

Proposed Changes to GDCC Constitution – November 2021

Aim: To allow meetings of the Community Council to happen virtually as well as in person. The text proposed below is provided by Legal within Midlothian Council.

Section Reference	Meetings of the Community Council (p2)
Previous Text	<p>The Annual General Meeting of the Community Council shall be held each year in November, where the Chairman shall deliver a report and Treasurer shall provide the Audited Account. Elections to the Community Council shall be held at every third Annual General Meeting. Thereafter, the Community Council shall meet throughout the year at intervals not exceeding two months. Dates of regular meetings during the year, the times of meetings, and the venue, shall be agreed at the first meeting of the Community Council following election, or at the Annual General Meeting. A quorum of six members shall be sufficient to hold a meeting of the Community Council, during which members must adhere to the Standing Orders published as Appendix A to this Constitution. Minutes are to be taken of each meeting of the Community Council, and a draft is to be circulated to members of the Community Council and to the Midlothian Council Liaison Officer, within 14 days following the meeting or as soon as practical thereafter. Minutes should be approved at the next meeting of the Community Council and copies should subsequently be displayed in the Gorebridge Library, and in other places deemed suitable.</p>
Proposed Changes	<p>The Annual General Meeting of the Community Council shall be held each year in November, where the Chairman shall deliver a report and Treasurer shall provide the Audited Account. Elections to the Community Council shall be held at every third Annual General Meeting. Thereafter, the Community Council shall meet throughout the year at intervals not exceeding two months. Dates of regular meetings during the year, the times of meetings, and the venue, shall be agreed at the first meeting of the Community Council following election, or at the Annual General Meeting. Community Councils may conduct their meetings by means of a telephone conference, video conferencing facility or similar communications equipment - so long as all the Community Council members and members of the public, participating in the meeting can hear each other; a Community Council member participating in a meeting in this manner shall be deemed to be 'present' in person at the meeting. For the avoidance of doubt, a vote given by a member participating in the meeting through any of these methods will be taken to be given personally. A quorum of six members shall be sufficient to hold a meeting of the Community Council, during which members must adhere to the Standing Orders published as Appendix A to this Constitution. Minutes are to be taken of each meeting of the Community Council, and a draft is to be circulated to members of the Community Council and to the Midlothian Council Liaison Officer, within 14 days following the meeting or as soon as practical thereafter. Minutes should be approved at the next meeting of the Community Council and copies should subsequently be displayed in the Gorebridge Library, and in other places deemed suitable.</p>

Aim: To better align the operation of the bank account and payments from it to modern banking practices, by specifically allowing the use of BACS as a payment method for the Treasurer.

Section Reference	Control of Finance (p3)
Previous Text	<p>All moneys held by the Community Council, from whatever source, are solely to further the objectives of the Community Council and shall be held by an elected Treasurer on behalf of the Community Council. The Treasurer is authorised to receive moneys on behalf of the Community Council, and when approved by the Community Council, to disburse moneys held. All disbursement shall be by cheque, which must be signed by at least two Office Bearers who are not related to each other or co-habitants, and receipts for expenditure must be obtained and held by the Treasurer. The Treasurer is to keep a written account and is to prepare and have the accounts independently examined for presentation and approval at the Annual General Meeting.</p>
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