

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Wednesday, 18 September 2024
ZOOM Meeting Minutes



PRESENT:

Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Joanne Gillies (JG)	Damhead and District
Keith Hamilton (KH)	Danderhall and District
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Richard Horsburgh (RH)	Gorebridge and District
Juliet Dickie (JD)	Gorebridge and District
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Treasurer)
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chairperson)
Gavin Mowatt (GM)	Moorfoot
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Chris Gooding (CG)	Roslin and Bilston
Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater

IN ATTENDANCE:

Catherine Duns (CD)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability
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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

June 2024 minute update:

- i. Page 2, line 2. Amend "that the indicated" to "that indicated".
- ii. Page 5, section 10 ii. Amend "Senior Climate Resilience Manager" to "Climate Lead, Sustainability, Investment and Planning".

Proposed: Andrew Watt

Seconded: Richard Horsburgh

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg

- i. A few people retiring from the Community Council and BDCC is looking for new Officer Bearers. It is approaching Lasswade High School to see if any senior students are interested in joining. Students need to be 16 years old to be a member with voting rights.

Dalkeith

- i. Raised issue of trees/bushes obscuring road signs, added as action for MTRaP and RH.
- ii. Plans for Battery Energy Storage System located near the campus on old mine workings, concerns about fire risks and an understanding needed of the safety standards.
- iii. River works, coal authority have been given permission to appoint a contractor.
- iv. Passivhaus Housing at the side of Midlothian House is officially opening as 'David Smith House' on 27/9/24.

Damhead

- i Successful summer gathering with over 30 people attending.
- ii Old Pentland Road speed limit being reduced from 60 to 40mph.
- iii Lots of roadworks around the area causing issues generally getting around.
- iv Concerns about the new Beeslack Secondary school proposed for the Bush Estate and potential flooding risks, raising with SEPA.
- v Alpine Coaster is now open as part of the 'Destination Hillend' programme, lots of comms out over the weekend.

Danderhall

- i. Welcomed to the meeting.
- ii. Resurrected the Community Council and have strong membership and all Office Bearer positions filled.
- iii. Asked for advice on quorums and membership numbers in Constitution, suggested that this is done as part of the update to the scheme.

Gorebridge

- i Official launch of the Local Place Plan has been organised for 28/9/24, new MP attending.

Mayfield

- i. JT completed loads of work on 'safe routes to school' for the new Easthouses Primary School - map, photos and danger spots highlighted, will be sharing it far and wide and expecting action.
- ii. Pupil numbers in Easthouses Primary not as high as anticipated. Education using some space for Family Wellbeing Service and Mayfield Nursery and the ASN provision have now moved in.
- iii. MECC frustrated and disappointed with the tender process for Mayfield Campus. The Community Council had been informed that Keirs had the contract and been sent a 'fly through' video of the new facilities etc but they only had the groundworks contract. There isn't a contract in place and still to go out to tender and could take 6-9 months to get off the ground. The £36m budget available is awaiting allocation.

Moorfoot

- i. Held AGM, 10 members out of a maximum of 12, plus a newly co-opted member. We would really like to fill the last place with a resident from Temple Village.
- ii. Midlothian Councillors attend our meetings regularly. This is much appreciated and extremely helpful.
- iii. NWH planning decision, conditions set by planning are now available, now there is the question of how these are monitored and communicated. Ricky Ray, NWH's Compliance Manager, is to be invited to next meeting and Community Council members to consider questions to put to him.

Rosewell

- i. In recognition of its 'Keep Rosewell Beautiful' campaign RDCC is hosting episodes of BBC Radio 4 programmes, 'Gardeners Question Time' on 25/11/24 and 'the Kitchen Cabinet' on 26/11/24 at St Matthews Church Hall - well done to RDCC from Federation members.

Roslin and Bilston

- i. Held its AGM last month. Chris Gooding is now Chairperson, Louise Anderson, Secretary and Calum Anderson, Treasurer.
- ii. Ongoing conversations about Bilston and Roslin forming their own separate Community Councils. This would involve a boundary change, meeting arranged Oct/Nov to discuss further.

Tynewater

- i. Sadly, one of the Community Council members has passed away, sympathies from all at the Federation.
- ii. 2 new members have come on board.
- iii. 20 mph speed limits set to be introduced through the villages, the speed bumps have been installed but the legal process to reduce the speed is still to be completed.

General comment that all things seemed quiet with regards the school estate at Shawfair. KH commented that the Danderhall Primary Headteacher attends their meetings to update and the primary school is quickly filling up, There is already discussion about the potential for additional units in the school grounds.

4. UPDATE ON DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE MIDLOTHIAN SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- i. 2 consultation meetings have been held with MFCC members.
- ii. Edits from the consultations have been made.
- iii. Anticipated that a report will be presented to the October Council meeting for consideration by elected members.
- iv. Review of Boundaries (Penicuik, RBCC and Damhead - postponed until discussion with RBCC members re potential new Bilston Community Council has taken place, October\November).

5. EQUALITIES PRESENTATION - CLLE

- i James Blair to be invited for a 20 minute slot at the November meeting.

6. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i. AW had emailed his report earlier in the day. He emphasised that there were going to be two consultations coming up in quick succession but were on quite separate initiatives. The first consultation is on the new 5 year Noise Action Plan, NAP, which outlines how Edinburgh Airport will tackle noise over the next five years. The consultation will start shortly and last for six weeks.
- ii. The second consultation will be on the Air Space Change Proposal, ACP, which will change where planes arriving at and departing from Edinburgh Airport actually fly. The biggest change is hoped to be the opening of the Firth of Forth which should remove the need for many flights to overfly populated areas. This consultation is due to start in late November and go on until next March.

7. GRANT AWARDED FROM MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL TO FEDERATION

- i. MFCC received a grant of £662 from Midlothian Council. All of those present were in agreement to renew the two Zoom licences held by MFCC. There is a price increase of £10 to £129.90 x 2 = £259.80. It's set to renew on 5th October 2024.
- ii. In order to avoid any clashes of meetings, JT will once again circulate the information on how individual Community Councils can access the booking diary and Zoom account.
- iii. Questions over whether Midlothian Council could provide MFCC with a Teams license?
- iv. Police Scotland cannot attend meetings on Zoom.

8. MFCC COPYRIGHT ISSUE

- i. There has been a copyright claim re an image on the MFCC website. Initially it was thought to be a scam. JT asked for support from MC Legal department but was told that MC wouldn't be able to do so. Midlothian Council has advised that *"Midlothian Council legal staff simply cannot provide legal advice to any third parties which will include Community Councils, this would be in breach of Law Society Rules"*. JT has taken advice via SCVO which is to pay. Agreed that the Federation will pay the £400, Andrew moved, Richard seconded.
- ii. JT speaking to Lesley Kelly at MVA about awareness raising campaign to help others avoid copyright issues.
- iii. JT and Chris (RBCC) to set up a bank of local images that all CCs could use.
- iv. MFCC disappointed in lack of legal support from MC given they are a statutory organisation, to raise this with Ellen Scott.

9. MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING

- i. Grant Ballantine (Midlothian Council Planning) has been in touch about a further meeting so that Planning can continue the constructive relationship with the Federation and explain how Planning officers will use the identified sources of possible housing land supply to meet the requirement for LDP2.
- ii. Agreed to arrange a separate face to face meeting, perhaps a Saturday morning in October/November Dalkeith Library, 2 reps from each Community Council - JT to organise.

10. GOREBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

- i.** Removed from Capital Budget expenditure plans again, GDCC contacted Fiona Robertson (Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships), to raise concerns, message is that it's not included in current plans but it's just being rescheduled. A meeting had been held (Nov 2022 with Fiona Robertson and Peter Arnsdorf) where GDCC had been informed that school role projections were being reviewed. School role projections are now being reviewed again.
- ii.** 515 pupils are being bussed to Newbattle, continue to lobby.
- iii.** Various housing developments across the area that are impacting on the education estate needs across Newbattle/Gorebridge.
- iv.** Edinburgh schools are looking at increasing capacity by 25% into what is already there.
- v.** Invite Fiona Robertson to future Federation meeting to discuss future learning estate/community assets, for example Easthouses Primary is meant to be open and accessible to the community, how do you get access and get something in writing about what is actually agreed.

11. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- i** August meeting was cancelled.

12. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i.** Half year reporting has been completed.
- ii.** Dona Milne Children and YP report to be circulated by ASK, opportunity to comment.
- iii.** Citizens Panel starts in January 2025.
- iv.** Community Planning Day 19/9/24 - presentations on Equally Safe, Climate Action Hub and Poverty.
- v.** Sheriffhall - nothing happening, no update.
- vi.** Good Food Nation - opportunity for people to join and have their say.
- vii.** Neighbouring community planning groups getting together to look at how they all work.
- viii.** There are vacancies for MFCC to have reps on the Environment and Climate Action Hub groups.
- ix.** ASK will be stepping down from representing MFCC at the CPP Board so anyone interested please let ASK know.

13. PLANNING

Mayfield 'In It Together' initiative - update at next meeting.

Tynewater - members looked at LDP2 Call for Ideas consultation, all online, time consuming and difficult to process.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- i. No report

15. INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

- i. No report

16. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS

- i. The next meeting will be Monday 14 October, 6.00 - 7.30pm, Zoom.
- ii. Draft minutes from last meeting have been circulated but decided that if Wayne Clark is on holiday then advisable to postpone the meeting.
- iii. RH to email Wayne about hedging on the side of roads not being cut back that are obstructing views and road signs and also re the removal of old road signs like Loanhead Hospital and Rosslynlee Hospital (could be very confusing for visitors). All CC members to send a list of examples so there are specifics for the meeting.

17. A.O.C.B.

- i. JT reminded people to register for Community Benefit for their area, kate.goodall@mvacvs.org.uk @ MVA can provide further training on this.
- ii. 'Remembering Together' benches are now sited with planting at Rosewell, Easthouses, and Penicuik nearly complete. As the benches are so detailed looking to get interpretation boards installed to provide more information.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 16 October, 7.00 - 9.00 pm, Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87195459954?pwd=aZLEiJYEEW3NTy0Pezc9h4LOFGia9M.1>

Meeting ID: 871 9545 9954

Passcode: 389525