in the older age groups.

**iv** There was a suggestion any letter submitted should include a submission that no further housing be allocated unless the Local Place Plan explicitly indicated that there is a need for further housing development.

**v** The issue will be discussed at the October MFCC meeting where a decision about the submission of a letter of support will be made.

**Action: MFCC members to read the documents provided by Stephen Liddell, to inform the discussion and decision at the October meeting. See email circulated by JT on 29 September.**

#### 4. **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

- i PJ (Midlothian Council) requested that Community Councils send their draft meeting minutes to the [midlothianccminutes@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:midlothianccminutes@midlothian.gov.uk) mailbox.
- ii Where possible within 14 days of the meeting (see also email circulated to MFCC members on 30 August).

#### 5. **LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

##### **Bonnyrigg and District**

- i No update

##### **Dalkeith and District**

- i No update

##### **Damhead and District**

- i No update

##### **Danderhall and District**

- i No update

##### **Eskbank and Newbattle**

- i No update

##### **Gorebridge and District**

- i No update

##### **Howgate and District**

- i No update

##### **Loanhead and District**

- i No update

##### **Mayfield and Easthouses**

- i No update

### **Moorfoot and District**

- i NWH Quarry infill work at North Middleton** - The CC continues to be in communication with NWH about the promise for road improvements to their quarry.
- ii Speeding on the rural roads around Borthwick** - The CC has endorsed a letter sent to Derek Oliver by one of our CC members from the Borthwick area.  
She listed several near accidents and actual incidents, one causing serious injury to a rider.
- iii** Ideally, we would like to have “Quiet Road” signs on these bendy, narrow roads and a 30mph speed limit through the village of Borthwick with appropriate signage and traffic calming.
- iv Local Place Plans** - The CC held an extra meeting this summer to make some headway with our plans for Moorfoot.

### **Newtongrange and District**

- i** Members have been working on developing the Local Place Plan.
- ii** The development of the former Swimming Pool site is underway.
- iii** Concerns about parking and speeding through the village have been raised by local people.
- iv** Concern about the poor state of derelict buildings in the village has been raised.

### **Penicuik and District**

- i** No update

### **Rosewell and District**

- i** No update

### **Roslin and Bilston**

- i** AGM held on 5th Sept with a full committee elected and 2 new Councillors bringing our numbers to 9.
- ii** Subgroup working on Place Plan with survey displayed in all village outlets and Facebook.
- iii** The Roslin Fete/Fun Day on 2nd Sept was a fantastic success with an estimated attendance of 1500.
- iv** Funding approved by Council for a Pump Track in Roslin Park, and we await details of an installation date.

- v Funding obtained by 'Friends of the Moat' to improve the Roslin Curling Pond area (the building is being upgraded and is designated as a Place of Special Interest).
- vi Guerilla Gardens have adopted various plots in the village including a section of Roslin School to plant Wildflowers.
- vii A top priority for both villages is extra spaces for childcare coupled with additional community spaces and we are facilitating the creation of a new Roslin Village Board comprising several new villagers with a view to forming a Development Trust to put a case to the Council to utilise Developers contributions to extend and upgrade the Roslin Community Hall.

### **Tynewater**

- i No update

### **6. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**

There was discussion about PB initiatives in the county.

- i PJ highlighted there was an agreement between COSLA and local authorities in place that local authorities would allocate 1% of their budget to be subject to Participatory Budgeting. The 1% is the minimum target set and can be made up of revenue and capital expenditure.
- ii Midlothian Council initiated a project to raise awareness and provide training on Participatory Budgeting at the beginning of 2023. A decision was taken to postpone the initiative.
- iii RH (Chair) will write to Saty Kaur to obtain an update on the current position about Participatory Budgeting.

### **7. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD**

- i AW has circulated a report of the last meeting. He gave a brief overview of the report at the meeting.

### **8. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING**

- i The last meeting of the group was in July. JT circulated the minutes to MFCC members on 20 July.
- ii Funeral Poverty has been raised as an issue of concern.
- iii The numbers of cases of Covid infection have increased.
- iv There are concerns that residents who are not confident using IT systems may find obtaining Covid and Flu vaccinations appointments difficult.

## 9. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i A review of progress on the Single Midlothian Plan is underway. Planning for activities in the next 6 months is being undertaken.
- ii Lack of available childcare provision for Midlothian residents is becoming an issue of concern.
- iii Councillor Pauline Winchester has taken up the position of Armed Forces Champion.

## 10. PLANNING

- i Noted that there appears to be a delay in Planning team members responding to enquiries from the public and additionally, delays in the planning process. There was speculation that this is a result of planning team members continuing to work from home.
- ii AC (Damhead) reported that she had experienced a considerable delay. She was advised to contact Peter Arnsdorf (Senior Manager Planning Sustainable Growth and Investment) [peter.arnsdorf@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:peter.arnsdorf@midlothian.gov.uk) to raise awareness.

## 11 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### Midlothian Climate Action Network

- i Ian Malcolm ([ian@sccan.scot](mailto:ian@sccan.scot)) has taken up the role as Coordinator for Midlothian Climate Action Network.
- ii Ian is in the process of establishing a 'working group' to work towards creating a Midlothian Hub.
- iii Those present agreed that MFCC would support the project.
- iv Further information is available in an email sent by PJ to MFCC members on 11 July 2023.

### Environmental Crime Officers

- i In July, a new dedicated environmental crime team commenced work to tackle fly tipping, dog fouling, littering and other offences.
- ii During the year-long pilot, the team of three wardens will have powers to issue statutory and fixed penalty notices of between £80 and £200 to offenders and report potential crimes to the procurator fiscal.

## **12. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (MEETING, 28 AUGUST 2023)**

- i A short overview of the last meeting was provided. The meeting minutes will be circulated to MTRaP members.
- ii The next meeting of the group will be on Monday, 9 October (6.00 – 7.30, Zoom).

## **13 SCOTTISH FORUM OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

- i An invitation has been extended to MFCC to join the forum.
- ii There was agreement that MFCC would take up the invitation to join.
- iii For further information, see email sent by PJ to MFCC members on 20 September 2023.

## **14 DEMOCRACY MATTERS CONSULTATION**

- i This is a Scottish Government initiative.
- ii Funding is available to support Community groups (inc. Community Councils) to engage in discussion about the initiative.
- iii See here for further information: [Democracy Matters - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space](#).

## **15 CHANGWORKS INVITATION**

- i There is a Changeworks project in Dalkeith. The project will provide expert advice and help residents to access funding to reduce carbon in lots of different ways.
- ii An offer had been proposed to meet with MFCC members to discuss the work of the project. There was agreement that would be considered at a later date.
- iii See here for further information about Change Works initiatives: [Changeworks | Make Your Home Energy Efficient](#).

## **16 COALFIELDS REGENERATION TRUST (CRT)**

- i The organisation has been informed that it will have a reduction in funding support provided by the Scottish Government.
- ii ASK proposed writing a letter of support.

**Action: RH will contact CRT**

## 17. A.O.C.B.

### i **Elected Member's 'Environmental Budget'**

There has been a misunderstanding about the process of expenditure of their 'Environmental' budget by Elected Members. Elected members make the decisions on how to distribute funding from this budget. The budget is not currently being spent using a PB process.

### ii **Archie Pacey**

Group members noted with sadness that Archie Pacey (former Chairperson of MFCC) had recently passed away. Group members highlighted and celebrated the valued contribution that Archie had made as a member and Chairperson of MFCC.

A public statement of support will be made by MFCC members.

### iii **Support for the Chairperson**

Group members offered messages of support to the Chairperson who had recently experienced 2 bereavements.

### iv **Projectors**

ASK (Dalkeith) highlighted that Midlothian Council have been offering Projectors (recycled) to community groups.

PJ had previously emailed Federation members about the offer on 26 July.

### v **MFCC Zoom Account**

MFCC has been meeting the cost of 2 accounts that enables Community Councils to have access to online meetings. After a discussion about the need for individual Community Councils to have access to a Zoom account, those present agreed that the cost of 2 Zoom accounts will be met from MFCC funds.

### vi **CCTV Cameras**

Robbie Beattie (Neighbourhood Services Senior Manager) can be contacted to arrange for mobile cameras to be put in place where issues such as fly tipping arise.

[robbie.beattie@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:robbie.beattie@midlothian.gov.uk)

## 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday, 18 October 2023, 7:00 - 9.00 pm (Zoom)**

### **Zoom Meeting Details**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85613946966?pwd=NTEybWJhY2E8xTmIWSmxqMVkzeURuUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 856 1394 6966

**Passcode:** 622417