

**ZOOM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

Suzanne Ross (SR)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Ailsa Carlyle (AC)	Damhead and District
Keith Hamilton (KH)	Danderhall and District
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Jacqueline Frankitti	Gorebridge and Newbattle
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District (Treasurer)
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District (Chair)
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot & District
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Chris Gooding (GC)	Roslin and Bilston

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**Apologies** None

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

CG (acting Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

**2. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING**

**Moved:** Ken Brown

**Seconded:** Andrew Watt

**MATTERS ARISING**

None highlighted.

### 3. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

#### **Bonnyrigg and District**

- i SR highlighted concerns about the decision-making processes undertaken by the Planning Local Review Board. Further details in the 'Planning' section.

#### **Dalkeith and District**

- i No update.

#### **Damhead**

- i A company called Allanvale are proposing a development opposite the new ALDI site (alongside the Old Pentland Road).
- ii Will be an exhibition re. a proposal to develop 400 houses and business premises.
- iii Adjacent Community Councils and local residents can attend an event will be held on Wednesday 12th March at Loanhead Leisure Centre between the hours of 4pm and 8pm.
- iv See information here: <https://www.cala.co.uk/media/xijpf1fy/straiton-road-midlothian.pdf>

#### **Danderhall and District**

- i No update.

#### **Eskbank and Newbattle**

- i No update.

#### **Gorebridge and District**

- i Re school roll projection (discussed at the December 2024 MFCC meeting).
- ii School roll projections are reviewed annually.
- iii GDCC has submitted a FOI to obtain information about the numbers that make up the number of pupils in schools.
- iv The Learning Estate will be discussed at the next Midlothian Council meeting.
- v GDCC has met National Railway officers with a view to increasing the number of access routes to the railway station and potentially improving and reinstating an existing pathway.

#### **Howgate and District**

- i No update.

### **Loanhead**

- i No update.

### **Mayfield and Easthouses**

- i Hasn't held a meeting in 2025.
- ii Concerns raised about the transfer of Mayfield PS students to Easthouses Primary School.
  - Very short notice provided to parents\carers and residents.
  - Has caused disruption including roads blocked due to the amount of traffic outside Easthouses Primary School.
  - If adjacent Community Councils (Newtongrange, Dalkeith and Eskbank and Newbattle) require further information they can contact JT (MAECC).
- iii **Replacement of Mayfield Campus**
  - RH highlighted the high to Midlothian Council of the cost of delays and the impact upon the construction budget allocated to the development and building of the campus.

### **Moorfoot**

- i No update.

### **Newtongrange**

- i No update.

### **Penicuik and District**

- i KB highlighted concerns re. the safety of local residents due to footways not having been cleared of ice and snow.

### **Rosewell and District**

- i Haven't had a Community Council meeting this year.
- ii Has distributed 1200 RDCC calendars and will commence fund-raising for the 2026 calendar.
- iii Will be developing a recycling initiative with the aim of reducing the number of items being sent to Landfill sites.
- iv 'Gardeners Question Time'. RDCC hosted and the BBC recorded 2 episodes (1 'Midlothian' and 1 'Rosewell').

### **Roslin and Bilston**

- i No update – No meeting since December.

## Tynewater

- i No update.

### **4 COMMUNITY COUNCIL INSURANCE (2025-2026) INVOICES**

- i Community Councils will be sent links to documents in the next few weeks.
- ii Community Councils are advised to check who, within the membership, receives notification from Zurich Municipal (ZM).
- iii Documents, or at least the invoice, should be sent to PJ (Midlothian Council).
- iv Midlothian Council will pay the invoices - PJ will arrange payment.
- v Contact Zurich Municipal if the Community Council contact has changed.

**Action: PJ to send email to MFCC members re. insurance renewal.**

**Community Councils members to check for email link from ZM.**

**Community Councils to forward insurance invoice to PJ.**

### **4 EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD**

- i AW (Dalkeith) circulated a report to MFCC members on 17 January and provided a brief overview of his report.

### **5 CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING.**

- i The meeting focussed on updates about refugees currently residing in Midlothian.
- ii CLLE is running a course – PDA Introduction to Tutoring English to Speakers of other Languages.

### **6 COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- i No meeting so far this year.
- ii ASK highlighted that there may be competition in the provision of funding available to Hospitals and local GP practices.
- iii RH highlighted pressures on the availability of GP services due to the increased number of households seeking to access provision.
- iv ASK advised that Magda Clark (MVA) is the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector representative on the Integrated Joint Board for Health and Social Care.
- v PJ (Midlothian Council) was asked to make contact with the IJB to extend an invitation to join a MFCC meeting.

**Action: PJ to contact IJB Chairperson re. member attending an MFCC meeting.**

## 7 PLANNING

### i Planning Portal

- RH encouraged members to monitor the Planning Portal - Weekly List ([midlothian.gov.uk](http://midlothian.gov.uk)).

### ii Bonnyrigg area planning application.

- SR (Bonnyrigg) highlighted a planning application (for 11 holiday lodges) in the South Melville Farm area which had been refused.
- BDCC had submitted an objection and ENCC had commented on the application.
- An appeal was made to the Local Review Body which then gave permission for the application to proceed.
- SR highlighted that the application had contravened 5 policies in NPF4.
- SR also highlighted that out of 17 appeals the LRB has granted 15, 1 was refused and one for later review.
- Member noted that as LRB members are also members of the Planning Committee, it is puzzling as to why planning applications previously rejected by the Planning Committee were then accepted on appeal by the LRB.

### iii Submission of complaint about a LRB member

ASK advised the group that a complaint about the conduct of an LRB member had been submitted.

## 8 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### i Roslin Glen

SR (Bonnyrigg) advised MFCC member of concerns that ash trees in Roslin Glen may be subject to infestation by Emerald Ash Bora. Infestation by (EAB) beetles is usually fatal to affected ash trees, and if it were to become established it could do significant damage to Midlothian's woodland biodiversity. Concerns have been raised with Scottish Wildlife Trust.

## 9 INFRASTRUCTURE

### i No further report.

## 10 MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (NEXT MEETING, 22 JANUARY 2024)

- i Co-prioritisation initiative was highlighted.
- ii PJ advised that the deadline for submissions had passed agreed to a suggestion that a final request for submission of proposals could be made.
- iii PJ advised MFCC members of a meeting for Community Councils whose areas would be subject to work within the A7 Urbanisation project.
- iv He also advised of preparations to undertake a public consultation about the proposals.

## 11 A.O.C.B.

### i Veteran's First Point – Lothian

- ASK highlighted that the organisation is seeking support from community organisations as a result of a reduction in funding.
- See further information here: [Veterans First Point service to be reduced – News & Media](#).
- There was agreement that on behalf of MFCC, a letter of support would be sent.

### iv Volunteer Fair

**Ap** Thursday 27 February 10AM – 2.30PM, at St John's and King's Park Church in Dalkeith (opposite Morrisons).

- Local and national volunteer involving organisations will be there.
- An ideal opportunity to meet organisations and find out more about what volunteering has to offer.
- Local Community Councils may wish to have a stall to raise awareness, recruit new members.

**Action: if interested in attending, Community Councils can contact Volunteer Midlothian – email [info@volunteermidlothian.org.uk](mailto:info@volunteermidlothian.org.uk) or call 0131 660 9471.**

## 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday, 19 February 2024, 7:00 – 9.00 pm (Zoom)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81795756992?pwd=sTOtygqgSBAVsAz2WartvzbPiltbLB.1>

**Meeting ID: 817 9575 6992**

**Passcode: 099007**