

# Midlothian Federation of Community Councils Meeting

Wednesday 15 April 2026

ZOOM

## Meeting Minutes



### PRESENT

George Nichol (GN)	Bonnyrigg and District
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District (Acting Chair)
Derek Law (DL)	Dalkeith and District (DIDCC)
Constance Newbould	Damhead and District (DmDCC)
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and District
Richard Horsburgh (RHrb)	Gorebridge and Newbattle
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses and District
Les McDonald (LM)	Moorfoot
Norma McDonald (NM)	Moorfoot
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Mark Whitham	Tynewater
Emile Furniss	Tynewater

### In Attendance

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

### APOLOGIES

Keith Hamilton – Danderhall and District

### 1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

RH (Chair) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

### 2 PREVIOUS MINUTES (MARCH 2026) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Approved as accurate.

Proposed: RHrb (GDCC)

Seconded: AW (DIDCC)

### 3 LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

#### Dalkeith

##### **a. Mine water Remediation**

- The current situation means that there is a large pipe running down the side of the road and access into Woodburn is restricted.
- DIDCC have been trying to contact the Mining Remediation Authority Community Liaison Officer (who is on Annual Leave at the moment)
- There will an update in a public meeting in a couple of weeks.
- RH noted that he had sent a paper from the coal authority to Ann for information.

#### Gorebridge

RHrb updated the those present on the School Roll projections. It is anticipated that new (updated) figures on 16 May.

#### Mayfield and Easthouses

- a. JT updated the group on the action to write to Midlothian Council requesting information on the Pot Hole Pro machinery via a tracking site.
- b. A reply had been received but there had been no firm indication that Midlothian Council would implement the suggestion. They will provide an annual location plan on the website.

##### **Action:**

JT agreed to follow up with council on Pothole Pro tracking, emphasising end-of-day update would be ideal (not real-time).

#### Tynewater

- a. T.C.C. held their AGM in March and remains unable to fill the position of Secretary - we are having another try at advertising/promoting so will see if this takes us forward.
- b. Over the winter we were frustrated with the lack of, or very slow, action on addressing infrastructure faults reported to MC. Recently we have had positive communication from the Council so hope that matters will be improving. From our experience the public reporting system used by MC for infrastructure faults is not working - we see best results from directly reporting to Wayne Clark's team and maintaining our own issues log.
- c. We are working with MC to facilitate local groups to apply for funding from the recent developer contribution pot of money allocated to 'community services'.

- d. Non-compliance with 20 mph speed limits continues to be an issue, and from our experience drivers are realising that it is not being enforced so speeding through villages and residential areas.

#### **4 MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD**

Not discussed at the meeting but see below for information:

- a. The Month of the Military Child is celebrated every April, recognising the remarkable strengths of children and young people from Armed Forces families and their unique experiences of Service life. Midlothian Council is joining the celebrations by supporting Purple Up! Day and flying the military child flag at Penicuik Town Hall, Lasswade High School, and Mauricewood Primary School.

#### **5 COMMUNITY COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNTS (WHAT ARE THE BEST NO-CHARGE ACCOUNTS)**

- a. RBS currently not charging community councils.
- b. Bank of Scotland also free for some accounts. Switching process relatively simple if avoiding formal "switch" procedure.
- c. JT advised that most effective way to transfer banking providers is to open new account first, transferring any balances manually, and then close the old account.

#### **6 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS (DEADLINE, APPLICATION CONTENT, CIRCULATION OF EMAILS PROMOTING EMAILS).**

- a. PJ advised that the deadline for applications has passed.
- b. He thanked Community Councils for taking the time to prepare and submit the applications.
- c. He noted that at the time of the meeting, 3 Community Councils had not submitted an application.
- d. The next stage is that the applications will be reviewed and then recommendations will be made for award.
- e. PJ highlighted that he had received emails from members of a couple of Community Councils who had indicated that they were not aware of the availability of funding.
- f. PJ requested that going forward, Federation members forward communication about funding to their members so that they are able to have sufficient time to prepare and submit funding applications.

## **7 HOST FOR MAY MEETING**

- a.** PJ advised that he will be on Annual Leave on the date of the next meeting (20 May) and asked if a member of MFCC member could write up the minutes on his behalf. JT wrote up the minutes at the last meeting so it would be helpful if another MFCC member could do it for the May meeting.

In advance of the meeting PJ will create and circulate an agenda. PJ will circulate any relevant documents.

- b.** There is access to a transcription of the meeting so that may make the task a little easier.

**Action: Member of MFCC present at the May meeting, to record the meeting minutes.**

## **8 MFCC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKING GROUP**

- a.** JT (MAECC) agreed to serve as Federation liaison to the Community Planning Partnership Board, with support from Annette for meetings she cannot attend.

## **9 EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD**

- a.** AW had circulated his monthly report to MFCC members earlier in the day.
- b.** AW highlighted that EANAB meetings are now open to public observers (in-person only at Novotel Hermiston Gate, first Wednesday monthly, 6:30 PM).
- c.** Space limited to 3-4 additional attendees; contact Andrew to register interest.

## **10 CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING**

- a.** JT has circulated the report of the last meeting.

## **11 COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- a. Community Planning representation**  
See above re. MFCC representation.

## 12 PLANNING

### a. Tynewater planning concern.

Application refused in Howgate citing "no accessible public transport"—would effectively ban all new housing in Tynewater (no hourly bus service anywhere). MW had been in touch with Peter Arnsdorf re this issue but had been disappointed with the response received which had no clarity about the situation.

## 13 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### a. Dalkeith water contamination

Coal Authority report suggests mine working water issues; council should have done bore testing before starting work. Blockage likely caused water to find alternate route, resulting in iron oxide contamination affecting fish.

### b. 20 mph enforcement

Non-compliance widespread across villages; drivers realize lack of enforcement and speed through residential areas. Time War specifically noted this issue.

## 14 INFRASTRUCTURE

### a. Sheriffhall roundabout

Heriot-Watt students proposed alternative design at one-third cost (£14 million vs. £140 million using European-style roundabout with traffic lights; demonstrated via desktop study to reduce congestion comparably to flyover proposal

## 15 MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (*NEXT MEETING, 25 MAY 2026*)

a. PJ has circulated the minutes of the April meeting to MTRaP members. Has been waiting to see if there are any amendments. If he has not been informed of any by the time the April minutes have been written up, he will also circulate to MFCC members.

## 16 A.O.C.B.

### Mayfield and Easthouses

#### a. Crawlees Road

RH highlighted that MAECC, Gorebridge and Newtongrange Community Councils are working together on plans for a safe active travel route along the Crawlees Road.

**b. Antisocial behaviour (ASB)**

RH noted ongoing concerns re ASB in the area, suggesting that it could be a discussion at the next meeting.

**Action:** MFCC members to seek views from local Community Councillors. PJ to add to the May meeting agenda.

**Moorfoot**

- a. Temple landslip:** Three landslips occurred on Arniston Estate land affecting public road, water, and sewage; one house at imminent collapse risk, resident (age 84) offered alternative accommodation. Meeting held April 1st with council experts to investigate water source (springs vs. excess rainfall).

**Rosewell**

- a.** HB highlighted that working of a local business owner who had developed an area of wasteland for the benefit of Rosewell residents. R.D.C.C. had been pleased to support the project.
- b.** See further information here from the [Rosewell Neighbourhood group](#) Facebook page.

**Tynewater**

**a. Holding funds for unregistered groups**

T.C.C. had received a request to hold funding on behalf of a local community group. Those present confirmed that it would be acceptable, (Roslin does this for gardeners; Federation holds Christmas lights funds). Good practice would include transparency and clear recording – discussions and minutes at T.C.C. meetings and in the monthly and annual accounts.

**Waste Collection problems.**

**a. Green bin rollout issues**

Collections inconsistent with published schedules; bins not collected on stated days, left scattered on grass verges.

**b. Medical waste crisis**

Residents with incontinence needs receiving inadequate response— council only offering larger bins despite three-weekly collection being insufficient for hygiene waste. Judy escalating with reference to Falkirk Council's separate hygiene collection system.

### **Food waste uptake**

- Estimated 15-20% household participation in Tynewater; question raised whether council satisfied with rate and if Federation can help promote.

### **School Transport Reform**

- **New computer system**

All parents must apply for additional needs transport through mandatory new system; aims to provide all transport arrangements before end of school year.

## **17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**20 May 2026, 7:00 – 9:00 pm (Zoom)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87511611760?pwd=LfLk6rLzrLBbZeuoi8gsYfDXcAUqWk.1>

Meeting ID: 875 1161 1760

Passcode: 074511

Approved 20 May 2026