



Present: – Cath McGill (CM) – Chair, Neil Whyte (NW) – Minutes, Hazel Thomson (HT), Mary Davidson (MD), Janice Brown (JBr), Faye Skelton (FS), Heather Webb-Nelson (HWN), Mary Webb (MW), Kelly Drummond (KD)

In Attendance: Dawn Barclay,

Apologies: Seonaid Barker, Jason Rutter, Billy Duncan, Ellen Scott, PC Jason MacFarlane

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
2021-01-11	Populate noticeboards on an ongoing basis	JBr	Open	
2021-02-01	Update from Network Rail on pedestrian access at railway station	CM	Open	
2021-03-04	Collate concerns on St Andrew's school crossing signs, confusing speed indication and bus stop to roads department	JBa	Open	
2021-03-05	Convene Communications group to discuss how we better publicise the work of the Community Council	SB/NW	Open	No update
2021-04-02	Write to Melville Housing to discuss land at Barleyknowe Road/McLean Place	NW	In Progress	Email sent: awaiting response.
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	Can get annual pass for £75 from wee hut. Apparently the Access Midlothian card and vogrie parking not linked. HT mentioned that the Golf Course used to be able to do this (parking past house), so perhaps this can be done?
2021-05-01	Ask Gareth Davies to present update on land at Stobhill Depot to future meeting	NW	Closed	Available to present to next meeting, 21 September
2021-05-05	Contact Safe Routes to School RE bus-stop issues at Barleyknowe Road	NW	Open	
2021-05-06	Write to our MSP to ask how healthcare provision is supposed to be integrated with the planning process	NW	Open	
2021-05-08	Organise and submit new mandate to bank	FS	In Progress	
2021-05-09	Escalate Greenhall traffic signal timings to Derek Oliver	CJ	Closed	
2021-05-10	Gather a list of blocked drains for action	MD	Closed	Passed on to CJ, now with relevant Council department to action.
2021-06-01	Raise red light jumping at Greenhall/Hunterfield Road signals with community police	NW	Closed	Email sent.
2021-06-02	High School sub-group to be convened (target July)	NW	In Progress	Have made discussions over email so far: full update in main agenda item.
2021-06-03	Confirm the 'rules of engagement' for a sub-group of Community Council	NW	Closed	
2021-06-04	Provide method of capturing questions from community for High School public meeting	NW	Closed	Google Form created: https://forms.gle/ePdMrWT31TCjxKXPA
2021-06-05	Begin publicising date of meeting to community	NW	Closed	Facebook post created, newsletter sent
2021-06-06	Forward new questions to HGTT and ask for update on their actions from Nov 2020	NW	In Progress	Email sent: awaiting response.

ID	Description	Who	Status	Update
	meeting			
2021-06-07	Investigate whether any formal conditions were attached to NWH regarding routing of lorries	NW	Open	
2021-06-08	Sync with Moorfoot CC on latest discussions RE haulage	CM	Closed	
2021-06-09	Contact NWH directly (as an individual) to discuss concerns	MD	Closed	
2021-06-08	Ask Willie Reid (Waste Services) about placement of a bin at Burnside Road	NW	Open	
2021-06-09	Submit response to Redheugh West Gorebridge - 21/00374/PPP	NW	Closed	No responses received, so nothing submitted. We have already feedback to PAC though.
2021-06-10	Add Miner's Memorial Fund plan to next agenda	NW	Closed	Added as item 6.

Previous minutes proposed by FS and seconded by MD.

3 Guest Speaker: John Brown (Midlothian Council) House Project

John Brown was welcomed to the meeting by CM, and provided a verbal presentation.

The House Project is specifically for those children with 'care experience' – adopted, fostered, kinship care (lives with grandparents etc). Often currently housed in residential houses (there are two in Midlothian, Gorebridge and Dalkeith) or, rarely, secure care (at risk to themselves or others). Biggest reason for being in care (from Children's Reporter) 80% due to "care in protection" (i.e. not being provided appropriate care by parents) vs 20% offending. After care, approximately 50% become homeless. House Project looks to address this to provide better outcomes for housing and other opportunities.

About two years ago, funding opportunity was provided to establish a model in Midlothian than is currently used in the Midlands. The model empowers young people by negotiated with housing partners (Midlothian Council, Castlerock and Melville Housing) to allocate a percentage of properties each year. What used to happen (and still does) is when they get to 16, they would register as homeless and the young person would be told they can get such-and-such house. However, they would have no control over where, how it was setup and they weren't prepared to do anything with it. House Project talks to young people prior to leaving care, asking where you would like to live (areas etc), thinking about where their friends are, support networks etc. Talking through the options usually finds that the initial decision may not always be the right choice (e.g. it enforces a route involving two buses to get to college). House Project then liaise with housing colleagues to try and find somewhere suitable. Work together to find a mutually-acceptability solution.

Young people also engage in learning programme (12 modules) with real life skills (budgeting, cooking skills, being a responsible neighbour etc). Currently nine in program in a group, eight are already in tenancies, of which three are in Gorebridge. They want to integrate into community, have respect for area and respect for neighbours. Ellen helping the project with Gorebridge Cares and the Hive facility.

John mentioned that it does take time for the young people to get 'ready' and they come from challenging backgrounds, so being honest they can be lonely. When they're on their own, they get stuck in their head and can be vulnerable to external influences due to reminiscing about past experiences and challenges.

The programme encourages young people to be involved in bringing up the property to scratch, decorating, sourcing furniture (with a budget given to them). In doing that, they can learn trade-offs (e.g. getting cheaper furniture and using savings for a bigger telly) so they learn real-life experiences. One young person learned how to lay laminate flooring, and helped others in the project do similar.

Most young people would get various temporary accommodations before getting their final one: the House Project gets them to the permanent home as the first step.

Outcomes in a similar model (from Midlands) are very good – 90% maintain tenancy after 2/3 years. It is acknowledged that for communities it can be quite daunting having these young people move in, but it's because they're frightened or scared.

JB asked about donations (goods, used paint etc). These can be provided to John Brown.

HT asked if the Development Trust could help with volunteer opportunities? Help find employment? John would love to have a chat around lend a hand project etc that was.

MD asked if it just 16 year-olds? Or 17, 18? John responded that, for them, that would be quite restrictive. Will work with any young people, and also noted that the statutory obligation for care experience up to 26.

4 Update on Ongoing Issues

4.1 Planning Meeting with Peter Arnsdorf

Rather than have a session with just Gorebridge, Peter is engaged with the Federation on a session aimed at all Community Councils. Watch this space.

5 New Issues Raised by Community

5.1 School Buses

MD was interested in learning how many there would be passing through the village, as it seems to be getting busier.

5.2 New Chip Shop Bins

HT raised an observation that the Viridor bin at the new chippy is overflowing, and it would take just a gust of wind to blow rubbish out of it. The new public litter bin also looks full. HT to contact Colin Farret to escalate and resolve.

6 Major Planning Applications

6.1 Community Planning Conference - November

Highlighting an opportunity for involvement in a conference in November. Details to be circulated.

7 High School Meeting

Form is out for feedback and registering interest. Good take up so far. Questions have been grouped together by HT and ready to send to Midlothian Council. Feedback requested from GDCC members on any additional questions.

Looks like Fiona Robertson will be unable to attend after all, but is sending understudies. Names are TBC at this time.

Webpage setup on the GDCC website to publish questions, and will host notes after the call too.

8 Miner Memorial Fund Plan

GDCC has spoken before about names of those who lost their lives to be put on board etc. Cost in stone prohibitive, but a wooden board is not ideal for Beacon given modern look of building. However, we do have lots of money available in the pot. Shuggy has done a book on mining history, can we support book getting published?

MW suggested that monument itself is lovely, but there's likely people down the pits that died that will not be recorded. There is a worry we will miss someone, which will cause distress. Suggested we don't need to have boards etc, as every family will already know, and the current monument represents every miner.

Dawn Barclay highlighted that Midlothian Gallery Scotland has fund open just now that could fit this funding bill for the book. Dawn also has heritage stuff, ties in with Remembrance Day (13/14 October). Closing date for the fund is end September.

9 Police Report

The police report was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

10 Community Council Reports

10.1 Chair & Secretary

Nothing additional to report.

10.2 Treasurer

FS noted that a couple of payments have been made to Pentland Plants and for web hosting and associated expenses.

Update on the current pots:

- GDCC General £3104.95
- Miners Memorial £1,75.83
- War Memorial Refurb £253.00
- Awards £1695.99

10.3 Federation

No update.

11 Project Updates

11.1 Station adopters

CM reported that Craig is doing a great job! It was also noted that the planters that MD is looking after looking good at Emily Court too.

12 Councillor Reports

There were no Councillors present at this meeting, and no reports received in advance, so this item was not covered.

13 Any Other Business

13.1 Format of Community Council meetings for rest of year

After a brief discussion, it appears the majority are happy to meet in person, though with distance. Given uncertainty heading into the winter months, we will continue with Zoom until end of year. Pavilion may not provide enough space for distancing, so would need to be checked. For info, Dawn reported Beacon costs as £30 + VAT for 2 hour hire of café area, or £45 + VAT for hall hire for 2 hours).

CM closed the meeting at 8.15pm. The next meeting will be 15 September 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