

**Midlothian Federation of Community Councils**  
**Wednesday, 16 October 2024**  
**ZOOM Meeting Minutes**



**PRESENT:**

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District
Keith Hamilton (KH)	Danderhall and District
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Jacqueline Frankitti (JF)	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
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Chris Gooding (CG)	Roslin and Bilston
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Johnson (PJ)	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**

**Previous meeting minutes (September)**

**Proposed:** Juliet Dickie

**Seconded:** Andrew Watt

**I. Boundaries**

PJ highlighted that this had temporarily been halted as there had been some discussion in the Roslin and Bilston area about potential changes to the composition of the Community Council. This has now changed so PJ will organise a meeting to restart the process.

**Action: PJ to contact representatives of Damhead, Roslin & Bilston and Penicuik Community Councils**

**II. Meeting with representatives of MFCC and Midlothian Council.**

Peter Arnsdorf had circulated potential dates for the meeting.

There was discussion about how many members would be invited to attend the meeting.

Proposed meeting date is Wednesday 30 October.

**3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

**Dalkeith**

- i. Experiencing anti-social behaviour
- ii. Issues with 139 Bus services being restricted due to road improvements in Woodburn

**Damhead**

- i Development of 400 houses proposed
- ii Concerns about impact upon agricultural ground
- iii Sink hole has appeared
- iv Need additional infrastructure in the area.

**Gorebridge**

- i JD highlighted issues around the Newbyres Housing development.
- ii Response times re queries from both GDCC and local residents has been very slow

**Moorfoot**

- i **Initial meeting with NWH Compliance Director, Ricky Ray** about NWH moving their recycling plant to North Middleton.
  - These meetings hopefully will be held regularly, (quarterly) to allow the CC to monitor proceedings at the quarry. It seems that the move from Newtongrange will only start in 2025 and not be completed till 2028.

- The question of their large vehicles using unsuitable roads was raised - in particular mentioning the Roslin Glen road and the road through Borthwick.
  - It was stressed that as a responsible employer effort should be made to avoid such usage. Cllr Douglas Bowen echoed our desire that only main roads be used.
- ii Lothian Buses**
- One of our new members would like to open the possibility of Lothian buses continuing beyond Gorebridge to North Middleton.
  - Cllr Ellen Scott has long campaigned for such an extension and will take forward the suggestions and solution to the bus turn around problem.
- iii Gladhouse Reservoir**
- The problems of finding a solution to parking at Gladhouse Reservoir is still under discussion.

#### Tynewater

- i. MW noted that residents in the area had reported a huge noise disturbance at the recent 'Vogrie Pogrie' event. He also noted that in the Budget survey there is a proposal to further develop activities in Vogrie Country park. Furthermore, he noted that developments will have a negative on Wildlife.
- ii. RH (MECC) noted that similar issues have been reported when events are held in Dalkeith Country Park and that pressure to highlight and resolve noise pollution issues.
- iii. Note that at the time of the meeting the banners promoting the event were still in place,

#### **4. BUDGET PROPOSALS**

- i Wide ranging discussion
- ii Recognition that Elected Members have to make difficult decisions
- iii Suggestion that this although there is a consultation it may be a 'fait-accompli' and decisions have already been made.
- iv Midlothian Council need to respect the decisions made by the local community.
- v Midlothian Council need to examine the impact of individual decisions on the wider community in Midlothian.
- vi Potential for pitting one community against another.

- vii CN (Damhead) suggested that Capital expenditure in projects such as the A701 realignment is excessive.
- viii Noted that individual Community Councils can make a response on behalf of their communities.

**5. MFCC AGM**

- i. PJ highlighted the AGM due to be held in November
- ii. He informed group members that he had organised use of Midlothian House for AGM
- iii. Members suggested alternative venues
- iv. PJ will investigate availability of alternative venues.

**6. EQUALITIES INPUT (CLLE EQUALITIES ENGAGEMENT OFFICER) AT AGM**

- i. Agreement that the input be first on the Agenda with 30 minutes provided for input and Q&A's.

**7. COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE ADMINISTRATION**

- i. BM (ENCC) had requested and received information about the process for individual Community Councils administering their website provision.
- ii. Recognition that it is important that information to support this process is shared with more than one person.
- iii. Agreement the protocols and training opportunities require development in order to support Community Council Website provision
- iv. PJ highlighted that that any external payments made to support website hosting should be agreed with Community Council members and clearly identified on Community Council accounting procedures.

**8. COMMUNITY COUNCIL USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA – (GUIDE)**

- i. PJ had circulated a social media guide.
- ii. Members noted that it is a useful document to support safe community engagement.
- iii. All agreed that it is important for Community Council members to keep themselves safe when using Social Media to engage with the public.
- iv. If necessary, block users who are posting unsuitable content or comments.

**9. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESILIENCE - FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS & THIRD SECTOR GROUPS**

- i. PJ noted his recent email and the availability of funding of up to £500 for Community Councils to support resilience activities.
- ii. **Deadline for applications is 31 January 2025**
- iii. Information can be found at this website:

**10. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD**

- i. AW had emailed his report earlier in the day.
- ii. He provided a short review of the report

**11. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING**

- i. JT (M&ECC) will forward minutes of the last meeting when she has received them.

**12. COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- i. October meeting has been cancelled.
- ii. Next meeting will be in December

**13. PLANNING**

JT raised concerns about the nature and content and comments made by an elected member of Midlothian Council

**14. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

- i. No report

**15. INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES**

- i. No report

**16. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS**

- i. There was agreement at the MTRaP meeting held on 14 October that this initiative would be repeated for the 2025-2026 financial year.
- ii. MTRaP and MFCC members will discuss at their Community Council meetings.
- iii. Residents for each Community Council area will be encouraged to submit suggestions for 2 footway schemes and 1 carriageway scheme.
- iv. Highlighted that this will be for *Capital* expenditure – that is ‘planned’ and goes towards resurfacing roads and footways.

- v. PJ (Midlothian Council) will circulate a proposal to MTRaP and MFCC members.
- vi. Next Meeting will be 25 November.
- vii. If Community Council members wish to join the meeting they can contact PJ for the documents and link to the meeting.

**17. A.O.C.B.**

**Crawlees Road**

- i. Email sent on behalf of MFCC has been received.
- ii. JT still awaiting a reply.

**Midlothian Climate Action Hub**

- i. Noted that MFCC could have a representative on the group.

**Images for MFCC Website**

- i. Agreement that CG (RBCC) and JT (M&ECC) will develop an image bank for use by MFCC and local Community Councils.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 20 November October, 7.00 - 9.00 pm, Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85181892252?pwd=yRgp9HcOaXA22yNPAADDYilsT9h>

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Meeting ID: 851 8189 2252

Passcode: 000956