

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Wednesday, 19 June 2024
ZOOM Meeting Minutes



PRESENT:

Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Karen Soar (KS)	Dalkeith and District
Ailsa Carlyle (AC)	Damhead and District
Roslyn Wright (RW)	Danderhall and District
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Richard Horsburgh (RH)	Gorebridge and District
Jaqueline Frankitti (JF)	Gorebridge and District
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Treasurer)
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chairperson)
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
James Orr (JO)	Tynewater

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater
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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

i. CLLE presentation at the May meeting.

ASK highlighted that Annette Lang had requested responses from MFCC members. AW suggested that responses could be forwarded on behalf of individuals and local Community Councils also.

ii. **Musselburgh Flood Prevention Scheme.**

The May minutes had recorded an item that indicated that the April minutes needed to be revised. PJ noted that he had revised the April MFCC minutes with information about an exhibition relating to the flood prevention scheme. The revised minutes have been uploaded to the MFCC website.

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Dalkeith

- i Is hosting a twinning visit with the residents of Jarnac.

Damhead

- ii Concerns about the new Beeslack Secondary school proposed for the Bush Estate.
- iii Issues around roads and traffic safety in the area.
- iv Also, other road developments, the A701 relief road, a proposed junction at the Bush Loan. Would it be better at Hillend?

Gorebridge

- i The Local Place Plan has been published
- ii As per the request received via the MFCC website, the Secretary has responded to the request from Lauder Community Council for discussion \ information re wind farm developments, shared ownership issues, and community benefit issues.
- iii New Office Bearers have been elected
Chairperson: Gael Robertson
Secretary: Richard Horsburgh
Treasurer: Juliet Bruce Dickie

Moorfoot

- i **NWH Planning application.**

Having put our best efforts to represent the local community in objecting to NWH's plans to expand their operations at the quarry site outside North Middleton. We were extremely disappointed with the decision of the planning committee to allow planning. Some members had been unable to vote on the decision as they had not been present at earlier meetings.

- ii We were also disappointed that the planning permission was granted without conditions being set on the company, particularly when requesting they complete the reinstatement of the first quarry back to grazing land and that they improve communication with the CC.
- iii Other business discussed during the meeting was of local interest.

Newtongrange

- i. The redevelopment of the village centre has been the main focus of work during the previous month. The development is likely to include further housing and a new library building.
- ii. The downside is that the proposed development is going to be on the current site of the community garden. Community Council members are hoping that this proposal will be reconsidered.

Tynewater

- i. Has held a successful 'village' day.
- ii. Has been focusing on Developer Contributions (Section 75).

4. HOUSING TARGET FIGURES

- i Elected Members are in the process of agreement about the number of additional of houses (above the 8850 imposed by the Scottish Government) to be noted in the Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP 2).
- ii JT had emailed MFCC members on 14 May with information about the decision-making process. The email included a link to a Sway presentation.
- iii Although at recent planning meeting Elected Members voted narrowly to permit additional numbers of housing, a vote will also be taken at the Council meeting on 25 June.
- iv There was a wide-ranging discussion at the MFCC meeting. Members noted that Midlothian communities have expressed their concerns about the lack of infrastructure to support current housing developments and that this will be exacerbated if permitted developments were further increased.
- v Those present at the meeting agreed that MFCC should be able to reflect the concerns of the communities they represent.
- vi ASK noted that MFCC will be able to have a 10-minute slot at the meeting.

- vii Those present agreed that a member of Mayfield and Easthouses CC, Stephen Liddell (SL), would be asked if he could present on behalf of MFCC and the communities they represent. Along with JT, Stephen had undertaken a lot of work to raise awareness of the importance of Elected Members making an *informed* decision when they vote at the meeting on Tuesday 25 June.

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

- i PJ (Midlothian Council) provided an update on the progress of the review of the scheme.
- ii He thanked the Community Council members who had taken the time attend the group discussions, the online discussion and to review the initial draft scheme and respond to the survey questions.
- iii He has collated the comments made and where appropriate, has made changes to the document text.
- iv He highlighted that the survey had elicited a range of comments. In order to support the development of the next draft, he asked if members would be willing to discuss the proposals suggested by survey respondents. Richard Horsburgh (Gorebridge), Robert Hogg (Mayfield and Easthouses) and Barbara Mackie (Eskbank and Newbattle) offered their support. PJ will send out the review documents and arrange times and dates to meet.

6. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i AW had emailed a report on the day of the meeting
- ii He gave a brief resume of the report

7. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- i JT had circulated the minutes (14 June) of the latest meeting.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i. No report is available.
- ii. ASK reminded MFCC members that the Community Planning Day will be held in September. Further information will be provided once available.

9. PLANNING

- i RH highlighted that each Community Council should be getting the weekly Planning update.

- ii RH encouraged members to monitor the Planning Portal
See link here: [Weekly List \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk). If not registered, Community Council members can also use the link to register an account.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- RH highlighted that there is a vacancy for a Community Council member to take the lead on 'environmental' issues. It would be helpful for a Community Council member who has an interest, to represent MFCC.
- i. He requested that MFCC members discuss this with their Community Council members. They would be welcome to join MFCC meetings
 - ii. ASK (Dalkeith) highlighted that Midlothian Council has appointed a Climate Lead, Sustainability, Investment and Planning Manager.

11. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS

- i. The next meeting will be Monday 1 July, 6.00 – 7.30pm, Zoom
- ii. PJ noted that members from all Community Councils are welcome to join MTRaP meetings. They can contact PJ to obtain meeting links or receive information.
- iii. **CCTV Camera Installation.**
RH highlighted the progress on the installation of the CCTV cameras. The systems in Dalkeith, Loanhead and Penicuik have been upgraded and are now in operation.
There has been a delay in upgrades and installations in other towns, but it anticipated that installations will be completed by later this year or early in 2025.
- iv. **A7 Sustainable Transport Study group**
The group hasn't met yet.
- v. **Safe routes to school, Easthouses Primary School.**
JT noted that there was no update on progress. The finance package for the path at Kippielaw needs to be approved.

12. A.O.C.B.

- i. **Midlothian Volunteer Awards.**
PJ had nominated MFCC for a group award. Although the nomination had not led to an award being made, MFCC had received a certificate to recognise the nomination.

ii. **Midlothian Community Gala Days**

JT extended thanks to the MFCC members who had responded to the request for information about Gala Days. JT will provide a link to the document that provides details about dates and contact details for Gala Day events across the county.

iii. **Enquiries submitted to the MFCC Website.**

JT will forward details of enquiry about Bogwood Farm to AC (Damhead).

iv. **Responses to NWH planning application**

There was a lengthy discussion relating to the Moorfoot CC update relating to Neil Williams Haulage being permitted to not fulfil the reinstatement requirements relating to planning permissions previously agreed. Those present were also perturbed about the situation where elected members were unable to vote on the latest NWH quarry planning application.

v. **Scam Phone Calls.**

Members were informed about an increase in the number Scam phone calls. If residents receive such a call, they should call 101.

Further information: [Take Five - To Stop Fraud](#)

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18 September 2024, 7:00 – 9:00 pm (Zoom).