

ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

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| Suzanne Ross (SR) | 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 |
| Richard Horsburgh (RH) | 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 |
| Mark Whitham (MW) | Tynewater |

IN ATTENDANCE

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

None

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Moved: Ken Brown

Seconded: Constance Newbould

MATTERS ARISING

None highlighted.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and District

- i A7 Sustainable Transport Study.
Local people had expressed their disappointment that an engagement event is not planned to be held in the town.

Dalkeith and District

- i ASK reported that funding has been acquired to install a Mine Water Treatment Scheme.
- ii Initial treatment will be to extract iron ore from the water.
- iii Woodburn Community Hub members will be creating new designs to develop the premises.

Damhead

- i A planned exhibition and consultation event has been postponed due to further investigation work re. the proposal being undertaken.
- ii CN noted that despite claims of positive feedback from the local community, after an event in Damhead, many local people had submitted objections to the proposal.
- iii CN expressed doubts about whether LPP's are genuinely being considered in the MLDP2 process.
- iv CN noted that the Damhead Local Place Plan is being printed.

Danderhall and District

- i No update.

Eskbank and Newbattle

- i No update.

Gorebridge and District

- i GDCC had submitted a FOI to obtain information about the numbers that make up the number of pupils in schools.
Further to the FOI request, RH advised those present that GDCC had been informed that, although school roll projections have been updated, the data collected will not be made publicly available.
- ii Release of the date would prejudice commercial considerations.
- iii GDCC is going to appeal.
- iv There was agreement that Councillor Ellen Scott will be invited to the March meeting.

Howgate and District

- i No update.

Loanhead

- i No update.

Mayfield and Easthouses

- i Elected Members attending the last meeting were able to provide an update on the forthcoming budget.

Moorfoot

- i No update.

Newtongrange

- i No update.

Penicuik and District

- i No update

Rosewell and District

- i No update

Roslin and Bilston

i Reprovisioning of Roslin Library

- a. Saty Kaur (Chief Officer Corporate Solutions, Midlothian Council) and Annabel Cavaroli, (Customer Engagement Manager) talked about the Council's savings proposal on the reprovisioning of Roslin Library.
- b. Attendees discussed the current use of the library and whether there are options to change and/or improve the offering for the community.
- c. Specifically:
- d. Plenty of reasons to keep the library open, especially for those without access to transport and/or the internet. Residents appreciate reading groups, access to council forms, local information, litter pick bags etc. Also, library use is increasing significantly in Roslin.
- e. Would be good if library could open more than once a week outside of normal working hours.
- f. Access to facilities such as Citizens advice, Travel & Tourist info, Storytelling.

- g. Also, options to work with our Development Trust re Section 75 monies and the feasibility of moving the Library to the Pavilion/Community Hall.
 - h. We asked if Mobile Library could visit Bilston as part of its route.
- ii **Grant received from Midlothian Council**

£500 grant from Midlothian Council was welcomed and will be used for various promotional activities including engaging with the young people of both villages.
- iii **Galleries to Calories research**
 - a. Investigative boreholes next to Gowkley Moss Roundabout in February 2025 for 7 weeks. Galleries to Calories (G2C – a research collaboration between the University of Edinburgh and a team comprising UK renewable energy experts and international academic researchers) is a low carbon energy project seeking to use mines to store and move heat energy, enabling more efficient and sustainable supply of heating and cooling.
 - b. The project is currently at field test stage, which involves investigating the characteristics of the legacy mine workings in Midlothian. This is achieved via small testing boreholes which will be sited on land adjacent to Gowkley Moss Roundabout and alongside the A701 to the northeast, towards Edinburgh.
 - c. The boreholes themselves will be very small and largely invisible unless you are standing right on top of them.
 - d. A drilling rig will be required on the site for several weeks whilst these boreholes are drilled, before monitoring stations are set up for up to 6 months for G2C to conduct their research.
- iv **Issues at Dryden Farm**

Drug dealing is currently a regular occurrence on the road down to Dryden Farm. This has been reported to the police and the University have also met with the police. Attendees would like an update from the community police team regarding any progress on this.
- v **Dogs/lambing season**

An increasing number of people are ignoring the 'dogs on lead' signs at Dryden Farm. Attendees agreed that R&BCC will highlight this issue.

vi Road Issues

A resident provided an update to attendees about the dangerous crossing point at the Woodend Park bus stop in Roslin: Colin Beattie MSP has intimated that a change to the shape of the road and a large traffic island is planned in this location and due to be installed by April 2025. There will be better signage for those exiting the glen road to Penicuik Road to advise of the 20mph speed limit.

vii Pump Track in Roslin Park

Tenders for the work are out, and the project is due to commence in early Spring.

Tynewater

- i Noted that Mobile Library provision has been reinstated.
- ii CG (RBCC) advised that that purchase of a larger vehicle is being considered.

4 BUDGET

- i. Indications are that the shortfall will be less than anticipated.
- ii. Elected members will be meeting to approve a balanced budget on Tuesday 25 February.
- iii. ASK had circulated a document w/b 10 February.
- iv. The Budget meeting will be available to view online and recorded for those not able to attend or view the meeting as it happens.

5 COMMUNITY COUNCIL INSURANCE (2025-2026) INVOICES

- i. The majority of Community Councils have sent their invoices to PJ.
- ii. For those that haven't documents, or at least the invoice, should be sent to PJ (Midlothian Council) at the earliest opportunity in order to ensure that cover remains in place.
- iii. Midlothian Council will pay the invoices - PJ will arrange payment.
- iv. Contact Zurich Municipal if the Community Council contact has changed.
- v. PJ advised that Community Councils should be checking their policies to ensure that the cover provided meets their requirements.

Action: PJ will send another reminder email to local Community Councils.

Community Councils members to check for email link from ZM.

Community Councils to forward insurance invoice to PJ.

6. POTENTIAL RELOCATION OF DALKEITH ARTS CENTRE

- i. There has been some discussion about facilities currently provided in the Library and Arts Centre building being moved to another location, likely to be Midlothian House once it has been redeveloped.
- ii. Those present highlighted that the building is in essence a 'Midlothian' Arts centre for use of residents from across the county.
- iii. It is used as a 'safe space' and one that is used by a diverse range community groups.
- iv. Those present noted that communication from Midlothian Council about anticipated proposals has been poor.
- v. There was agreement that a letter written on behalf of MFCC members will be sent to Midlothian Council.

7. LETTER FROM MFCC TO MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL RE PLANNING WORKSHOP INFORMATION

- i. Those present expressed concerns that information relating to developer proposals is not being shared with Community Councils.
- ii. Recognition that Elected members should receive information; however, Community Councils should also be included in information sharing.
- iii. There was agreement that a letter written on behalf of MFCC members will be sent to Midlothian Council.

8. MIDLOTHIAN PARKING SURVEY

- i. PJ highlighted that Midlothian residents have been invited to complete a survey to ascertain their views on parking in the county.
- ii. The online survey is available until **Sunday, 23 March**. Further information is available here: [Council launches parking survey | Midlothian Council](#)
- iii. Printed copies will be available at Dalkeith and Lasswade libraries.
- iv. Call 0131 297 7019 to complete the survey over the telephone.
- v. For other queries email: MidlothianParkingStrategy@stantec.com

9. SHAWFAIR EDUCATION CAMPUS

- i. Meeting with Midlothian Council had been held in private.
- ii. There are concerns within the local community that there is little or no information relating to where their children will go to Secondary school.
- iii. KH (DDCC) is going to meet with Midlothian Council to highlight the lack of facilities (including GP, health, and education) in the DDCC area.
- iv. RH (MAECC) offered to share a letter he had received in relation to the Newbattle Practice (the GP surgery that Danderhall residents are currently having to attend).

10. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i AW (Dalkeith) circulated a report and 2 other documents (EANAB response to EAL Draft Noise Action Plan and 2024 Q4 EACC report) to MFCC members on 19 February.
- ii AW provided a brief overview of his report at the meeting.
- iii The Airport Community Fund is open for applications, see information here: [Edinburgh Airport Community Fund | Edinburgh Airport](#)

11. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING.

- i Minutes have not been distributed for the November meeting.
- ii January meeting was mostly concerned with preparation for the storm after the Red weather warning.

12. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i The Board will be receiving support from the Improvement Service.

13. PLANNING

i Planning Portal

- RH (MAECC) encouraged members to monitor the Planning Portal - [Weekly List \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](#).

ii Springfield planning application (Mayfield\Newtongrange area).

- The developer has sold its plots of land to Barratt Housing
- Not clear whether the same type of housing (included in the current plans) will be required to be constructed.

iii Development in Gorebridge High Street

- GDCC submitted an objection to a planning development in the village. The application was refused.
- RH (GDCC) noted that when the decision had been made, the Local Place Plan had been taken into account.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

i The Nature of Planning Event

Palacerigg Country Park, Cumbernauld, 22 March 10am-4pm

- This in-person gathering runs at the end of our series of four webinars on the subject of Biodiversity and Planning.
- The event will be a place where participants can gather in-person to meet and discuss the issues covered, take part in panel discussions, and have some hands-on workshops.
- See further information and registration here:

[The Nature of Planning - our in-person event - Action to Protect Rural Scotland](#)

15. INFRASTRUCTURE

i **A7 Sustainable Transport Study**

- There was discussion about the initiative and the current online survey.
- Members noted that the survey is lengthy and not the easiest to complete.
- Engagement events have held online and in person in Newtongrange. Further events will be held in Dalkeith on **8 March** and in Lasswade Library on **Thursday 20 March, 4.00 – 6.30 pm**.
- Additional information and a link to the online survey can be found here:
- [How can we improve walking, wheeling, and cycling along the A7 corridor? | Midlothian Council.](#)
- Paper copies of the survey are available in Libraries.
- The survey closes on **30 March**.

16. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (NEXT MEETING, 3 MARCH 2025)

- i. A new position has been created with Dean Anderson taking up the role of Access Officer. The role will involve working alongside colleagues to work in partnership with Midlothian residents and public and private landowners. Additionally, DA has responsibility for Core Paths in the county and for the monitoring issues relating to the health and condition of Trees in Midlothian.
- ii. DA advised that revised communication systems (email addresses etc) are being developed in order to improve responses and 2-way communication with Midlothian's communities - enquiries can be sent via the landscapeandcountrysideenquiries@midlothian.gov.uk email address.
- iii. Those present noted that there had been some positive follow-up, but that DA has not responded to the enquiries made by ASK.

17. A.O.C.B.

i. **School Places for young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN)**

- JT (MAECC) highlighted that although individual schools may have ASN provision, young people may not be offered a place within their local community and could be placed anywhere in the county.

ii. **Battery Storage development in the Dalkeith area**

- ASK and AW noted that the local community are still raising concerns about the project proposals.

iii. **Met Office Resilience Training**

- JT advised that the Met Office is offering training for Community Councils who would like to develop knowledge about weather related resilience.
- See further information here: [Events | Community Council](#)
- **Update – PJ circulated information on 4 March.**

iv. **Revision of Community Council Boundaries**

- PJ will organise a meeting to discuss and review the boundaries of Community Councils of Penicuik, Roslin and Bilston and Damhead.
- Representative of these community councils agreed that Loanhead Community Council should also be invited to the meeting.

v. **Integrated Joint Board (IJB) seeking volunteers.**

- The Midlothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) is looking for people who live in Midlothian who understand the issues affecting health and social care services – either through their own experience of using services, as a carer or as a representative of a community group.
- **Update – PJ circulated information on 20 February.**

vi. **Information held by Community Councils**

- There was a brief discussion about information held by Community Councils.
- If Community Councils hold personal information (membership details, communication from local residents) PJ advised that Community Councils should be registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).
- PJ noted that this was also highlighted in [National Good Practice Guidance \(see pages 40-44\) for Community Councils](#).
- PJ will circulate '[Midlothian Community Council Data Protection Guidance](#)' and '[Midlothian Community Council Privacy Notice Template](#)' for MFCC members to review and inform discussion at the March meeting.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 19 March 2025, 7:00 – 9.00 pm (Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84774082356?pwd=NHEWla0pQvmb3ChqFiHn85YV0TPz1T.1>