

Wednesday 20 May 2026

ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

George Nichol (GN)	Bonnyrigg and District
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District (DIDCC)
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District (DmDCC)
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Richard Horsburgh (RHrb)	Gorebridge and District
Pat Kenny (PK)	Loanhead
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Les McDonald (LM)	Moorfoot
Norma McDonald (NM)	Moorfoot
Ian Walker (IW)	Penicuik and District
Chris Gooding (CG)	Roslin and Bilston
Emil Furniss (EF)	Tyne water

APOLOGIES

Derek Law (DL)	Dalkeith and District (DIDCC)
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Approved as accurate.

Proposed: GN (BDCC)

Seconded: AW (DIDCC)

No matters arising were raised beyond items already on the agenda.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Dalkeith

- a. Dalkeith representatives discussed issues around unclear land ownership behind Dalkeith High Street, including parking, fly-tipping and commercial waste concerns.
- b. Concerns were raised regarding health and social care funding reductions, possible service reductions, and impacts on vulnerable residents.

Gorebridge

- a. Loss of early years provision (Sure Start) in Gorebridge.

Roslin and Bilston

- a. Roslin & Bilston representatives highlighted major disruption from roadworks, traffic management, bin collection issues, and uncertainty around the replacement of Beeslack High School project.

Midlothian wide

- a. Representatives from several areas raised concerns regarding congestion, traffic light arrangements, road safety, and dissatisfaction with local consultation processes.

4. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

- a. Members discussed increasing concerns regarding:
 - illegal e-bikes and motorcycles
 - dangerous riding
 - youth disorder
 - fly-tipping
 - vandalism
 - dog fouling
 - shoplifting
 - attacks on shop staff
- b. Police resourcing and response times were discussed. Positive developments included a planned police day of action and appointment of a new inspector focused on bike-related disorder.
- c. It was agreed that each Community Council would submit its top 5 policing concerns ahead of a future meeting with senior Police Scotland representatives.

5. NEW POWERS FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- a.** Representatives discussed limited funding, difficulties contacting Council Officers and concerns that Community Councils lacked sufficient influence despite representing wider communities.
- b.** Comparisons were made with English Parish Councils and there was support for seeking greater powers and recognition for Community Councils.
- c.** Michael Gallagher from the 'New Powers for Scotland's Community Councils' campaign to be invited to speak to the Federation.
- d.** Also suggested to meet with MSP about Community Council powers and funding.

6. MIDLOTHIAN COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT

- a.** The meeting discussed Community Councillors Code of Conduct, responsibilities of Chairpersons, moderation of social media pages and handling of disruptive behaviour.
- b.** Members emphasised the importance of neutrality during legal proceedings and respectful online communication.
- c.** The Code of Conduct can be found along with other documentation on the Federation website:
<https://www.midlothiancommunitycouncils.org.uk/documents>
- d.** All agreed to raise the subject of conduct at individual meetings and to discuss the offer of 'Developing a Healthy Culture Around Conflict' training.

7. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- a.** AW provided an update regarding the Edinburgh Airport Airspace Change Programme (ACP), consultation responses, and organisational changes at Edinburgh Airport.
- b.** Concerns were raised regarding the departure of key ACP lead Simon Rhodes and possible centralisation of airport operations under Vinci Airports.

8. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- a. Lack of knowledge/public awareness raised about switch off of analogue Public Switched Telephone Network (PTSN) in favour of digital in January 2027. <https://www.bt.com/about/all-ip/connected-together>.
- b. JT raised the issue of hygiene/clinical waste, giving the example of Falkirk Council that have a separate collection. Nick Clater said he would take the issue further.

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- a. CG offered to be a contact for papers but not able to attend meetings, JT remembered she had offered similarly to Annette Laing recently.

10. PLANNING

- a. All members to comment on DSP18.
- b. Planning committee next meet Monday 8th June.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- a. Discussion took place regarding opportunities for community gardens, lottery funding, and local partnership initiatives.
- b. Still much confusion over bin days, a paper timetable is needed by communities. Grey bin is too small for three weeks for most households. It was asked if the bins are fuller when they are collected, do they have to visit the incinerator more often. Can the overall effectiveness be demonstrated?
- c. There is a reported increase in rats.
- d. Report from Loanhead about untaxed vehicles.

12. MTRAP

- a. RH gave an update on the programme of works.
- b. Next meeting **25 May**.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Members acknowledged the long-standing contribution of Ann from DLDCC and agreed her service to the Federation should be formally recognised.
- b. JT mentioned a request to publicise a mental health lived experience group and will forward a poster to group for promotion where thought appropriate.

- c. Several community councils expressed dissatisfaction with active travel consultations. Common concerns included:
- d. insufficient consultation
- e. lack of transparency
- f. proposals viewed as unrealistic
- g. inadequate consideration of local circumstances
- h. Specific concerns included parking loss, narrow pavements, cycle routes, and bypass crossing arrangements.

14. ACTIONS SUMMARY

- a. GN to share response letter from Health and Social Care to the Federation.
- b. Federation Members to raise the issue of Matthew Kelly's limited availability at the next MTRaP meeting.
- c. PJ to ask the Chief Inspector to attend a future Federation meeting to discuss antisocial behaviour and other policing issues.
- d. CCs to produce the top 5 issues in their area.
- e. The Federation to arrange for a delegation to meet with their local MSP to discuss Community Council powers and funding.
- f. Michael Gallagher from the 'New Powers for Scotland's Community Councils' campaign to be invited to speak at a Federation meeting.
- g. All attendees to raise the Community Councillors Code of Conduct at their next meeting.

15. NEXT MEETING

17 June 2026, 7:00 – 9:00 pm (Zoom)

Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 827 6292 5694

Passcode: 963776