



Present: – Neil Whyte (NW) – Chair & Minutes, Hazel Thomson (HT), Mary Davidson (MD), Janice Brown (JBr), Faye Skelton (FS), Jason Rutter (JR), Kelly Drummond (KD) [from 8pm), Cllr Catherine Johnstone (CJ)

In Attendance:, Ellen Scott

Apologies: Cath McGill, Seonaid Barker, Heather Webb-Nelson, Mary Webb, Dawn Barclay, Robbie Laird, Gillian Cousin, Cllr Jim Muirhead, PC Jason MacFarlane

1 Chair’s Welcome & Apologies

NW opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. Apologies noted as above. NW noted that, while attendance was low, the meeting was still quorate with six Community Councillors present throughout, with one joining later.

2 Actions & Matters Arising from previous meeting and Adoption of Minutes

ID	Description	Who	Status	Update
2021-01-11	Populate noticeboards on an ongoing basis	JBr	In Progress	JBr will collate keys to be cut with support from NW to identify keyholders.
2021-02-01	Update from Network Rail on pedestrian access at railway station	CM	Open	CM not present – carry over.
2021-02-10	Discuss opportunity for a planning presentation and Q&A session with Peter Arnsdorf	NW	Closed	Agreed to hold an in-person workshop after summer holidays, restrictions-permitting. Next touch-point in mid-July.
2021-03-04	Collate concerns on St Andrew’s school crossing signs, confusing speed indication and bus stop to roads department	JBa	Open	JBa not present – carry over.
2021-03-05	Convene Communications group to discuss how we better publicise the work of the Community Council	SB/NW	Open	Not progressed, but will also include EH23 work with JR.
2021-04-02	Write to Melville Housing to discuss land at Barleyknowe Road/McLean Place	NW	Open	Not done – carry over.
2021-04-07	Write to Justin Venton to question Vogrie Car Parking and potential for Access to Midlothian cardholders using for free	CM	In Progress	Email sent by CM, but no reply yet.
2021-04-11	Contact PC McFarlane to ask if police can still install shed alarms	JBr	Closed	JBr confirmed the police no longer provide this service. Alarms need to be sourced by individuals.
2021-05-01	Ask Gareth Davies to present update on land at Stobhill Depot to future meeting	NW	Open	Not done – carry over.
2021-05-02	Arrange for demolition of previous WW2 memorial plinth in church grounds	Robbie Laird	Closed	Robbie updated over email that this is done.
2021-05-03	Provide summary of GDCC feedback to Springfield RE Lingerwood Development	NW	Closed	Provided minutes from our meeting, which captured our feedback.
2021-05-04	Confirm 31 August for meeting with Education department on High School	NW	Closed	This date is confirmed - see 3.1 below.
2021-05-05	Contact Safe Routes to School RE bus-stop issues at Barleyknowe Road	NW	In Progress	Couldn’t find contact details for Safe Routes to School. Will speak to Cllr Muirhead who raised suggestion initially.
2021-05-06	Write to our MSP to ask how healthcare provision is supposed to be integrated with the planning process	NW	Open	Not done – carry over.
2021-05-07	Submit formal objection response to Stobs Farm development	NW	Closed	Submitted and it appears on planning portal. Decision not yet made.
2021-05-08	Organise and submit new mandate to bank	FS	In Progress	See 7.3 below.
2021-05-09	Escalate Greenhall traffic signal timings to Derek Oliver	CJ	In Progress	See full update below.

ID	Description	Who	Status	Update
2021-05-10	Gather a list of blocked drains for action	MD	In Progress	MD has been liaising with another resident and has a list and photos of drains. To be provided to CJ for action.
2021-05-11	Add increased traffic through village from haulage to June agenda	NW	Closed	
2021-05-12	Add update on GDCC/HGTT Engagement to June agenda	NW	Closed	

2021-05-09 (Greenhall Traffic Signal Timings): CJ reported that a specialist has been assigned to check these timings, using remote monitoring tools. No update as to result of this investigation. MD mentioned that another issue is people running the red lights, specifically those coming along from Greenhall and turning left up towards Scotmid. This is causing problems for residents trying to exit their drives.

2021-06-01	Raise red light jumping at Greenhall/Hunterfield Road signals with community police	NW
------------	---	----

HT also gave an update on discussions with Marc at CRVS, which are awaiting feedback from them. HT will follow up after a few weeks for an update.

MD raised that the previous minutes did not mention an item briefly covered in AOB regarding increased haulage through the village. The minutes shall be amended accordingly. Previous minutes, with this amendment, proposed by FS and seconded by MD.

3 Update on Ongoing Issues

3.1 High School

NW updated that 31 August at 7pm is confirmed for a public meeting with Fiona Robertson, so the Council can give an update on the current status of the new Gorebridge High School and outline what the next steps are. A Q&A session will follow this presentation, though GDCC will invite and collate questions ahead of time in order to ensure structure in what might be a well-attended meeting. If time allows, a period of 'open-mic' questions might be possible. The meeting is scheduled to last an hour.

It was agreed that the High School sub-group (SB, HT, KD, Ellen & Lorna from Moorfoot CC, supported by CM and NW) will convene ahead of time to try to structure the questions received. We also need to figure out a model for them working longer term. In the meantime, we can begin raising awareness of the date and capturing questions

2021-06-02	High School sub-group to be convened (target July)	NW
2021-06-03	Confirm the 'rules of engagement' for a sub-group of Community Council	NW
2021-06-04	Provide method of capturing questions from community for High School public meeting	NW
2021-06-05	Begin publicising date of meeting to community	NW

3.2 GDCC/HGTT Engagement

NW said he was delinquent on actions. Additional questions had been collated and will be asked, as well as chasing up actions from original meeting back in November 2020. HT updated that progress on the building has continued, which – given previous assurances from HGTT – implies building control have signed-off of previous work. Concerns were raised by some that the temporary signage suggesting separate branding between the main bar/bistro and the takeaway portion of the building may be stretching the meaning of the word "ancillary".

2021-06-06	Forward new questions to HGTT and ask for update on their actions from Nov 2020 meeting	NW
------------	---	----

4 New Issues Raised by Community

4.1 NWH & Skene lorries

MD reiterated that there has been a noticeable increase in the number of lorries coming through the village, along Greenhall Crescent and to Hunterfield Road. This appears to be linked to them avoiding the temporary lights at Newtonloan. It is noticeable because the drain in the middle of traffic lights drain makes a noise as they drive over it. The lorries are full, and can't turn left (onto Hunterfield Road) properly. Cars waiting travelling north-west on Hunterfield Road are having to reverse back to left them out.

A number of actions were captured to try and address this issue:

2021-06-07	Investigate whether any formal conditions were attached to NWH regarding routing of lorries	NW
2021-06-08	Sync with Moorfoot CC on latest discussions RE haulage	CM
2021-06-09	Contact NWH directly (as an individual) to discuss concerns	MD

4.2 Bin at Carlowrie Place/Burnside Road

This was originally on the agenda for April, but was missed. A resident has asked about potentially placing a bin near the shop at the path between Burnside Road and Carlowrie Place. The resident regularly performs litter picks around this area, and feels the installation of a bin may reduce the prevalence of litter.

CJ suggested to contact Willie Reid at Waste Services (his boss is Derek Oliver). CJ also mentioned that the shop might not want a bin, since it might attract seagulls and dog poo and therefore put customers off. JB mentioned that a previous one nearby might have been set on fire, and that there are already concerns with anti-social behaviour around that area. CJ mentioned she does a bit of litter picking every Wednesday and gets called all sorts, and suggested we all need to have a better thought on litter as the original 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' message is not working. In the meantime, we will raise the question with Willie Reid – there will be due diligence on his part before any new bin is installed, including ensuring it can be emptied regularly in the rounds.

2021-06-08	Ask Willie Reid (Waste Services) about placement of a bin at Burnside Road	NW
------------	--	----

5 Major Planning Applications

5.1 Redheugh West Gorebridge - 21/00374/PPP

Noted that this application was in progress, but that no members present had been able to take a look at it yet. A general discussion around whether it is better to ask for small incremental changes (e.g. better Arniston Park) rather than wholesale changes. Again, problems with healthcare provision (even if you can build a surgery, how can you staff it?). All we can do is keep raising the issue. How about trees getting too tall, better planting. It was mentioned there may have been a masterplan at some point to connect this new estate to Hopefield in Bonnyrigg via a new road, though that does not appear on the plans so is unlikely to be the case. In that case, is Cockpen Bridge – already restricted to traffic on one side only – suitable to take the increased traffic?

2021-06-09	Submit response to Redheugh West Gorebridge - 21/00374/PPP	NW
------------	--	----

6 Police Report

The police report was circulated prior to the meeting, with thanks. No questions raised.

7 Community Council Reports

7.1 Chair

CM sends apologies.

7.2 Secretary

GDCC has received a complaint from a member of the community, alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct about confidentiality. The nature of the complaints process means that details cannot be shared publicly, however CM, NW and SB are aware of the detail. NW has investigated and found no evidence of a breach, and has responded within the 28-day deadline. To date, no response has been received from the complainer. The escalation path, should it be followed by the complainer, is via the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils.

7.3 Treasurer

Not much to report – since last month only one planter payment came in! As mentioned last month, we are able to keep hold of our small grant award from Midlothian Council (to cover our running expenses) for 2020-21 into the current year (as well as the current year's allocation) so we are reminded to claim for allowable expenses (e.g. website hosting, stationery etc) – just keep receipts and submit. Each year's grant is around £480. New mandate form is in progress – will be looking to ensure signatories are up-to-date, and will add NW to the mandate.

Update on the current pots:

- GDCC General £2821.51
- Miners Memorial £1,750.83
- War Memorial Refurb £253.00
- Awards £1712.67
- Total: £6538.01

HT asked about the Miner's memorial fund – is this for something? Does it have restricted funds? Add to next agenda to discuss a plan for this. Could we, for example, place an engine, even a wooden one, at Arniston Engine?

2021-06-10	Add Miner's Memorial Fund plan to next agenda	NW
------------	---	----

8 Project Updates

8.1 Covid Planter Project

The Covid memorial planter project, as intended between the Resilience partners, is unlikely to proceed in the current form. The planned siting at The Beacon can't happen, as some of the Trustees at GCDT do not like the upset caused by moving them. Gorebridge Cares had indicated that the initial suggestion of removing four planters for the Beacon and two for the Hive would leave Emily Court rather bare, and had foregone their opportunity for two of the planters. NW mentioned that his wife, Erin, had been in touch with the local primary schools RE a competition to decorate one of the planters (one side per school) and that they were excited, however it is unclear how this can now progress. It was suggested GCDT may be doing something on their own here: Erin should speak to Ann, Val or Dawn to find out.

MD said that all twelve planters at Emily Court have now been planted up and are being tended to. There may be an issue with sight lines around/over two of the planters placed at the entrance, so will look to move some of the taller planting away from these ones. The plan to paint the planters had been a historic one, unrelated to Covid and which had begun before the pandemic. Gorebridge Cares had attended Gorebridge Primary School and had met with children to talk about the planters and had some paintings from that time from the children. A funding application had been submitted last year but had not been successful, but it was hoped that further applications by Gorebridge Cares would be submitted to carry this out. Erin would of course be welcome as part of this project. The original project involved children, Emily Court Residents and the community, to tell the story of Gorebridge and involved the same artist that had been involved in Gorebridge Cares successful Dog Poo Campaign, which won an award from Keep Scotland Beautiful.

9 Councillor Reports

9.1 Councillor Johnstone

CJ provided a written report ahead of the meeting. The full report can be read on our website; key takeaways follow.

- Council house building programme – The council is running out of ground to build on that it owns. This means MC will have to look to buying land to build putting us in direct competition with private developers, increasing the cost per unit, etc.
- Receiving many comments about the proposed development at Lingerwood, and encouraging more to be submitted either to the planning portal or to CJ directly. CJ is making no comment at this time to maintain impartiality and comply with the regulations, which will allow her to fully participate in the planning meeting where it will be discussed.
- Bid submitted for bus development project (better routes, linking east/west, to the Gyle etc) – should hear back in June
- Drop-in vaccinations at Gorebridge Leisure Centre for two weeks

Community awards (money from Scottish Government to help with catchup, aimed at summer projects) have all been decided with CLL. There were many applications, and applicants are being advised this week/beginning of next on the outcome.

9.2 Councillor Muirhead

JM provided a written report ahead of the meeting. The full report can be read on our website; key takeaways follow.

- JM and CJ have been working together to ensure that those groups affected by the loss of Gorebridge Leisure Centre to the vaccination programme. The vast majority of groups have solutions in place, with the exception of a yoga group and a dance group. See full report for details – if you know of any others, please let JM know.
- Gorebridge Library will be re-opening on Thursday 17th June at 10.30am. It will be providing bookable browsing sessions and bookable PC access, a Reserve and Collect service along with taking returns of stock and dealing with other enquires such as those for NEC cards, hearing batteries etc
- I mentioned at the last meeting the intention to draw forward as many capital projects as possible to stimulate the local economy and also to move Council services closer to our communities. Part of this will possibly result in many Council staff being located out in smaller offices in our communities or indeed working from home. It is important to note that staff are not being forced to work from home where that is not possible or practical or indeed desired. We have not decided to pull down the Council buildings in Dalkeith and as a result require to have our staff working from home. Rather, we are recognising the possible consequences of more staff working from home or in the communities and are investigating what this means for the buildings that the council has in Dalkeith.

10 Any Other Business

CJ gave some breaking news: all S3 at St David's asked to isolate after significant outbreak.

NW closed the meeting at 9.00pm. The next meeting will be 17 August 2021.

List of Abbreviations

BRCP	Borders Railway Community Partnership
CAT	Community Asset Transfer
CLL	Community and Lifelong Learning (Midlothian Council)
CRVS	Community Resilience Volunteer Service
DPP	Detailed Planning Permission
GADEG	Gorebridge and District Environmental Group
GCC	Gorebridge Community Cares
GCDT	Gorebridge Community Development Trust
GDCC	Gorebridge & District Community Council
HGTT	Hunterfield Gothenburg Tavern Trust
MLDP	Midlothian Local Development Plan
MTRaP	Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
PPP	Planning Permission in Principle