



PRESENT:

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and District
Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Ailsa Carlisle (AC)	Damhead and District
Eddie Robertson (ER)	Gorebridge and District
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot & District
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange & District
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Gordon Brown	Tynewater and District
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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

- i ASK (Dalkeith) highlighted that in Section 17 (ii) the initials should be 'ASB' rather than 'ASN'.
- ii JT (MFCC) noted that in the Matters Arising 'MFCC Bank Account' the text should be
'A new bank account has been opened with the Bank of Scotland & funds have been transferred from the Virgin Banking account. The Virgin account has now been closed'.

Moved: Ken Brown (PDCC)

Seconded: Ann Stewart Kmicha (Dalkeith)

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUNDING, 2024 – 2025

- i. PJ (Midlothian Council) highlighted that the deadline for funding had now passed.
- ii. He thanked those Community Councils who had submitted applications.
- iii. A meeting to discuss the allocation of funding will be held in April.
- iv. It is anticipated that the Community Councils will be informed of the outcome by the end of April.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL TRAINING UPDATE

- i. PJ advised those present that training session has been postponed.
- ii. An alternative date will be organised.

5. COMMUNITY COUNCIL INSURANCE (2024-2025) INVOICES

- i. PJ noted that all invoices have been received from Community Councils and have been forward to colleagues for payment.
- ii. All policies will be in place by 1 April.
- iii. The process will be reviewed before the next renewal period to try to make it more straightforward.

6. EDUCATION SCOTLAND – PROGRESS VISIT

- i. PJ thanked the members of the MFCC who joined the focus group session with Education Scotland

7. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and District

- i Skeltiemuir Residents Association have been in discussion with Zurich Municipal Insurance working on an issue that has taken 10 months to resolve.

Dalkeith and District

- i Dalkeith Masterplan – An environmental impact assessment had not been requested.

Damhead

- i Has completed the Local Place Plan for the area.
- ii In order to support the Penicuik CC LPP, Damhead would be happy to send to PDCC.

Danderhall and District

- i No update

Eskbank and Newbattle

- i No update

Gorebridge and District

- i The Local Place Plan is almost ready for submission.
- ii GDCC is writing to Midlothian Council and the Scottish Government to highlight their concern and disappointment re. the proposal to build a new High School being removed from the Midlothian Council budget proposals.

Howgate and District

- i PJ (Midlothian Council) highlighted that he had been working in the area to promote the Community Council. He had distributed leaflets to most households in order to raise awareness and encourage participation.
- ii A meeting was held on 19 March with 11 local people in attendance. There had been a positive response from those local residents attending the meeting. Work is planned to develop communications and wider involvement.
- iii The next meeting is planned for 10 April.

Loanhead

- i No update

Mayfield and Easthouses

- i A planning proposal had been submitted to develop the former Scotts Caravan site and assessed by the Midlothian Council planning committee.
- ii RH expressed disappointment at the conduct of the elected members who appeared to have made decisions based on political and party lines.

Moorfoot

- i. No update

Newtongrange

- i Police Scotland officer attended the last meeting.
- ii NGCC is intending to submit the Local Place Plan in the next week.
- iii Have set up sub-groups to progress the actions that were identified during the consultations undertaken to create the plan.
- iv A meeting to discuss developments along the Crawlees Road, (Newtongrange\Mayfield – Gorebridge), has been postponed until April.

- v Concerns are being raised about the possibility of the area created as a Community Garden, being taken back by Midlothian Council.
- vi The availability for funding to develop and improve Newtongrange Primary School has been withdrawn.
RH (Mayfield and Easthouses) suggested that the issue could be raised with the Midlothian MSP Colin Beattie.
ASK (Dalkeith) suggested that MFCC could write a letter on behalf of NGCC.
JH (Roslin and Bilston) suggested that NGCC could submit a proposal to 'adopt' a space. He will forward the details to NGCC.

Penicuik and District

- i KB highlighted that the MTRaP PDCC representative had resigned from the group.
- ii PJ advised that he had contacted the PDCC secretary to add PDCC membership of MTRaP agenda to be raised at the April meeting.

Rosewell and District

- i Had held a very well received 'meet your community council' event.
- ii The event had been successful in raising funds to support the development of the community calendar.
- iii An Environmental Sustainability fair is planned for July 2024

Roslin and Bilston

- i. No update

Tynewater

- i. No update

8. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i AW (Dalkeith) circulated a report to MFCC members on 20 March.
- ii AW noted that the group is 1 of only 3 in the UK
- iii AW encouraged members to submit reports about noisy aircraft flying over the county.

Edinburgh Airport Noise Complaint form

<https://flighttracking.casper.aero/edi/enquiry/index.php>

9. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING.

- i No report at this meeting.

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i ASK will forward the notes of the last meeting to MFCC members.
- ii The next Community Planning Conference will be on Thursday, 19 September 2024 in Newbattle Abbey.

11. PLANNING

- i RH highlighted that each Community Council should be getting the weekly Planning update. RH encouraged members to monitor the Planning Portal
- ii See link here: [Weekly List \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/weekly-list). If not registered, CC members can also use the link to register an account.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

i Sheriffhall Grade Separation Project

- ASK highlighted concerns about the amount of money available for projects with a high 'carbon footprint'. Furthermore, there appears to be no progress on the initiative.
- AC (Damhead) noted the A701 link road is another example of a large amount of money being spent on a project with a high carbon footprint.

ii. Torfichen Wind Turbine project

- KB (Penicuik) noted that Scottish Water had not subjected an objection to the proposal.
- PM (Moorfoot) noted that Moorfoot and Heriot (Scottish Borders) Community Councils have submitted a joint objection to the project.

13. INFRASTRUCTURE

i Developer Contributions

- Noted that it not always apparent how developer contributions are allocated or spent.
- MFCC and local Community Council members can contact Matthew Atkins (Midlothian Council Section 75 Officer)
matthew.atkins@midlothian.gov.uk or call 0131 271 3027 to obtain further information.

14. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (Next Meeting, 15 April 2024)

- #### i
- Once completed, PJ (Midlothian Council) will circulate the March meeting notes to MFCC members.

15. A.O.C.B.

i Withdrawal of Funding for improvement of Schools

- ASK highlighted concerns about the withdrawal of funding for improvement of school buildings and facilities.
- There was a suggestion that a list of schools where funding for improvement had been withdrawn, could be compiled.
- It would also be useful to invite an officer from the Education department to be invited to a MFCC meeting to provide an update.

ii. Police Scotland – Attendance at Community Council meetings

- Members noted that officers are once again joining meetings or alternatively submitting local updates
- Police Scotland are anticipating that they will attend Community Council meetings on a quarterly basis.

iii. BT phone provision

- The meeting noted that analogue telephone lines will be phased out and replaced by digital provision.
- Members highlighted concerns that, if Internet provision is interrupted, householders may be without access to telephone provision
- Midlothian Council will be supporting householders with home alarms.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17 April March 2024, 7:00 – 9.00 pm (Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89625522755?pwd=dEoxdXFCZmIrcW5nQysvWDFiSTF5dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 2552 2755

Passcode: 993674