



**Present:** Cath McGill (CM) – Chair, Neil Whyte (NW) – Minutes, Faye Skelton (FS), Jason Rutter (JR), Seonaid Barker (SB), Hazel Thomson (HT), Kelly Drummond (KD), Cllr Catherine Johnstone (CJ), Cllr Jim Muirhead (JM)

**In Attendance:** Lynne Bruce, Ellen Scott

**Apologies:** Trevor Taylor, Gillian Cousins

## 1 Chair’s Welcome & Apologies

CM opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. Apologies noted as above.

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

ID	Description	Who	Status	Update
2020-09-2	Provide update on progress of MTRaP discussions on welcome signs	CM	Open	Will raise again in March MTRaP meeting.
2020-09-3	Provide update on progress Places for Everyone funding in relation to welcome signs	JM	Open	Decision delayed again, might put signs into capital spend for next year to get funding.
2020-09-10	Check with Corra Foundation if the Resilience Grant could be used for other purposes	NW	Closed	Needs to be used for Covid-related purposes, including recovery. After email discussion with resilience partners, no obvious candidates for spend. Will likely return grant.
2020-10-09	Email GDCC inbox with suggestions of worthy volunteers to receive awards	All	Open	No update this month.
2020-11-01	Feedback ideas for Covid memorial garden/planters	MD, HT, Ellen, Dawn	Open	No update this month.
2020-11-02	War memorial repairs paid for	FS	Closed	Superseded by 2021-01-01 below.
2020-11-10	Be ready to discuss what GDCC are doing well, and what we can do better, at the January meeting	All	Closed	Full update below.
2021-01-01	Arrange repairs to war memorial; pass bill to GDCC	Robbie Laird	Open	NW to follow up.
2021-01-02	Research available ongoing funding for war memorial repairs	SB	Open	No update this month.
2021-01-03	Arrange Facebook post & email to try and gather information on slippage incidents on Hunter Square, reporting to the GDCC mailbox	NW	Closed	Incidents gathered.
2021-01-04	Community Councillors to also gather information from local contacts on incidents, and forward to the GDCC mailbox	All	Closed	See full update in item 4 below.
2021-01-05	Escalate structural issue report with Council for Vogrie Hall	CJ	Closed	See Cllr Johnstone’s report below.
2021-01-06	Put Alistair, Fiona and CJ in contact with each other	NW	Closed	
2021-01-07	Publish November meeting minutes between GDCC & AIT/HGTT	NW	Closed	Circulated around GDCC, to be added to website
2021-01-08	Send round details of grit arrangements to GDCC members to get a volunteer	NW	Closed	MD and KD looking to take on.
2021-01-09	Respond to 20/00899/DPP highlighting concerns with access & railway	NW	Closed	
2021-01-10	Provide print-out of minutes for noticeboards on an ongoing basis	NW	Closed	
2021-01-11	Populate noticeboards on an ongoing basis	JB	Open	JB not present – carry item to next meeting.
2021-01-13	Forward Federation minutes to GDCC members on an ongoing basis	NW	Closed	This is now being done.

2021-01-14	Forward JM update to GDCC members	NW	Closed	
2021-01-15	Make contact with Anne Maher at BRCP to explore cooperation opportunities	Ellen S	Closed	See full update below.
2021-01-16	Send on background information to the pedestrian entrance at Main Street	HT	Closed	
2021-01-17	Covid support poster to be created for noticeboards	Ellen S	Closed	

**2020-11-10 (What can GDCC do better?):** Further discussion on how we can communicate better, both the work of GDCC to community and the work of the Federation to GDCC. Actions already identified for this. EH23.org got developed to a certain point as part of the Gorebridge Futures meeting, but then stalled. What do we want to get out of our web presence in general? Add to next month for in-depth discussion. Suggestion to keep formal GDCC updates, minutes etc separate from any GDCC-led community directory. JM happy to help with consultation on technical aspect as required.

**2021-01-15 (BRCP Cooperation):** Ellen spoke to Anne at BRCP, which has recently started up again after Covid curtailed operations. Confirmed that all the money set aside for the pedestrian entrance was returned to the various sources. CM has spoken to Alex Hynes at Network Rail. HT sent on letter from Scotrail. CM will keep chasing Network Rail.

2021-02-01	Update from Network Rail on pedestrian access at railway station	CM	16-Mar-21
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### 3 Guest Speaker: Fire Service

Lynne Bruce was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on the new regulations for fire and heat detection within private homes. Lynne provided a verbal report, summarised below:

After Grenfell, the Scottish Government commissioned a group to get recommendations for domestic fire detection. This group is independent of the Scottish Fire Service (they are just the messenger). Scottish Government now recommends linked (one goes off, all go off) smoke and heat detectors – either wired, or wireless. It is now the responsibility of the house owner to bear the cost of these (or landlord/property manager, as appropriate). February 2021 was original date for law, but there was little advertising until summer 2020. After public outcry, February 2022 is new date.

Advice is for:

- One smoke detector in whatever room is used every day (e.g. living room, or maybe kitchen)
- One in every hall/circulation space – upstairs and downstairs
- A heat detector in kitchen.
- Carbon monoxide detector in every room with open fire, gas fire, or any room which is adjacent to the flue out, and any room with a boiler.
  - Carbon monoxide detector not required in room with cooker i.e. kitchen.

Fire Service only has limited stock of these newer linked alarms. Still have a stock of old standalone stock that they can put into a house with no detectors as an interim measure – they will not leave a property entirely unprotected.

A question and answer session followed, summarised as follows:

- Ball-park cost for a full setup is around £300-400. Bluetooth generally cheaper overall - avoid electrician installation cost.
- Enforcement will be a challenge. Possibly need to state compliance as a condition of receiving home insurance cover. Compliance would likely gate any future house sale, too.
- It was clarified that for housing associations it would be the association who was liable for costs, not the individuals. It is the property owner who is responsible. Unclear at this time whether Midlothian Council would receive any additional funding from central government to properly fit-out council properties.
- There will be companies who would offer an installation service for people who may be uncomfortable with Bluetooth setup. The Fire Service has asked Scottish Government to produce clearer messaging to help understanding here.
- Keeping existing carbon monoxide detectors would be fine - the linked aspect only refers to the fire detectors
- No change in the regulations for business or community facilities.

CM thanked Lynne for her report.

2021-02-02	Provide information leaflet on changes, and distribute leaflet electronically	Lynne Bruce / NW	16-Mar-21
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## 4 Update on Ongoing Issues

### 4.1 Engagement with Hunterfield Gothenburg Tavern Trust

Minutes from November meeting sent round GDCC. Will be published on GDCC website by end of the week.

JM reported that the Trust has filled a vacancy for one of the Trustees – Jennifer McHale. A second vacancy remains open.

<b>2021-02-03</b>	Provide advert used by Dean Tavern Trust when looking for new Trustees to JM for reference	CJ	16-Mar-21
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JM also reported that the tenant has almost finished work to the bar/restaurant area and would be able to open soon in normal circumstances. Waiting for building control sign-off of existing work before moving to the exterior work at the takeaway end. Will follow up on actions from GDCC/HGTT meeting RE sharing plans for the interior.

### 4.2 Hunter Square Slips

NW reported reasonable response from community via Facebook posts. Mixed feedback – some incidents related to lack of gritting, others seem genuine ‘for no reason’. Has assembled a short summary table, to be sent round GDCC to pick up any additional information before sending on to Midlothian Council.

<b>2021-02-04</b>	Send round Hunter Square incident list to GDCC for final feedback	NW / All	16-Mar-21
<b>2021-02-05</b>	Send final list to Midlothian Council	NW	16-Mar-21

## 5 New Issues Raised by Community

Ellen raised potential issue with library. Is there a problem with the roof – a leak – which is why it couldn't open during lockdown?

<b>2021-02-06</b>	Find out if there is any issue with the roof of Gorebridge Library that would prevent it opening when restrictions ease	JM	16-Mar-21
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## 6 Major Planning Applications

None to report.

## 7 Co-option of Member to Community Council

Kelly Drummond was proposed for co-option by CM. The motion was passed unanimously from those elected Community Councillors present, and Kelly was warmly welcomed to GDCC.

## 8 Twinning Request

COSLA have reached out with a list of European towns looking for Scottish twins. Bischofsheim (nr Frankfurt, Germany) looks like a good fit. Lots of ideas and enthusiasm but needs some focus time. Will do a brainstorming session before going to community. Also good to meet with other local groups (e.g. in Dalkeith and Penicuik) who have been involved in ongoing twinning activities, as well as Verona McDonald with Midlothian Council so we understand what we are potentially putting ourselves forward for.

## 9 Police Report

We have a new Community Officer for Gorebridge: PC Jason MacFarlane.

The police report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that there appeared to be increasing drug-related reports, and perhaps this is more a reflection of the intolerance to the anti-social behaviour that goes with it. Lynne Bruce gave a useful perspective in her County-wide role that she didn't believe Gorebridge had problems over and above those experienced by the other towns.

<b>2021-02-07</b>	Invite PC MacFarlane along to a future meeting to give a presentation on drug awareness, paraphernalia to look for and anonymous reporting	NW	16-Mar-21
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## 10 Community Council Reports

### 10.1 Chair

CM provide a brief verbal update from the Federation meeting.

Heath Social Care Partnership have been explaining roll-out of vaccination, who goes where (GP, mass vaccination centres) etc. Vaccine wastage is less than 1%, which is excellent. No serious side-effects short-term.

Environmental budget: how can community councils get more involved in how these funds are distributed?

Developer contributions – how are these used? New sub-group formed to discuss. CM will attend first one, more to follow. As and when Developers are actively involved in large-scale housing work, we could ask them to attend meetings to give updates and proactively increase engagement that way.

Work on opening Penicuik Recycling Centre has been delayed.

## 10.2 Secretary

Nothing additional to report.

## 10.3 Treasurer

Nothing to report. Still struggling with two-to-approve setup. HT mentioned some contacts identified at the Federation who may be able to help.

<b>2021-02-08</b>	Contact Federation members for advice on two-to-approve	FS	16-Mar-21
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NW needs to balance up with FS over GDCC Christmas Card income/expenses to finalise donation to Gorebridge Community Cares.

## 11 Project Updates

### 11.1 Station Adopters

Planters still 'off-limits' in the station due to Covid restrictions.

### 11.2 Poppy Appeal 2021

NW had proposed that GDCC take on responsibility as Gorebridge Area Organiser for the Poppy Appeal. We did a 'diving catch' in October to get a small supply of Poppies for donations alongside the Remembrance Garden crosses, but it wasn't a full-out fundraising drive. Those present rejected this proposal, partly because of the effort involved (our energies are best focussed elsewhere), but mainly to avoid GDCC being associated with a single charity.

<b>2021-02-09</b>	Reply to Poppy Scotland RE GDCC not getting involved with running the local appeal	NW	16-Mar-21
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## 12 Councillor Reports

### 12.1 Cllr Johnstone

CJ provided a written report in advance to the meeting, which can be read alongside these minutes.

### 12.2 Cllr Muirhead

JM provided a verbal report, saying most of his update was covered by the report from CJ. JM also highlighted the work done by the Roads team during the recent cold snap: 300 tonnes of salt distributed every 24hrs, and with re-deployments there were double the amount of people working out of the Fushiebridge depot.

### 12.3 Cllr Munro

Not present.

## 13 Any other business

### 13.1 Holistic Planning

A long and wide-ranging discussion was held at the end of the meeting regarding planning and how we might be more actively involved in attracting investment e.g. from a supermarket like Aldi/Lidl, and siting of the much-discussed High School. JM highlighted getting involved in the Local Development Plan up-front might be useful. Suggested inviting Peter Arnsdorf (in the first instance) to a future meeting to discuss the process.

In general, it was suggested that we should look to form sub-committees to 'offload' the main GDCC meeting. There was frustration over a perceived lack of progress between meetings, and no time during meetings to work through in-depth topics. We need to decide what our priorities are, and how we can best progress them.

HT asked whether we should look to partner with the Community Resilience Volunteer Service (CRVS) integrated into our resilience planning.

<b>2021-02-10</b>	Discuss opportunity for a planning presentation and Q&A session with Peter Arnsdorf	NW	16-Mar-21
<b>2021-02-11</b>	Add agenda topic for March on establishment of sub-committees	NW	16-Mar-21
<b>2021-02-12</b>	Invite CRVS to our March meeting to give a presentation on their work locally	HT	16-Mar-21

CM closed the meeting at 9.50pm. The next meeting will be 16 March 2021.

***List of Abbreviations***

BRCP	Borders Railway Community Partnership
CAT	Community Asset Transfer
CRVS	Community Resilience Volunteer Service
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