



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: Dawn Barclay, Ellen Scott, Kelly Drummond, Bill Weir, Doug Lec, Fiona White

Apologies: Cllr Catherine Johnstone (CJ), 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

ID	Description	Who	Status	Update
2020-09-1	Provide update on progress of arranging HGTT meeting	NW	Closed	Meeting held 9 November, minutes being reviewed prior to publication. Fuller update below.
2020-09-2	Provide update on progress of MTRaP discussions on welcome signs	CM	Open	CM continuing to chase Derek Oliver. Carry to next meeting.
2020-09-3	Provide update on progress Places for Everyone funding in relation to welcome signs	JM	Open	JM update: been a delay in getting a decision, however suggestion that the application will be successful. Talking about proper gateway artwork (planting, for example). There has been a change in the percentage funding, which is working in our favour. Letters out to successful applicants 25 November. Jan-March for TTROs & design, then construction begin in April and will cover 12 months.
2020-09-10	Check with Corra Foundation if the Resilience Grant could be used for other purposes	NW	Open	No update. Carry to next meeting.
2020-10-01	Liaise with Scouts on wreaths for war memorial / Remembrance	MD	Closed	
2020-10-02	Liaise with Guides on wreaths for war memorial / Remembrance	SB	Closed	
2020-10-03	Pass on latest Covid guidance on Remembrance events to Mark Nicholas	JM	Closed	
2020-10-04	Liaise with Mark Nicholas on Remembrance activities	SB	Closed	
2020-10-05	Amend September minutes and post to website, distribution lists etc	NW	Closed	
2020-10-06	Send Dewar Park landscaping issues to JM for escalation within the Council	Nichola Kett	Closed	JM made contact with relevant person in Council, appears to be progressing now.
2020-10-07	Check previous correspondence on landscaping issues at Louis Braille Way	JM	Closed	Previous correspondence related to completion of building works. Planners cannot enforce timescales once work has started.
2020-10-08	Email GDCC inbox with any comments on the Variation of Premises License for Stobsmill Inn by 6 November.	All	Closed	Zero response.
2020-10-09	Email GDCC inbox with suggestions of worthy volunteers to receive awards	All	Open	Zero response. Carry to next meeting.
2020-10-10	Liaise with Ellen on virtual Christmas light turn-on or map of local garden displays	CM	Closed	Fuller update below.

2020-09-1 (Hunterfield Tavern): SB and NW met with Jim Muirhead, Rev Mark Nicholas and Henrietta Goffin of the Arniston Improvement Trust and Hunterfield Gothenburg Tavern Trust on Monday 9 November, in a meeting that was chaired by Robert Hogg. The minutes for this meeting are being reviewed by the parties now and will be published in due course. The conversation was open and wide-ranging. The Community Council members expressed the range of comments received by the community. We also stated that we were not there to argue decisions already made but instead ensure that future communication on the work of the Trusts is improved, that there is increased transparency as to how funding may be sought by community groups, and that accounts are easily available. The Trust gave information on the history of the challenges faced by the businesses within the Tavern building over the past 15 years and the plans for the future of the building to give the best possible chance of stable rental income and, as a result, more reliable funding available for local good causes. Renovation work is still underway, and progress is being closely monitored by the HGTT to ensure each phase of work is signed-off by Building Control before the next stage can start. The Trusts are looking for two new Trustees, and have now published a website where you can view the constitution of both Trusts and the latest accounts from both Trusts also, as well as details of some of the recent projects supported. We will continue to talk to identify future cooperation opportunities, and will look to formally meet again in March.

2020-10-10 (Christmas Lights): Tree up w/c 24 November, coordinate switch on with street lights on 5 December. Ellen making Hive looking all pretty for Christmas, handing out 100 craft kits to home school practitioners for further distribution, alongside with other essentials. Dawn coordinating a community advent calendar, more details to come. Doing other things at the Beacon too (little workshops for under-5s, for example). Shelving in Beacon being used for local crafters. Can put Community Council Christmas cards up there. JM said someone has donated trees to each care home, so Newbyres will have something. Sleigh to be arranged? SB said schools were doing a sort-of mission Christmas, so toys can be donated there (new, unwrapped).

Minutes of the previous meeting accepted as correct. SB proposed, HT seconded.

3 AGM 2020

3.1 Chair's Annual Report & Questions from the Floor

CM provided her first report as Chair verbally. No elections due this year. The Community Council has 15 members currently, 18 possible – and we do have some interest in filling out.

Since November last year, the Christmas tree has been moved to the Beacon and worked through installation. January started with a plan, with a place to provide updates to community. Worked through guest speakers (GADEG, Fire service). Then March went pear-shaped! Resilience setup in association with GCC and GCDT. It shows what we can achieve when we all work together. Better collaboration and communication. Had to support Carrington & Middleton while Moorfoot CC got up to speed. The Resilience effort gathered 200 volunteers and supported 200 vulnerable people. The Beacon, delivering 3 days a week, prepared 11,000 meals. Thousands of phone-calls with GCC as part of Friendly Voice (and ongoing). Finance managed by Faye and Neil.

Coming out of lockdown, bumping into people and folks saying that it was amazing community spirit. SB has championed Christmas Cards, while the Station Adopters shortlisted for award. Strengthen links within the community is the plan going forward. More recently engagement with local housing developments, and latterly HGTT.

There were no questions.

3.2 Secretary's Annual Report & Questions from the Floor

NW provided his report verbally. Learning the ropes, taking over the email inbox alongside other usual duties like minute keeping, review and distribution, creating agendas and setting up Zoom meetings. Also been making changes to the Community Council website on Weebly, including introducing a Planning page to highlight major developments locally, introduction of a blog/news feature amongst others. We now have an online shop and online payment processing available to us (which we used for the Remembrance Garden Crosses), and I helped administer the Christmas Card competition.

We have recently started a new Newsletter e-mailing list – sign up via the website, currently have 66 subscribers. Helped arrange a logo for the Community Council and have started using that more consistently on printed materials and formal letters. On that note, I have sent on behalf of the Community Council letters to planning regarding Hunterfield Tavern change of use, responded to the Consultation on the Spaces for People proposal to close Crawlees to Vehicular traffic, the premature TTROs suggesting parking on Main Street was going to be closed amongst others.

There were no questions.

3.3 Treasurer's Annual Report & Questions from the Floor

FS provided her report verbally. Last December good income from calendars, went really healthy. Station adopters remains bulk income and expenditure for the CC. For a few days in April the account had it has £20k+ due to funding for Gorebridge Resilience (£10k) and Moorfoot (£5k). No activity on miner memorial or memorial refurbishment pots. Income from Christmas Card & Remembrance crosses recently. The decision just over a year ago to get the online banking sorted has been vindicated!

A few questions from the floor were received. Dawn asked if GDCC 'share' of money from the Resilience donations had been received, but HT (with Resilience hat on) said this had yet to be sent. There was some discussion around using that money to fund a potential 'Covid Memories' memorial or garden, maybe moving some planters from Emily Court, help from Guerilla Gardeners in Dalkeith etc. Will add to next agenda to discuss. MD, HT, Dawn & Ellen to take offline and feedback ideas.

Dawn also mentioned that the wire on the war memorial (which is used to keep the wreaths on) is damaged and missing in places, causing the wreaths to blow away. Needs fixed soon. Something to use the refurb fund for?

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-11-01	Feedback ideas for Covid memorial garden/planters	MD, HT, Ellen, Dawn	19-Jan-21
2020-11-02	War memorial repairs paid for	FS	19-Jan-21

3.4 AOB

CM welcomed Bill, Doug and Kelly coming along to see how they can get involved. If they are keen, they can be co-opted for the next year until the 2021 AGM when all members will be due for re-election.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-11-03	Send Bill, Doug and Kelly information on how they can get involved with GDCC.	NW	19-Jan-21
2020-11-04	Also add these forms and details to our website	NW	19-Jan-21

Moorfoot CC is now quorate, so now all good. There was a worry they might not be able to continue and GDCC might need to pick up some additional areas.

4 Update on Ongoing Issues

Covered in Matters Arising.

5 New Issues Raised by Community

General concerns raised about temporary issues: mud/leaves on Barleyknowe Road, temporary traffic lights at railway being stuck on red due to one of them being knocked over. No actions generated.

Changes to fire safety regulations – which caused a bit of confusion and has since been pushed back a year – was mentioned. We will invite our local Fire Liaison to a future meeting to discuss the impact of these changes.

Dawn raised an ongoing issue about Hunter Square and how slippery it is in the winter. Bill said he fell last year on the slabs, JM also said someone had been badly injured. The Council are aware of the issue and looking to salt. Dawn felt the slabs are not fit for purpose, and that it's not just ice that is an issue as they have no grip when they're wet either. Dawn to pick up with JM offline, and JM to report back to next meeting.

Finally, the Birkenside Fun Day is looking to be picked up again by Fiona White (Stobsmill Inn) – to be added to next agenda.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-11-05	Invite Fire Liaison to future meeting to discuss changes in smoke alarm regulations	NW	19-Jan-21
2020-11-06	Contact JM with concerns on Hunter Square footpath in winter / wet weather	Dawn	19-Jan-21
2020-11-07	Provide feedback on Hunter Square footpath issues	JM	19-Jan-21
2020-11-08	Add Birkenside Fun Day to next agenda	NW	19-Jan-21

6 Police Report

The police report has not yet been received, but will be coming in the coming days and will be sent on when it arrives.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-11-09	Forward Police Report when it arrives	NW	19-Jan-21

7 Project Updates

7.1 Recap: Remembrance & Christmas Cards

SB reported that Christmas Cards are now available online via the GDCC website and encouraged all Community Councillors to spread the word.

7.2 Christmas Lights

Discussed under matters arising.

8 Councillor Reports

8.1 Councillor Johnstone

Not present - apologies received.

8.2 Councillor Muirhead

JM reported several enquiries from business in the main street regarding parking enforcement, in particular time allotted for people to park. Hairdressers saying if older people have appointments they may legitimately need to park for longer than 30 mins. Some complaints about inconsistencies from tickets for businesses during business hours, yet parking at other times (sometimes really bad parking) get off with it. JM made the point that the parking on main street is not intended for the business owners but for patrons.

Dawn, as a resident of main street, mentioned the specific example of when the takeaways are busy (Thurs-Sat night) it is annoying that staff are taking up the spaces. Have we considered a parking permit scheme? JM said there's not much space for parking already, so it's not really feasible.

JM also have an update on how the Coronavirus response is handled within Midlothian, for background. Integrated board meeting every week with representatives from public health; it's a bit more integrated here compared to in England, for example. JM feels well-consulted before decisions are taken. Provided weekly updates and analysis. Council can provide input on mitigating circumstances etc. expected move to Tier 2 is welcome, have been arguing that point. Note that the travel restrictions will be legally enforced, not just guidance.

JM made the point that the majority of the transmission must be happening in private homes. We really need to take the hit now so that we get better, quicker. No point in going to Tier 2 just to bounce back up to Tier 3 in another couple of weeks. Fiona added there is no point in opening in Tier 2 for the Stobsmill Inn. No guidance around eating with meal – does that include pre- and post-drinks? Not worth the hassle. Dawn said Beacon is going through every possible guidelines. It's really hard.

MD asked about traffic lights at St Andrew's School. Yesterday 30 min delays, car parking on Barleyknowe road not helping. While these are currently temporary, this doesn't bode well for the planned permanent installation. MD asked about the feasibility study – when was that done? JM answered that this was carried out back when the site was given permission, and he will send on the study. It was noted that these temporary lights are 4-way at the moment, and the real lights will enable 2-way traffic flow along Stobhill Road.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-11-10	Forward feasibility study for lights at junction of Stobhill and Barleyknowe Roads	JM	19-Jan-21

8.3 Councillor Munro

Not present.

9 AOB

9.1 Future Plans

CM gave us all some homework: think about what we are doing well, and what we can do better. Let's be ready to have that discussion in the new year.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-11-11	Be ready to discuss what GDCC are doing well, and what we can do better, at the January meeting	All	19-Jan-21

CM closed the meeting at 9.00pm. The next meeting will be 19 January 2021.

List of Abbreviations

GADEG	Gorebridge and District Environmental Group
GCC	Gorebridge Community Cares
GCDD	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