

ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Suzanne Ross (SR)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Ailsa Carlye (AC)	Damhead and District
Keith Hamilton (KH)	Danderhall and District
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Richard Horsburgh (RH)	Gorebridge and District
John Fitzgerald (JF)	Howgate
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Treasurer)
Stephen Liddell (SL)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot & District
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Chris Gooding (GC)	Roslin and Bilston (Chair)
Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater
Tom Morrow (TM)	Tynewater

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

CG welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Moved: Richard Horsburgh

Seconded: Suzanne Ross

MATTERS ARISING

a. Budget

- Those present noted that the opening hours for Leisure Centre will be reduced.
- RH (Gorebridge) advised that the Library will be moving to be located in the Leisure Centre and there concerns that access to Library Services may be affected by the reduced opening hours for the Leisure Centre.

b. Community Council Insurance Invoices

- PJ advised that he still waiting to receive 2 invoices.
- 1 Community Council is investigating who the contact is.
- The other Community Council has not responded to any requests for the invoice to be sent to him.

Update after meeting – All invoices have now been forwarded, and all Community Councils have insurance policies in place.

c. Dalkeith Arts Centre - Letter to Midlothian Council (circulated)

- Those present discussed issues relating to development of Dalkeith Town Centre (including moving Arts Centre provision).
- There was agreement that a letter, on behalf of MFCC, should be sent to Elected Members and Council officers.
- ASK (Dalkeith) requested that further information about the activities of other groups should be included in the letter.
- ASK agreed to provide contact information for Annabel Cavaroli (Customer Engagement Manager).

d. Survey end dates - Parking Strategy (23 March), A7 Sustainable Transport (30 March)

- PJ reminded MFCC members of the closing dates for the 2 surveys.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and District

- ### **a.**
- SR highlighted concerns about the route for the redevelopment of Mavisbank House

Gorebridge and District

- a. An additional access gate and path to Gorebridge Railway Station (funded by Midlothian Council) has been opened.
- b. GDCC has been advised that School Roll projection figures will not be released due to commercial sensibilities. MFCC member noted that adjoining local authorities release their figure. They also noted that these figures should be available so that parents can make informed decisions about where their children will go to school.

Rosewell and District

- a. HB highlighted potential development for an all-weather football pitch for a local football club. RDCC will be supporting the initiative.
- b. A 'Pump Track' facility is anticipated to be opening in April.
- c. RDCC members are continuing to undertake fundraising activities to support the village Calendar.

4. MLDP 2 – INPUT FROM STEPHEN LIDDELL

- a. SL noted that the MLDP 2 evidence report had been presented in September 2024
- b. Subsequently there has been no information about what planning sites are proposed to be in the draft plan.
- c. There has been no plan in place to engage with local Community Councils
- d. Expressed concerns about the content of DPS17.
- e. ASK noted that her perspective is that the planning team are keen to engage with local CC's and that they are seeking to get a response from local CC's as to how best to effectively engage with local Community Councils.
- f. SL suggested that a response, on behalf of MFCC, be made to the Midlothian Council planning team members and read out a draft proposed letter that would be forwarded to Midlothian Council.
- g. JT (MAECC) offered to circulate the draft letter and proposed a deadline for responses of 26 March.
- h. Those present thanked SL for his extensive work on this initiative.

5 DATA PROTECTION & REGISTRATION WITH INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

- a. PJ had previously circulated a revised 'Community Council Privacy Notice ' and 'Data Protection Guidance' documents (25 February) for consideration by MFCC and local Community Council members.
- b. PJ advised that Community Council *should* be registered with the ICO as they do hold personal data such as contact details their members.
- c. PJ advised that there the current registration fee for is £52.00 and that Community Councils could include this in their administration grant applications.

6. COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUNDING – DEADLINE SUNDAY, 6 APRIL

- a. PJ reminded members of the deadline for grant applications.
- b. Applications can be made for administration expenditure and additional funding to support initiatives to promote the work of local Community Councils.
- c. PJ will send out reminders during the week leading up to the deadline.

7. MIDLOTHIAN VIEW (WWW.MIDLOTHIANVIEW.COM) COMMUNITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

- a. Phil Bowen, editor of the Midlothian View, website had made an offer to support Midlothian Community Councils by assisting them with promotion of their activities, including hosting minutes and other information.
- b. PJ advised the meeting that he checked the website regularly and provided contact information updates as appropriate.
- c. Those present at the meeting agreed that the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils website (www.midlothiancommunitycouncils.org.uk) provides a range of relevant documents including Minutes, Agendas and guidance and operational documents.
- d. Those present noted that information currently displayed on the Midlothian View website is out of date and agreed that contact will be made to encourage the information held to be revised.
- e. There was agreement that it would not be necessary to extend an invitation to Phil Bowen.

ACTION - JT agreed to compose a response to the offer made by Phil Bowen.

8. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- a. AW (Dalkeith) circulated a report.
- b. AW provided a brief overview of his report at the meeting.
- c. The Airport Community Fund is open for applications, see information here:
[Edinburgh Airport Community Fund | Edinburgh Airport](#)
- d. The Noise Action Plan survey had received 120 responses.

9. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING.

No report

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- a. Currently MFCC is not represented at CLD Partnership meetings.
Action – If a MFCC or local Community Council member would be interested in representing MFCC they can contact CLL Officer,
karen.mcgowan@midlothian.gov.uk

11. PLANNING

- a. **Planning Portal**
Members encourage to monitor the Planning Portal - [Weekly List \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](#).

12. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- a. SR noted that there appears to be a shortage of bins for the deposit of dog waste.
- b. Noted that Libraries no longer supply free bags.
- c. Information about environmental information in Midlothian can be found on the Midlothian Council website here - [Environment | Midlothian Council](#)

13. INFRASTRUCTURE

- a. **A7 Sustainable Transport Study**
 - PJ highlighted that the final public engagement will be held 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**.

14. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (NEXT MEETING, 14 April 2025)

- a. PJ has circulated the MTRaP minutes.

15. DATE OF NEXT MFCC MEETING

Wednesday, 16 April 2025, 7:00 – 9.00 pm (Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82279006752?pwd=oNjYjgNyftTdz3z5byFFjonPa0DQ3l.1>

Meeting ID: 822 7900 6752

Passcode: 583004

Approved 21 May 2025