



**Present:** Cath McGill (CM) – Chair, Neil Whyte (NW) – Minutes, Faye Skelton (FS), Jason Rutter (JR), Janice Brown (JB), Mary Webb (MW), Heather Webb-Nelson (HWN), Seonaid Barker (SB), Mary Davidson (MD), Hazel Thomson (HT), Cllr Jim Muirhead (JM)

**In Attendance:** Ellen Scott, Louisa Robertson, Lindsey MacLeod, Kelly Drummond, Lisa Fraser

**Apologies:** Cllr Catherine Johnstone (CJ), Gillian Cousin, PC Pendreich, PC McGuff

## 1 Chairman's Welcome & Apologies

CM welcomed everyone to the meeting, and gave the usual introduction to Zoom calls around staying on mute when possible and raising a hand when wishing to speak.

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

There were no actions to discuss not already covered by later agenda items, and no matters arising.

The minutes from the August meeting were proposed by SB and seconded by JR.

## 3 Update on Gorebridge Hive

Ellen Scott, from Gorebridge Community Cares (GCC), provided a short presentation covering the work done at the Hive so far. Wherever possible, GCC have used local traders for all work, which included extensive repairs to damage caused by theft of copper pipes and electrical wiring after only a few weeks of ownership. Ellen mentioned that using facilities at the Hive, such as storage/toilets, has helped reduce the total spend as this would normally add extra cost if these needed to be brought in.

Particular thanks to Mint Electrical, Dougie, Pentland Precision Metal, RM Brown Demolition, Melville Whitson, MDS (CCTV), Knowles Decorators and Community Payback Team, B & D Roofing, Stuart Grandison Joinery, Andrew and Chrissie for all their work in bringing the building up to scratch. The total benefit to Community from initial purchase price and completed projects to date: £303,000.

The Community Council expressed their appreciation for all the work done to bring a new community facility to life. JM also expressed thanks, and noted that he would wish for Midlothian Council to be able to do similar in terms of engaging local firms to keep spend local.

## 4 Update on Ongoing Issues

### 4.1 Hunterfield Tavern Change of Use: 20/00209/DPP

Discussed at the Planning Committee on 1 September. Approved, on condition the takeaway doesn't open before 4pm Mon-Fri to avoid clashing with the school. This is a change to stated policy that no hot food takeaways are to be granted within 400m of a school.

NW has written to those Councillors who spoke in favour – namely Cllrs Milligan, Hackett and Parry – thanking them for their interest in our area and asking them whether the change to the 400m school policy was Midlothian-wide, or just a special exception for Gorebridge.

The Community Council notes with disappointment that there were no local Ward Councillors able to represent Gorebridge, especially when the reason the application was referred the Planning Committee was because of significant negative public feedback. Cllr Murihead is Secretary of the Trust which is letting the building to the applicant so rightly did not contribute, while Cllr Johnstone did not take part under legal advice.

JM did express sympathy with the health aspect of the objection, and also felt that this piece of policy is not well joined-up to the strategic plan or to the planning process in general. He gave an example of housing developments, where the guidance states that under-provision of education can be used as a reason to not grant permission, while under-provision of health typically is not.

Some members of the Community Council expressed gladness that the building will be open and used again, and look forward to using the café.

A member of the community asked if there was any truth in the rumour that there are rent arrears involving the current tenant. JM stated it was not an appropriate forum to discuss this, as he was present as a Midlothian Councillor and not representing the Trust. A more appropriate forum is the proposed meeting between HGTT and GDCC as covered in 4.2 below.

## 4.2 Engagement with Hunterfield Gothenburg Tavern Trust

To progress an action from the previous meeting, NW has proposed an outline of a meeting between the Community Council and HGTT. This would involve the Chair and Secretary of each organisation, plus one other member each, to be chaired by another independent individual to be decided. The hope is to hold this meeting by the end of October, and report back to the November Community Council meeting the outcome. Minutes would be published, but this first meeting itself would not be open to the public.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-1	Provide update on progress of arranging HGTT meeting	NW	20-Oct-20

## 4.3 Welcome Signs

CM has raised this at MTRaP, looking at potential ways forward.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-2	Provide update on progress of MTRaP discussions on welcome signs	CM	20-Oct-20

JM reiterated the content of his previous report, which outlined an application made as part of Places for Everyone funding – decision not due until October. Part of this involves getting a 20mph throughout urban areas in Midlothian, and we could fund the welcome signs as part of that.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-3	Provide update on progress Places for Everyone funding in relation to welcome signs	JM	20-Oct-20

## 5 New Issues Raised by the Community

### 5.1 Pavement Parking – Lady Brae Place

MD mentioned this is an ongoing issue. If the planning on Stobs Farm goes ahead, should this include space for cars to help relieve Lady Brae / Lady Brae Place? JM mentioned that Developer Contributions can only be used for consequential changes, and this new development would not have a consequential impact on Lady Brae Place. Lady Brae itself might be possible. However, the reality is that the issue is too many cars on streets and with housing not built to accommodate them. Pavement parking is going to be outlawed, but this will just displace cars elsewhere.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-4	Escalate idea for yellow lines on turning circle to MTRaP	CM	20-Oct-20

### 5.2 New Hunterfield: new pedestrian crossings on school route, is 20mph limit being considered?

Ellen has concerns with new crossing at bottom of New Hunterfield, with kids going to school in the dark / lots of trees. 30mph is too fast down that hill. Should be 20mph – 7 crossings in total now.

JM mentioned Powdermill Brae is also an issue. This would likely follow on from the 20mph scheme mentioned under 4.3 above. From a width-of-road point-of-view this might not automatically apply to the main road in Gorebridge (B704), but this could be raised during consultation.

SB mentioned that East Lothian has introduced 20mph zones successfully, while Lousia Robertson said Borders had done the same and Stow had got the limit on the A7 reduced, which is obviously a much wider road than the B704. Good enough for them, good enough for Gorebridge?

The Community Council will continue to monitor and wait for the consultation in due course.

### 5.3 Bus Stop on Barleyknowe Road

Continuing issues with both service buses and school buses using the dangerous stop near junction with Wilson Road, as well as speeding and missing signs.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-5	JM to put JB in touch with Gary Patton in roads to arrange workaround.	JM	20-Oct-20

### 5.4 Other Items

Someone drove through Auld Gala Park earlier today! Whatever details can be found will be shared with the Community PCs.

## 6 Major Planning Applications

### 6.1 Redheugh West: 20/00446/PAC

NW reported that the online consultation was held on 27 August. Purely housing – no additional community facilities planned, per MLDP. That whole area is intended as it's own community – not just an extension of Gorebridge.

JM made the point that Gorebridge isn't quite large enough to have some of it's own community facilities, and that is why housing itself isn't a big thing. School has been on the backburner recently (Covid) but needs to progress, as education space is still an issue.

### 6.2 Land at Stobs Farm: 20/00128/PAC

NW reported that the online consultation is due to be held on Thursday 17 September. No details as yet, though website has been shared on Facebook to allow the public to take part. NW also noted that at the Planning Committee that this PAC was first raised there was not much love in the council for it.

## 7 Community Resilience Planning

As circulated via email. Looking for someone to volunteer to coordinate. HT mentioned that it was more focussed towards one-off, short term emergency response (fire, flood etc) rather than ongoing pandemic. The Community Council felt that the community would naturally come around. This normally happens, but perhaps it's the people who are 'invisible' that get left behind?

Many of those 'invisible' people were found during Covid & the Resilience activities. Did having a central contact help? HT said Dawn at the Development Trust was looking at Handy People service, perhaps this could act as a central point to escalate things from?

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-6	Invite Dawn Barclay to next meeting.	NW	20-Oct-20

The Community Council also acknowledged that mental health is likely to be a big concern coming up, as the effects of any new lockdown and/or winter take effect. Ellen will monitor as part of ongoing Friendly Voices service.

## 8 Membership

CM mentioned we have had a lot of interest in the Community Council (40+ people) in from Resilience survey, and that there are some spaces in the Community Council for new members who could be co-opted until the next elections due in 2021. Now might be a good time to consider getting active participants in to help swell the ranks.

CM/NW/SB have been working on a leaflet to highlight the work of the Community Council (incorporating our new logo) and will send this to a refreshed email distribution list.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-7	Circulate Community Council leaflet to rest of Community Council for review	NW	20-Oct-20
2020-09-8	Send Community Council leaflet to new mailing list	NW	20-Oct-20

## 9 Police Report

This was circulated before the meeting. There were no questions.

## 10 Community Council Reports

### 10.1 Chair

Nothing specific not already covered.

### 10.2 Secretary

Nothing specific not already covered.

### 10.3 Treasurer

FS gave a verbal update. Fund balances as follows: GDCC main £2212.07, miners memorial £1750.83, Memorial refurbishment £253.00, awards £1232.67 for a total of £5448.57. Bank balance is at £5642.54 (there is a +£193.97 inherited discrepancy).

SB mentioned that we really should be awarding the awards fund. CM reminded the Community Council that we had previously agreed to give something to GADEG (e.g. to fund a meal out or similar), and so this should be progressed.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-9	Propose award for GADEG	CM	20-Oct-20

HT asked if the funding received by the Corra Foundation was still available. NW reported that £1935 was still in the separate Gorebridge Resilience account, but that it could only be spent on the resilience effort directly (which has ceased) and needs to be returned by end of September.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-10	Check with Corra Foundation if the Resilience Grant could be used for other purposes	NW	20-Oct-20

## 10.4 Federation

CM will attend this month's meeting. Nothing to raise to the attention of GDCC.

## 11 Project Updates

### 11.1 Remembrance Parade

The Community Council agreed it was unlikely to be possible to put on our usual Remembrance Parade due to the ongoing restrictions imposed by Coronavirus. Alternative arrangements to be discussed.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-11	Discuss ideas for alternative Remembrance Day commemoration	SB/CM	20-Oct-20

### 11.2 Christmas Lights

Similar concerns were raised about this too. Perhaps something could be arranged to get Beacon, Hive and private households all to light up at a given time on a given day in some kind of virtual switch-on?

## 12 Councillor Reports

### 12.1 Councillor Johnstone

CM reported that Cllr Johnstone is currently in hospital. The Community Council sends its best wishes.

### 12.2 Councillor Muirhead

Mostly covered in earlier discussions. JM did note that the Council would not come to pick-up from the latest community-organised clear-up at the burn. The Council now say that they would provide a skip and pick it up for community clear-ups like this – it's easier than dealing with loose bags. Such a request should be raised to the Council ahead of time.

### 12.3 Councillor Munro

Not present.

## 13 Any Other Business

SB raised the suggestion of a photography competition to create a Christmas Card to be sold in aid of Gorebridge Hive / Gorebridge Community Cares. The Community Council wholeheartedly support this.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-09-12	Run Christmas Card competition	SB	20-Oct-20

NW belatedly raised an email from a member of the community regarding ongoing issues on Lady Brae, mainly related to speeding but also increased traffic on the road and the shared use with agricultural vehicles. Again, this might be tempered by the Spaces for Everyone project covered in 4.3 above.

JM said he had confirmation that there is a missing 20mph sign at St Andrew's Place. This can be tied into the action under 5.3 above.

CM closed the meeting at 9pm. The next meeting will be held on 20 October.

**List of Abbreviations**

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