

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Wednesday, 17 January 2024
ZOOM Meeting Minutes



Approved 21 February 2024

PRESENT:

Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
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
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District (Treasurer)
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District (Chair)
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot & District
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability
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Apologies

Diane Easton	Bonnyrigg and District
Gordon Brown	Tynewater and District
Steven Chalmers	Gorebridge and District
Jim Hiddleston	Roslin and Bilston

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Helen Blackburn was present at the December Meeting, but her attendance had not been recorded. PJ (Midlothian Council) will amend the minutes.

Moved: Robert Hogg

Seconded: Ken Brown

MATTERS ARISING

i Planning Input at December meeting

- The Chairperson (RH) wished to record his appreciation of the input of Planning Team members, Grant Ballantine (GB) and Keith Luke (KL).
- GB had followed up on requests for information, providing Maps for the Housing Land Audit and the Employment Land Audit.
- The files are large and so JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) will post on the MFCC website.

ii 2024-2025 Budget

- The Chairperson highlighted concerns re the lack of communication from Midlothian Council about budget proposals for the 2024-2025 financial year.
- He noted that there is only 6-week period until the meeting when the budget proposals will be discussed. This will mean that Community Councils will find it difficult to provide a response on behalf of the communities they represent.
- ASK (Dalkeith) noted that MVA had hosted a meeting of 3rd sector organisations and that a letter from the organisation will be sent to Midlothian Council political party leaders.

Action: On behalf of the Federation, RH will contact Elected Members and the Business Transformation Steering Group.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and District

- i Most recent meeting was held in December.
- ii A lot of work has been undertaken to develop a Local Place Plan

Dalkeith and District

- i The January meeting was held on Tuesday Jan 9th. Unfortunately, the Chair, Ann Stewart-Kmicha had slipped badly on ice in the High Street the previous day and was in Hospital awaiting treatment for a serious break in her leg.
- ii The main items covered included a discussion on the Battery Storage System that Buccleuch Energy wish to install in a field off Salters Road. One of the Dalkeith CC's has a contact who has been involved with similar schemes elsewhere in the country. He had given some really helpful advice and raised some possible concerns about such schemes, and we are going back to Buccleuch Energy with a list of questions.
- iii The monthly Police Report seemed to have a larger proportion of incidents involving physical assault, including an attempted murder. There are also a

couple of incidents of a specific racial nature. The increase in both of these types of crime was a little concerning if it is to become a trend going forward.

- iv Concern was expressed at the way the redevelopment of Dalkeith Town centre is going ahead without any input from residents. What had been publicised as an “initial consultation” now seems to be all that we are going to get, with no opportunity to comment on what now seems to be the working plan.
- v There was general consensus that the introduction of a filter on the High Street and Edinburgh Road had resulted in a significant improvement in the general traffic flows.

Damhead

- i Have been reviewing proposals by Allandale Developers
- ii Have been reviewing proposals for the new Beeslack High School
- iii Concerns have been expressed about the proposed A701 relief road running close to the new Beeslack High School building, and between the building and its playing fields - safety issues for those walking to school as well as moving across the school
- iv LPP is progressing well, and it has received positive feedback from local residents.
- v Will be working with neighbouring Community Councils to examine potential links between proposals.

Danderhall and District

- i No update

Eskbank and Newbattle

- i No update

Gorebridge and District

- i January meeting was postponed and will be held on 22 January.

Howgate and District

- i No update

Loanhead

- i No update

Mayfield and Easthouses

- i Have reviewing and discussing the proposed 'Springfield' development.
- ii Will be meeting Newtongrange and Gorebridge Community Councils on Tuesday 23 January to discuss Crawlees Road.

Moorfoot

- i PMcG highlighted the support given by Wayne Clark to consideration of reducing speeding by motorists in the area. Wayne was thanked for his contribution.

Newtongrange

- i No update

Penicuik and District

- i No update

Rosewell and District

- i Have delivered a calendar to all residents and local businesses.
- ii Organising a 'meet your community council' event to be held in March.
- iii Have funding to undertake environmental activities.
- iv Have been undertaking a lot of work to develop a Local Place Plan.

Roslin and Bilston

- i No update

Tynewater

- i No update

4 COMMUNITY COUNCIL TRAINING EVENT

- i PJ (Midlothian Council) highlighted that he had circulated a training survey to MFCC members.
- ii MFCC members are asked to circulate the survey and complete it themselves.
[Midlothian Community Council Training Survey – 2024](#)
- iii PJ highlighted that one of the workshops will be on 'Governance' and the 'Revised Good Practice' guidance for Community Councils.

4 COMMUNITY COUNCIL INSURANCE (2024-2025) INVOICES

- i Community Councils will be sent links to documents in the next few weeks.

- ii Documents, or at least the Invoice, should be sent to PJ (Midlothian Council)
- iii Midlothian Council will pay the invoices - PJ will arrange payment.
- iv Contact Zurich Municipal if the Community Council contact has changed.

5 EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i AW (Dalkeith) circulated a report to MFCC members on 17 January.

6 CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING.

- i No meeting since November 2023

7 COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i No meeting so far this year

8 PLANNING

- i RH encouraged members to monitor the Planning Portal
- ii [Weekly List \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk)

9 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- i ASK highlighted proposals for a flood prevention scheme in Musselburgh which may have an impact on the River Esk in Midlothian. The outline design of the Scheme will be presented to a meeting of East Lothian Council on 23rd January.

10 INFRASTRUCTURE

- i Noted that Health Boards are becoming involved in and contributing to planning development when housing developments are being planned.

11 MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (NEXT MEETING, 22 JANUARY 2024)

- i PJ (Midlothian Council) will send out the Minutes to MFCC members once completed.

12 A.O.C.B.

i Local Place Plans

- RH/JT noted that all LPP's are being led and prepared by Community Councils.
- Those present at the meeting highlighted that a lot of work is required to develop and submit the plans.

- JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) offered to organise a meeting where Community Councils could share and discuss information that would support the development of LPP's.

ii Midlothian Climate Action Network (MCAN)

- ASK highlighted that MCAN are based in the MVA offices in Dalkeith. The hub is being developed to support a community-led approach to climate action in the Midlothian community.
- MCAN are keen to encourage participation from a range of stakeholders.
- There was agreement that MFCC could have a representative on the group.
- Anyone interested in representing their local community council or MFCC are encouraged to contact Ian Malcolm (Midlothian Climate Action Network Coordinator).
- Email: ian@sccan.scot
- Website: <https://midlothianclimateaction.org.uk>

iii MFCC Bank Account

- JT is working on getting a new bank account for the Federation and asked who could be listed as a co-signatory.
- Helen Blackburn (RDCC) volunteered to be a signatory. This was agreed by those present.
- The intention is to move the money from the old 'Virgin Money' account into a new Bank of Scotland account and then close the old one.

iv Recording Meetings

- There was a discussion about recording MFCC meetings.
- There was general agreement that this would be acceptable.
- PJ will ask at the beginning of each meeting to confirm that those present agree.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21 February 2024, 7:00 – 9.00 pm (Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89492418943?pwd=OGJHRGVJekRRZlQ4dm5LOStyNUtOUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 9241 8943

Passcode: 360597