



Present: Cath McGill (CM) – Chair, Neil Whyte (NW) – Minutes, Seonaid Barker (SB), Hazel Thomson (HT), Kelly Drummond (KD), Mary Davidson (MD), Janice Brown (JBr), Jamie Barr (JBa) Cllr Catherine Johnstone (CJ)

In Attendance: Ellen Scott, Lisa Stenhouse, Claire Crawford, Eddie Bruce, Andrew Black, Michelle ?, Brian McGuff, Jane Young, Lorna Crook, Mali Purkayastha, Dawn Barclay, Belinda Geddes

Apologies: Mary Webb, Heather Webb-Nelson, Faye Skelton, Jason Rutter, Trevor Taylor, Gillian Cousins, Cllr Jim Muirhead, PC Jason MacFarlane, Marc Fleming (CRVS)

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 |
|------------|--|---------------------|--------|--|
| 2020-09-02 | Provide update on progress of MTRaP discussions on welcome signs | CM | Closed | See full update below. |
| 2020-09-03 | Provide update on progress Places for Everyone funding in relation to welcome signs | JM | Open | Not present. |
| 2020-10-09 | Email GDCC inbox with suggestions of worthy volunteers to receive awards | All | Closed | Stale action. GCDT putting forward Resilience Group to Council awards. |
| 2020-11-01 | Feedback ideas for Covid memorial garden/planters | MD, HT, Ellen, Dawn | Open | No update this month. |
| 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. |
| 2021-01-11 | Populate noticeboards on an ongoing basis | JB | Open | See full update below. |
| 2021-02-01 | Update from Network Rail on pedestrian access at railway station | CM | Open | No update this month. |
| 2021-02-02 | Provide information leaflet on changes, and distribute leaflet electronically | Lynne Bruce / NW | Closed | Posted on our website, and linked via Facebook. |
| 2021-02-03 | Provide advert used by Dean Tavern Trust when looking for new Trustees to JM for reference | CJ | Closed | Sent and acknowledged. |
| 2021-02-04 | Send round Hunter Square incident list to GDCC | NW / All | Closed | No additional feedback received. |
| 2021-02-05 | Send final list to Midlothian Council | NW | Closed | Will send after this meeting. |
| 2021-02-06 | Find out if there is any issue with the roof of Gorebridge Library that would prevent it opening when restrictions ease | JM | Open | Not present. |
| 2021-02-07 | Invite PC MacFarlane along to a future meeting to give a presentation on drug awareness, paraphernalia to look for and anonymous reporting | NW | Open | Date to be agreed. |
| 2021-02-08 | Contact Federation members for advice on two-to-approve | FS | Closed | Was done, though nothing back (nor any acknowledgement). See Treasurer report. |
| 2021-02-09 | Reply to Poppy Scotland RE GDCC not getting involved with running the local appeal | NW | Closed | Done. Have offered to publicise the vacancy via Facebook etc. |
| 2021-02-10 | Discuss opportunity for a planning presentation and Q&A session with Peter Arnsdorf | NW | Open | Discussions ongoing. |
| 2021-02-11 | Add agenda topic for March on establishment of sub-committees | NW | Closed | |
| 2021-02-12 | Invite CRVS to our March meeting to give a presentation on their work locally | HT | Closed | |

2020-09-02 (MTRaP Welcome Signs): £10,000 every year is provided to each Councillor as an “Environmental Budget”, intended to be spent as the Councillor sees fit to improve the local area. CJ said that spend needs to go to most needy in community. Recommendation from MTRaP is to write to each Councillor to ask for a contribution from that budget, with particular emphasis on speed limit awareness. We should also write to Derek Oliver directly to re-highlight the fact that Gorebridge seems to be the only settlement of any size in Midlothian that doesn't have clear welcome signage.

JBa again raised that there is no triangle warning signs on approach to the controlled crossing at St Andrew's School. 30mph sign, 20mph stamped on road (which cannot be seen in all road conditions). He also highlighted the bus stop on southbound carriageway at Barleyknowe Road does not have enough space for all the students getting off the bus, as a result they can end up pressed against the bus or spill out onto the carriageway. Additionally, there is no obvious signage for what the speed limit is supposed to be on that road. CM mentioned that there is a stock of 30mph stickers that can be applied to wheely bins, lampposts etc available from the Police or the Council.

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| 2021-03-01 | Write to each Councillor requesting a contribution from their environmental budget towards welcome signage | NW | 20-Apr-21 |
| 2021-03-02 | Write to Derek Oliver to highlight our lack of welcome signage and ensure all joined up with Places for Everyone application | NW | 20-Apr-21 |
| 2021-03-03 | Arrange stock and distribution of 30mph stickers | CM/JBa | 20-Apr-21 |
| 2021-03-04 | Collate concerns on St Andrew's school crossing signs, confusing speed indication and bus stop to roads department | JBa | 20-Apr-21 |

2021-01-11 (Noticeboards): Keys distributed here and there for the various noticeboards, which doesn't help. Dawn has Hunter Square, Ellen has Library and CM has Gore Glen. There is a need for a separate Communications group to think though how we communicate the work of the Community Council and how that can be improved.

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| 2021-03-05 | Convene Communications group to discuss how we better publicise the work of the Community Council | SB/NW | 20-Apr-21 |
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The minutes of 16 February were accepted as correct: HT proposed, SB seconded.

3 Community Resilience Volunteer Service (CRVS)

We had hoped to welcome Marc Fleming from the CRVS to the meeting to present on the work of the group, and to explore any potential tie-ups with a formal resilience plan for Gorebridge. Unfortunately, he was unavoidably detained and sent his apologies. A separate meeting will be convened to sync with him.

Brian McGuff (CLL) has been helping communities create community resilience plans. Jane Young (Contingency Planning Officer), prior to the pandemic was working with Rosewell on their resilience plan. They got some funding through Scottish Government as a result of the plan to get started. Have been working together to help form Community Emergency Plans. These highlight community-specific risks that a local resilience group can help with.

The community council public liability insurance can cover activities of a resilience group, though it was unclear to anyone at the meeting if the public liability insurance was only valid if the community had a formal resilience plan in place in the first place.

HT wondered if CRVS could be identified as a potential partner, does this work as a plan in itself? HT could contact the volunteers from the Gorebridge Resilience effort (who had expressed an interest in stepping forward in the future if needed) with CRVS details encouraging them to volunteer. Former Resilience partners could also post details of CRVS on their pages/websites seeking volunteers. CRVS is not well-known amongst other organisation (like Red Cross, Lothian 4x4 rescue etc) so Jane is keen to try and link this all up.

Some concern on CRVS being based in West of Scotland and be able to coordinate Midlothian easily (e.g. during weather events where travel is a struggle). HT said Marc is in Bonnyrigg and there are local volunteers, so maybe it would be OK? Brian highlighted that the community resilience planning is intended to ensure the community itself is resilient – it is not about relying on a third party.

HT to take offline with Brian, Jane and Marc and report back to next meeting. Brian and Jane left the meeting at this point.

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| 2021-03-06 | Meet with CRVS & Midlothian Council to explore potential collaboration opportunities and report back at next meeting. | HT | 20-Apr-21 |
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4 Ongoing Issues

4.1 Engagement with Hunterfield Gothenburg Tavern Trust

HT requested a sub-group be formed to consider a response to the minutes published of the November meeting between GDCC and HGTT. To include HT, CM, NW, SB, JB, MD & Belinda Geddes.

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| 2021-03-07 | Convene Tavern sub-group to discuss response to November minutes, to report back to next GDCC meeting. | SB/NW | 20-Apr-21 |
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5 Issues Raised

5.1 Auld Gala Park: Pump Track

SB introduced item by representing some local residents immediately adjacent to the site of the proposed pump track in Auld Gala Park. Concerns over a lack of awareness of work going on here and no formal planning application with which to lodge comments or concerns. Prior to the meeting it was ascertained by NW that as the development was being undertaken by Midlothian Council within their own district, the total estimated cost of the project did not exceed £250k, and that Midlothian Council had deemed that the development was not a "bad neighbour" nor a material change of use of the land, consequently the works is deemed to be permitted development under class 33 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 (as amended 2011). No application for planning permission was therefore required.

Ellen from Gorebridge Community Cares gave a presentation. This talked about the recent history of the Auld Gala Park, from near abandonment after a tragic accident involving a local boy falling into a mineshaft, to regeneration lead by Gorebridge Community Cares involving geogridding to stabilise the ground, substantial community-led consultation on what facilities people would like to see in the park, to formal adoption of "Gorebridge Neighbourhood Plan" after funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to create a community action plan in January 2015. The results of several surveys at gala days and other local events, as well as Facebook posts, were presented too. An overall vision was presented to the Community Council and Gorebridge Futures as part of that work, with approval granted from both groups in 2016.

A mock-up example of the pump track was shared at the meeting. This showed a small (approx. 20m x 30m) undulating concrete track, with a maximum height of 0.8m (mainly around the 'berms', which are banked corners of the track that enable fast transition from one section to another). The nearest portion of the track to the neighbouring fence line is approximately 20m.

No concerns were raised in the meeting, and it was acknowledged that it was great to see how this project was shaping up which will be an excellent addition to our community.

6 Major Planning

6.1 Skyrora Test Facility - 21/00132/DPP

We welcomed Lorna Crook and Mali Purkayastha to the meeting, representing Moorfoot Community Council (whose area this development falls into). They provided a brief introduction that this application was informed to them in the weekly planning list on 1 March and that the developer was pushing for comments by 20 March to enable them to respond in time to meet the intended 25 April planning application decision date. They have since secured a meeting with the developers on 17 March, and are looking to gather any additional questions from us.

There was lots of discussion around potential noise and pollution impact, as well as who would 'police' the testing schedule that is indicated (3 x 30 second tests per week, up to a maximum of 3 tests per day). CJ advised that there is monitoring available from the Council on noise levels in case of dispute. NW noted that there had been a noise impact assessment carried out and available to read as part of the application – this indicated that expected noise levels out at Gorebridge (3.5 miles away) would be negligible. Concerns were raised about the amplification that may occur due to the valley walls in that area, as well as the impact of vibration with particular concerns over mineworkings and unstable ground.

Lorna and Mali will attend the meeting with the developer and will look to raise these concerns – many of which they shared and had collated already.

6.2 Lingerwood, East Newtongrange & South Mayfield (Pre-Application)

In early stages of planning, no entry on the planning portal yet. This covers the whole area of land both sides of Crawlees Road, wrapping around the industrial estate at Mayfield and effectively joining Mayfield, Newtongrange and Gorebridge (Gowkshill) together. No indication on number of houses in the proposal, but likely 800+.

There will be a public consultation meeting on 28 April, 4pm – 7pm, held as a virtual event. Details are TBC.

CM and NW will meet with representatives from Newtongrange and Mayfield & Easthouses Community Councils on 18 March to discuss and formulate a joined-up approach.

The main concern, over and above the usual issues on education/health provision and road/water infrastructure, was the potential loss of individual identities of the towns affected. It is important to us to have a distinction of where and what Gorebridge is.

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| 2021-03-08 | Meet with Newtongrange and Mayfield & Easthouses CC and report to next meeting | CM/NW | 20-Apr-21 |
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7 Progress Areas of Interest

It was agreed that several subgroups should be created to look at areas of particular interest in between main meetings. As well as the Tavern and Communications subgroups, one on the proposed High School should also be formed to keep things ticking over.

There was more discussion on attracting a supermarket to Gorebridge, but again frustration over lack of holistic planning. How can we ensure that land that has been allocated to commercial purposes (e.g. as at Redheugh) is maintained for that purpose and not changed for housing later? Suggest raising this as part of the proposed meeting with Peter Arnsdorf (action 2021-02-10 above).

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| 2021-03-09 | Convene High School subgroup, keep Moorfoot CC informed | HT, SB, KD, Ellen | 20-Apr-21 |
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8 Police Report

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

9 Community Council Reports

9.1 Chair

Nothing to report not covered already.

9.2 Secretary

Nothing additional to cover, other than our mailing list is now up at 101 people.

9.3 Treasurer

FS sent apologies, but also an update on the current pots:

- GDCC General £1,346.00 (Pentland Invoice paid and lots of planter income)
- Miners Memorial £1,750.83
- War Memorial Refurb £253.00
- Awards £1232.67
- Sum £5475.38 (Total in bank is £5669.35, the £193.97 'excess' was inherited!)

10 Project Updates

Item skipped in interest of time.

11 Councillor Reports

11.1 Councillor Johnstone

CJ provided a written report in advance. Highlighted Leisure Centre being used as a Covid vaccination centre, and ongoing budget discussions.

There was discussion on the car park at the Leisure Centre being sequestered without adequate consultation with the Primary School (where it is designated as the safe drop-off/pick-up) and the Beacon (for access for deliveries and waste collection), as well as the groups that met in the leisure centre – particularly if it is used for 9 months.

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| 2021-03-10 | Raise use of Leisure Centre car-park and alternative arrangements for Beacon and School within Council | CJ | 20-Apr-21 |
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11.2 Councillor Muirhead

JM sent apologies to the meeting.

11.3 Councillor Munro

KM was not present.

12 AOB

HT raised the issue of grit bins and their lids being flapped around by the wind. CJ mentioned that new bins were being rolled out to refresh old stock anyway, which should hopefully address this issue.

CM closed the meeting at 9.43pm. The next meeting will be 20 April 2021.

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|--|
| BRCP | Borders Railway Community Partnership |
| CAT | Community Asset Transfer |
| CLL | Community and Lifeline Learning (Midlothian Council) |
| 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 |