

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Wednesday, 15 May, 2024
ZOOM Meeting Minutes



PRESENT:

Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District (Acting Chair)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Jo Gillies (JG)	Damhead and District
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Gavin Mowat (GM)	Moorfoot
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater

IN ATTENDANCE:

Annette Lang (AL)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability
Rebakah Sullivan (RS)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability

Apologies:

Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District (Chair)
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

ASK (Acting Chair) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. INPUT FROM ANNETTE LANG & REBEKAH SULLIVAN

- Locality Planning - CPP must prepare a local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP), this is the Single Midlothian Plan. Also need Locality Plans (different to Local Place Plans). No capacity to produce these plans for each CC area. Previous Neighbourhood Plans have reached end of life and in some cases did not have all points actioned. Local Place Plans will be taken into consideration if socio-economic issues have been included. CCs asked to consider choice about how Midlothian might follow this legislation in a manageable but meaningful way.
- Participatory Budgeting - No current plans. Federation can approach Councillors to encourage PB but nothing at the moment. Council is not meeting the 1% of budget for PB (which is set by law).
<https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/participatory><https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/participatory-budgeting/budgeting/> Pros and Cons discussed.
- Councillor's Environmental Funds were raised and there was confirmation that they are free to choose what they fund. This does have to be a capital project. The records of spend have been updated:
https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/822/members_environmental_funds
- CLD National Review/Plan - Current plan expires in September 2024. Report available here <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review/find-aninspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=5306>
- Contact Annette with any feedback Annette.Lang@midlothian.gov.uk

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

- ASK felt the previous minutes were missing mention of the consultation and exhibition about the River Esk Flood Prevention Scheme in Musselburgh.
- Also, it said JT would take minutes but it was RH who offered to take the minutes in absence of PJ (although he was absent himself at this meeting).
- **Previous Minutes**
 - Approved by CB & Seconded by AW
- ASK reported the defibrillator finder mentioned in the last meeting doesn't seem to show the device, probably just most of them.
- The environmental funds were discussed, and concern shown over its transparency. There's one figure of £30,000 and it's only supposed to be £10,000 and ex-Councillors have committed spend in 2024/5. Clarity needs to be sought, so it was requested that someone comes to speak to us about these funds and this report.
- ASK gave a reminder about the A7 Sustainable Transport Study, asking CCs to join up.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- Robin Barclay has resigned from Eskbank CC.
- Rosewell & District CC has three new members since their AGM, which is great news, and they are taking sustainability in the village very seriously.
- Tynewater residents have formed a Bus Action Group because of lack of services in the area. TCC fully support this initiative.

5. DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE MIDLOTHIAN SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- Turnout at public meetings has been quite low so please encourage members to comment.
- Aligning CC AGMs were discussed but with the same difference of opinion as before about being asked to change the way things are.
- Reminder that it's not necessary to answer all the questions if they are not felt to be relevant.

6. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- AW had emailed a report.
- Share holder has sold 50.01% and kept the rest.
- Statistics on night flights were available. Analysis includes delays during the day that can build up and mean that flights could land at 1am or 2am!
- There is an Airport Community Fund which community groups can apply for. They meet three times a year so there is encouragement to apply. Groups in Midlothian have been beneficiaries of this fund in the past.

7. PLANNING

- Crawlees Road - CCs joining up with Councillors to ask for improvements and for thoughts to be given to the development nearby. There is a safe-guarded route that needs to be looked at again.
- Regeneration plans for centre of Newtongrange, currently waiting to hear back from Council.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Esk River Improvement Group (ERIG) meeting on Monday - encouragement to join if possible.
- JT spoke about the 'safe route' to Easthouses Primary School. There is interest to link the bottom of the school to both Lothian Drive and the Kippielaw/Wester Kippielaw Estates. A walk-about has happened to measure and cost the project.
- Dalkeith and Newbattle and Eskbank would like to be kept in the loop about the path.
- It was acknowledged that the landowner may be a barrier to this path happening.

9. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS

- Figures have been produced for the work undertaken by the Pothole Pro (Page 4 of MTRaP minutes) so this can be shared with communities.
- CB was impressed that potholes in Burnside had been filled, albeit probably only temporarily.
- The membership of MTRaP was discussed as requests to join had been made.
- Final Terms of Reference for the group should be available soon.

10. A.O.C.B.

- Thanks to SM for representing the Federation on the Large Grant Steering Group.
- JT asked about Gala Days, mainly for the purpose of Saltersgate School considering getting involved.
- JT also mentioned Loanhead After School Club (LASC)
 - So much more than an After School Club. Their services cover the whole county, particularly for children with additional support needs so would appreciate support from all Community Councils.
 - Rosewell have a good working relationship with them already due to one of their facilities being based at Rosewell Pavilion.
 - JT to send round information about LASC to the Federation.
- There are multiple Connect Online groups in the county, ASK will send round information. Esk Valley Trust are having their AGM on Monday (first since COVID) at St David's Church hall, CCs are encouraged to join (it's £15 a year).
- JT asked if there is any more information available about the funds held by the Federation, ASK said she would look up documents and pass on previous Annual Reports, etc.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 19th June at 7pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84706147713?pwd=eGRrdjFEZE9USHJoSEJRRUZxeGxZUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 0614 7713

Passcode: 175734