



Present: Cath McGill (CM) – Chair & Minutes, Seonaid Barker (SB), Hazel Thomson (HT), Kelly Drummond (KD), Mary Davidson (MD), Janice Brown (JBr), Faye Skelton (FS), Jason Rutter (JR), Heather Webb-Nelson (HWN), Cllr Catherine Johnstone (CJ)

In Attendance: Ellen Scott, Dawn Barclay, Marc Fleming (CRVS)

Apologies: Neil Whyte, Gillian Cousins, Robbie Laird, Cllr Jim Muirhead, 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
2020-09-03	Provide update on progress Places for Everyone funding in relation to welcome signs	JM	Open	Not present.
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	Closed	Robbie has fixed this; awaiting bill
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	No update this month.
2021-02-01	Update from Network Rail on pedestrian access at railway station	CM	Open	No update this month.
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	Closed	Pencilled-in for August, pending return to normal duties.
2021-02-10	Discuss opportunity for a planning presentation and Q&A session with Peter Arnsdorf	NW	Open	No update this month.
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	Open	Wanted to speak to JM first, and have now done so – will progress and report to next meeting.
2021-03-03	Arrange stock and distribution of 30mph stickers	CM/JBa	Open	Being produced by Police Scotland to be sent to Dalkeith Police Station for collection. Will chase.
2021-03-04	Collate concerns on St Andrew's school crossing signs, confusing speed indication and bus stop to roads department	JBa	Open	No update this month.
2021-03-05	Convene Communications group to discuss how we better publicise the work of the Community Council	SB/NW	Open	No update this month.
2021-03-06	Meet with CRVS & Midlothian Council to explore potential collaboration opportunities and report back at next meeting.	HT	Closed	See item 3.
2021-03-07	Convene Tavern sub-group to discuss response to November minutes, to report back to next GDCC meeting.	SB/NW	Closed	See item 4.1.
2021-03-08	Meet with Newtongrange and Mayfield & Easthouses CC and report to next meeting	CM/NW	Closed	See item 6.1.
2021-03-09	Convene High School subgroup, keep Moorfoot CC informed	HT, SB, KD, Ellen	Open	Plan to meet soon.
2021-03-10	Raise use of Leisure Centre car-park and alternative arrangements for Beacon and School within Council	CJ	Closed	See items 10.1 and 10.2.

3 Community Resilience Volunteer Service (CRVS)

Presentation from Marc Fleming from Community Resilience Volunteer Service CRVS explaining more about their charity and how they recruit volunteers to support local communities during disasters or other times of need, for example extreme adverse Fire/Flood/Power outage/covid. They also assist other services e.g. Police/Fire Service/Mountain Rescue / 4x4 support and marshalling and security at events. They have undertaken first aid training with volunteers and complete risk assessments for events either independently or in collaboration with community groups. The costs to the organisations is purely on a donation basis.

GDCC is considering using CRVS to support a recovery plan for the whole of Gorebridge to support our vulnerable people in the event of adverse weather or any future lockdown. Further discussions will take place to agree how we can help to encourage residents of Gorebridge to sign up with CRVS to volunteer to support local events or during a disaster. Initially we plan to contact the volunteers we had as part of Gorebridge Resilience to see if they would be interested and then communicate further afield on social media and other sources. The minimum age for volunteers is 16. The benefit of this would be that CRVS hold all the volunteers details and in the event of help being needed they have an SMS message activation set up to inform volunteers who have stated they are available.

2021-04-01	HT will continue to discuss with Marc to understand the full scope of support that can be given and agree next steps	HT	18-May-21
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4 Ongoing Issues

4.1 Engagement with Hunterfield Gothenburg Tavern Trust

The sub-group met on 23 March, and agreed further forward-looking questions and to ask HGTT for an update on actions that were agreed.

5 Issues Raised

5.1 Land between Barleyknowe Road/McLean Place

Melville Housing own the land, and it was set up as allotments for a while but quickly suffered vandalism and fire damage and bins were stolen. Unfortunately, the area is not overlooked so is susceptible to attack and unlikely that community groups would want to invest time in doing anything with it. However, it was suggested that the CC could write to Melville Housing to ask if they would look at this again as the new housing estate may have an impact on it not being attacked now.

2021-04-02	Write to Melville Housing to discuss land at Barleyknowe Road/McLean Place	NW	18-May-21
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5.2 Stobhill Depot

As this is no longer moving to Bonnyrigg plans are still in the pipeline to develop the land below Pentland Avenue. This will be mixed development with housing, supermarket, retail. CJ and JM have a meeting with the developer Gareth Davies soon and will feedback to next meeting. Due to Covid the plans for this area may have changed and we encouraged a further consultation to take place. For example, many people home working may have an impact on need for shared working spaces.

2021-04-03	Report outcome of meeting with Gareth Davies on land at Stobhill Depot	CJ	18-May-21
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5.3 Fly Tipping

A spate of fly tipping has taken place at Borthwick. Derek Oliver's background is in Law and Environmental Health and he had many successes dealing with similar issues when he was with East Lothian Council. The incident at Borthwick has resulted in numerous names and addresses being found amongst the dumped rubbish and investigations have found a company was paid to dump this waste and further action and prosecutions are being pursued.

5.4 Traffic Lights at Greenhall Crescent / Hunterfield Road

The resident at this corner has had many problems reversing her car into her driveway due to the timing of the lights and many inconsiderate drivers are not enabling her to do this. She has grave concerns about the safety of the small children in her vehicle when trying to manoeuvre and would like someone to look at the sequence of the lights and the issues she is having. Another resident of Greenhall Crescent is also having similar issues which have been raised numerous times with no action. CJ to speak to the Council traffic officer.

5.5 Various Other Issues

Problems with Bin at Harvieston Cemetery missing – CJ to speak to Council

2021-04-04	Report missing bin at Harvieston Cemetery	CJ	18-May-21
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Tree trimming on Hunterfield Road. The cutting of the branches has been more like a massacre and sharp clippings and other debris were left on the road. This has resulted in one CC member suffering a burst tyre.

Pot Holes – Huge potholes causing damage to cars all over Gorebridge and Midlothian. Still numerous NWH lorries travelling along A7 (15 in space of 10 mins) causing road issues.

2021-04-05	Raise issue of heavy lorry use with Federation	CM	18-May-21
2021-04-06	Liaise with Tynehead CC and Ian McAlpine at Newlandrigg, who has already done a survey of lorries	CM	18-May-21

Vogrie Car Park – the barrier has been up all through Easter Holiday and no charges have been taken with many cars travelling from outside Midlothian. Why can't holders of Access to Midlothian Cards use the car park free of charge? What income is gathered from parking and what is the impact of things like Park Run and all the people who park and damage the ground?

2021-04-07	Write to Justin Venton to question Vogrie Car Parking and potential for Access to Midlothian cardholders using for free	CM	18-May-21
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Arniston Park – the bollard at the entrance and some people are driving into the park to go and collect children from Gore Glen Primary. This is dangerous for children travelling through the park from school and dog walkers. GDCC to write to Justin Venton to advise and put up no vehicle entry signs at the park other than official council vehicles.

2021-04-08	Write to Justin Venton to suggest additional signage at Arniston Park	NW	18-May-21
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Car Wash at Bottom of Hunterfield Road – traffic is backing up when it is busy causing issues on the road for other users.

2021-04-09	Contact PC McFarlane to make aware of standing traffic Hunterfield Rd near car wash	NW	18-May-21
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Bikers are looking for land to use in the pursuit of their interest. JB and ES to speak to Ruts and discuss what support or sites may be available locally rather than using the Camp and getting in trouble with police.

2021-04-10	Discuss with Ruts local sites for off-road bike use	JBr / Ellen	18-May-21
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Street Work team are targeting young people to deal with anti-social behaviour. DB at the Beacon is liaising with council to engage with young people at Gore Glen.

6 Major Planning Applications

6.1 Lingerwood Pre-Application Consultation – additional date

There are two opportunities to contribute to the pre-application consultation for this development: Wed 28 April & Wed 26 May, 4pm - 7pm, online. No other details as yet, but all are encouraged to attend consultation and comment.

Concerns were raised on the provision of schooling, the road network and access to green spaces. Concern over loss of identity between Gorebridge, Mayfield and Newtongrange (which would effectively be joined) was also raised.

6.2 21/00252/PPP – Land at Stobs Farm

New planning permission in principle application made. They have gone in heavy on the "Midlothian are under-provisioned according to your plan". Interesting analysis in there also about the fact that Stobhill Primary is already over-capacity in the next year or so and that they are relying on the High School being built too.

7 Police Report

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

2021-04-11	Contact PC McFarlane to ask if police can still install shed alarms	JBr	18-May-21
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8 Community Council Reports

8.1 Chair

Nothing to report not covered already.

8.2 Secretary

NW sent apologies.

8.3 Treasurer

Update on the current pots:

- GDCC General £2,478.88
- Miners Memorial £1,750.83
- War Memorial Refurb £253.00
- Awards £1232.67

All submissions for running costs to be submitted asap – printing /logo design / web hosting/venues/ all these costs are acceptable.

9 Project Updates

9.1 Station Adopters

Station adopters are now allowed back to maintain the station and plans are on track to get new signs fitted and plant out summer bedding in early June.

10 Councillor Reports

10.1 Councillor Johnstone

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

Vandalism at Gorebridge Library – dates and timescales to be advised on repairing damage.

£203m funding for South East Scotland better bus service.

Other buildings in Gorebridge being looked at to deal with displacement from Leisure centre being used for at least 12 months for Covid vaccination centre

SUSTRANS funding for 20mph proposal – clarity required on whether this funding is for consultation only or if it will pay for the gateway signs and new signage. Cllr Johnstone explained that the council would be required to pay for additional signage and any street furniture/chicanes etc.

2021-04-12	Obtain clarity from Derek Oliver on welcome signage and Sustrans funding	NW/CM	18-May-21
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10.2 Councillor Muirhead

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

Sectarian graffiti has appeared in the village over the last few days, and has been immediately cleaned up and reported to the Police and the Transport Police.

Elected members have insisted a solution to live-streaming Council meetings, allowing the public to observe, be found. This has been resolved and meetings will now be publically-viewable where appropriate.

Capital spending projects that would have been spread across the coming years will be pulled forward where possible, thus stimulating economic growth to help recovery from the Covid pandemic. This is a record £537 million investment between now and 2025, with a further £263 million to follow. Projects approved include £343 million for Council house building and renovations and confirmation of a new high school for Gorebridge. Where possible, local Midlothian firms will be engaged.

Council Tax and Council House rents will be frozen for this year, in recognition of the strain on personal finances due to the pandemic.

10.3 Councillor Munro

KM was not present.

11 AOB

Planters at Emily Court – 2 planters are ready to move to the Hive.

2021-04-13	Arrange with Grant Richie moving planters from Emily Court to the Hive	CM	18-May-21
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Outdoor Exercise equipment – consideration as to whether this would be useful for Gorebridge for the Auld Gala Day park or Arniston Park for everyone to use.

CM closed the meeting at 9.20pm. The next meeting will be 18 May 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