

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Annual General Meeting
Midlothian House
Wednesday, 15 November 2023

Present:

Dan Lennie (DL)	Bonnyrigg and District
Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Joanne Gilles (JG)	Damhead and District
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Eddie Robertson (ER)	Gorebridge and District
Steve Chalmers (SC)	Gorebridge and District
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District (Chair)
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot and District
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange & District
Jamie Tennant (JT)	Penicuik and District
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater and District

In Attendance

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities & Lifelong Learning
Jim Robertson (JR)	Chief Inspector - Police Scotland
David Rourke (DR)	Inspector - Police Scotland

Apologies

Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Robert welcomed Community Councillors and guest speakers to the meeting.

2. INPUT FROM POLICE SCOTLAND – CHIEF INSPECTOR JIM ROBERTSON AND INSPECTOR DAVID ROURKE

Police Scotland Priorities

Police Scotland have identified the following as priorities for 2023-26:

1. Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical and Digital World

- Hate crime
- Domestic Violence Team
- Cyber safety courses available for the over 50's

2. Reducing Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

- Reducing Anti-social behaviour especially important
- Occurring in Hardengreen and buses
- Portable CCTV cameras are being used
- DNA spray has been successfully used to apprehend potential criminals
- Motor bikes being used inappropriately is being addressed
- MCAT – High visibility patrols prioritising crime ‘hot spots’.
- CCTV can use artificial intelligence to improve effectiveness of footage. Will continue to develop use of CCTV

3. Tackling Acquisitive Crime

- Actions include Liaising with new housebuilders
- Patio doors are a point of entry
- Local people are encouraged to improve their security
- Cells – ideally use of cells in Dalkeith will resume but not decided yet.

4. Improving Road Safety

- Focus on road policing around schools
- Use of ANPR to address issues of concern, particularly noise pollution.
- Focus on ‘county lines’ reduction
- Organised Criminal Groups target high value cars
- Have a range of initiatives to combat organised crime.
- Traffic calming can be as effective as enforcement.
- Initiative to use dash-cam footage where available.

Staffing

- 6 Community Beat Police Officers and 2 Community Sergeants Keen to attract experienced officers to fulfil community beat officer roles
- Areas reflect the boundaries of Midlothian’s multi member wards
- 4 school link officers
- Midlothian Community Action Team

Budgets

- Have saved £200 million since the formation of Police Scotland
- There has been a reduction in the number of Police Officers
- There are fewer number of probationary officers

Support for communities

- Combination of foot patrols and mobile patrols
- Regular Visits to and checks in Licensed premises.
- Some regions produce speed surveys – Midlothian are considering this
- ‘Crash Maps’ can provide valuable information.
- Need to get data

Communications

- Email
- Can use ‘contact us’ on Police Scotland website - Contact Police Scotland - Police Scotland
- Scrutiny report is available every quarter.
- MCAT reports are published monthly.
- Attendance at Community Council meetings. Officers will attend where possible – likely to be on a quarterly basis.
- Prefer to have officers out on patrol rather than in meetings.
- Will work to improve communications between Police Scotland and local Community Councils
- Important to get public responses and are keen to work with Midlothian’s Community Councils

RH (Chairperson) noted the range of work and support that Police Scotland are undertaking. He thanked Chief Inspector Robertson and Inspector Rourke for their input and attendance at the meeting.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES (December 2022) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Moved: Joanne Gilles

Seconded: Andrew Watt

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- i Robert expressed his thanks for the dedication and work of Federation attendees and members of Midlothian's Community Councils during the past year. He thanked them for the work they had undertaken, and support provided to local communities, during what had been a busy year. He highlighted the work to raise issues related to the setting of the budget and engaging and responding to planning applications and developments.
- ii Robert drew attention to the successful merger of Poltonhall & Hopefield and Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Councils and wished the new Community Council every success.
- iii He noted that that it was good to see new representatives of Community Councils attending Federation 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 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 & Employability Team and the Planning Team who have provided support and training to support the development of Local Place Plans.
- vi Robert noted the sad passing of former MFCC chairperson Archie Pacey who had kept the Federation going when it had been in danger of folding. Archie had made a significant contribution to community activities in Gorebridge. Robert also noted the passing of Jan Irvine, former Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council Chairperson and community activist.
Robert noted that they would both be missed.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

- i ASK (Treasurer) noted that expenditure during the previous year had been low. MFCC had met the cost of providing refreshments at the training event in March. Website hosting and the cost of the two Zoom licenses had been spent.
- ii Although funds are available there have been no requests for support to purchase Community Notice Boards.
- iii ASK recommended that the Bank Account be changed to a provider that would facilitate electronic banking.
- iv A review of signatories to the account is required.
- v RH (Chairperson) on behalf of the Federation, thanked Ann for her time and work spent during the lengthy period she had served as Treasurer of MFCC.

Proposed Robert Hogg

Seconded Joanne Gillies

Opening Balance – 1 November 2022	£5899.54
Income:	0.00
Expenditure	
Annual Fee for 2 Zoom Licenses	£287.76
Spanglefish – Domain Name and Webhosting	£103.00
Training Day Buffet	£120.00
Total Expenditure	£510.76
Balance for the year	–£510.76
Closing Balance – 31 October 2023	£5388.78

Independently checked and verified by: *Pauline Thorburn*

Date: *13 November 2023*



Opening balance (01/11/2022)

£5,899.54

Income

£0.00

Expenditure

Training Day Buffet

£120.00

Spanglefish - domain name and website hosting

£103.00

Annual fee for 2 Zoom licences

£287.76

£510.76

Balance for year

-£510.76

Closing balance (31/10/2023)

£5,388.78

Signed *P Thorburn*
Date *13/11/23*

Signed *D. Stewart - Kinnick*
Date *13/11/23*

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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 attention to the 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.

Chairperson

Robert Hogg

Nominated

Andrew Watt

Seconded

Judy Thomson

Vice Chairperson

Brian Farrell

Nominated

Robert Hogg

Seconded

Robin Barclay

Treasurer

Judy Thomson

Nominated

Robin Barclay

Seconded

Dan Lennie

Edinburgh Airport Noise Board

Andrew Watt

Nominated

Robert Hogg

Seconded

Joanne Gillies

Community Planning Partnership Board

Ann Stewart Kmicha will continue to be the MFCC representative.

Community Planning Working Group

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

Licensing Forum

Robert Hogg

A check will be made to ascertain the frequency of meetings and when the Licensing Forum is next due to meet.

Care for People

Judy Thomson

7. A.O.C.B.

i Other Nominations

Members were asked to consider whether they would be interested in representing the Federation on these groups.

ii Edinburgh Airport Noise Board

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.

iii Midlothian Climate Action Hub

ASK highlighted that it would be advantageous for MFCC to be represented on the recently formed Midlothian Climate Action Hub.

iv MFCC Meetings

Agreement that holding meetings using Zoom will be the default mode for MFCC meetings.

8. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Approved 20 November 2024