



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, Kelly Drummond, Julie, Nichola Kett

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

ID	Description	Who	Status	Update
2020-09-1	Provide update on progress of arranging HGTT meeting	NW	Open	Date being actively sought for meeting – looking like November now. Robert Hogg has agreed to chair. Carry to next meeting.
2020-09-2	Provide update on progress of MTRaP discussions on welcome signs	CM	Open	CM chasing 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 advised Sustrans assessing projects, awards to be provided next week. Derek Oliver will know about alternate funding to be found. Carry to next meeting.
2020-09-4	Escalate idea for yellow lines on turning circle to MTRaP	CM	Closed	See below.
2020-09-5	JM to put JB in touch with Gary Patton in roads to arrange workaround.	JM	Closed	Information passed on, no update from JB on progress.
2020-09-6	Invite Dawn Barclay to next meeting.	NW	Closed	
2020-09-7	Circulate Community Council leaflet to rest of Community Council for review	NW	Closed	
2020-09-8	Send Community Council leaflet to new mailing list	NW	Closed	
2020-09-9	Propose award for GADEG	CM	Closed	
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.
2020-09-11	Discuss ideas for alternative Remembrance Day commemoration	SB/CM	Closed	See below.
2020-09-12	Run Christmas Card competition	SB	Closed	Successful competition run and winner selected, moving to manufacture and promotion now.

JM escalated idea of putting yellow lines at turning circle at Lady Brae place with the Council, but policy dictates that yellow lines are not placed on purely residential streets. Derek Oliver to suggest at other visual deterrents instead. JM highlighted that it is a police matter for an obstruction (e.g. parking across driveways or opposite from); when this happens, please report to police.

SB provided a Remembrance update. There is no parade, and guidelines are not yet in place anyway. Instead, we will maintain a Garden of Remembrance at the Beacon. Crosses to be purchased from Lady Haig’s Poppy Factory and made available for donations to the community, using the GDCC website and pop-up stalls. These may be personalised.

There is unlikely to be a formal wreath-laying ceremony. JM shared guidance which suggested creating any sort of focal point goes against the public health guidance. GDCC, GCDT, GCC have ordered wreaths. Wreaths to be lain **not** at 11am to avoid focus. JM confirmed that we are not able to hold a normal gathering (unless we go down the 6 people 2 households route). HWN to lay the wreath. MD to talk to Scouts etc to ask them if they are organising a wreath, SB to check with Guides. Dawn asked about when the

wreaths should be removed – as she did this herself around Easter time. There is no formal guidance we are aware of, so suggested around the turn of the year.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-10-01	Liaise with Scouts on wreaths for war memorial / Remembrance	MD	17-Nov-20
2020-10-02	Liaise with Guides on wreaths for war memorial / Remembrance	SB	17-Nov-20

NW reported that Mark Nicolas from Gorebridge Parish Church had been in touch to discuss an idea to hold an outdoor Act of Remembrance in a Covid-secure way. This would involve taking Track and Trace information, laying out markers for social distancing and limiting numbers to 200 to adhere to advice on outdoor religious ceremonies. JM to pass on latest guidance to Mark, as it seems clear this is not feasible. NW to continue to discuss with Mark.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-10-03	Pass on latest Covid guidance on Remembrance events to Mark Nicholas	JM	17-Nov-20
2020-10-04	Liaise with Mark Nicholas on Remembrance activities	SB	17-Nov-20

Minutes from previous meeting accepted, with a slight correction required to 12.2 (Councillor Muirhead’s report) to state that the litter pick was not a GADEG activity but arranged by the local community directly.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-10-05	Amend September minutes and post to website, distribution lists etc	NW	17-Nov-20

3 Update on Ongoing Issues

3.1 Engagement with Hunterfield Gothenburg Tavern Trust

Covered in Matters Arising. Next update due at next meeting.

3.2 Welcome Signs

Covered in Matters Arising. Next update due at next meeting.

4 New Issues Raised by Community

4.1 Dewar Park landscaping

Nichola Kett provided a verbal report. Areas of the Dewar Park development still under Developer (Persimmon) control have had no attention this year. Areas dug up as part of the building process, not reinstated. Communications go back as far as 2018. Really frustrating, since as the new developments by Persimmon are well-maintained. Christine Grahame (MSP) also has a case-worker on it, but nothing progressing.

JM happy to receive all the information from Nichola, and take it up with planning to find out what is happening.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-10-06	Send Dewar Park landscaping issues to JM for escalation within the Council	Nichola Kett	17-Nov-20

CM/SB/NW reported similar issues in Louis Braille Way. Unfinished, and no plan to finish – just looks abandoned. JM will check – there was some correspondence in the past.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-10-07	Check previous correspondence on landscaping issues at Louis Braille Way	JM	17-Nov-20

NW asked about the general theme of Planning (rightly) being able to put hurdles on landscaping plans, but seemingly no teeth to follow up. JM suggested could we get a bond or something similar up front? Unsure how this can be progressed, but it’s a known problem.

4.2 20mph Zones

Julie – lives on Powdermill Brae, interested in mention of 20mph zone in previous minutes. Very concerned on the traffic on that road already – can’t believe not seen a serious accident yet. Any plans? JM said there have been specific issues in past with farm equipment etc. Only way to stop individuals is by catching them in the act with speed guns etc. Can put speed monitoring in, but the usual output of this is near-average speeds. CM also has Powdermill Brae on the list with Derek Oliver.

Some discussion around 20 mph maybe still too fast, particularly for cul-de-sacs? JM suggested perhaps this is the minimum that can be set by the Council and would maybe require additional legislation to enable lower to be enforced. SB mentioned East Lothian & Borders have already rolled out 20mph minimums across their Counties.

5 Major Planning Applications

5.1 Land at Stobs Farm: 20/00128/PAC

NW attended the virtual consultation, and reported that they were bullish that Midlothian was so under-built on housing stock compared to their targets that it would be necessary for the Council to grant this even though the land is not allocated for housing. NW queried how this interacts with developments where permission has been granted (like at Redheugh) but no building work has commenced. JM said developers will often ask for sites that are not in the formal development plan, then appeal when they are not granted. If the Council is underbuilt (even if permission has been granted but not started), then this can result in the appeal being successful.

There was, again, discussion around GP provision. And again, it was pointed out that GP provision is not under the remit of Planning applications and that the capacity issues at the Newbyres Surgery were driven more by inability to fill positions with staff than infrastructure (i.e. physical building space) issues.

5.2 Variation of Premises Licence - Stobsmill Inn, Gorebridge

As a statutory function, we have been consulted on the (retrospective) changes to the outdoor area at the Stobsmill Inn. Such changes were allowed through on a temporary basis due to Covid and are now being formally caught up. GDCC members to email NW with any comments, but there were no objections raised at this meeting.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-10-08	Email GDCC inbox with any comments on the Variation of Premises License for Stobsmill Inn by 6 November.	All	06-Nov-20

6 Youth Membership

Several ideas around youth membership were discussed. The aim is to increase the representation of those 16-25 to ensure GDCC fully represents the community. A subcommittee was mooted, perhaps meeting four times a year. Can we dovetail into the school curriculum for the 'becoming responsible citizens' – accepting that Community Councils won't be covered in school directly, of course. Can we reach out to the Youth Parliament to get advice on engagement.

7 Police Report

There was no police report provided to this meeting.

8 Community Councillor Reports

8.1 Chair

Nothing additional to report over and above what has been noted elsewhere.

8.2 Secretary

Nothing additional to report over and above what has been noted elsewhere.

8.3 Treasurer

Very little action in the accounts just now. Balances in the funds are as follows: main £1950.16, miners £1750.83, war memorial refurbishment £253, awards £1232.57 to a total of £5186.66.

Brief update on money awarded from Council (to cover the admin costs of the Community Council), we're not getting close to spending this. We receive £480 a year, and use it only for web hosting at £50-60. What else can we spend this on?

We also discussed making sure we use our awards fund to recognise efforts of local folks. We also have a share of the donations made to the Resilience effort.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-10-09	Email GDCC inbox with suggestions of worthy volunteers to receive awards	All	17-Nov-20

9 Project Updates

9.1 Remembrance

As discussed under matters arising. Very different this year.

9.2 Christmas Card Competition

As discussed under matters arising.

9.3 Christmas Lights

CM continuing to discuss with Wayne at the Council. Will be scaled back this year, and we will keep lights near Beacon (where the tree will be). There will be no formal lighting ceremony as such (to avoid drawing a crowd), but there is scope of some kind of virtual turn on and walk around the area to look at impressive residential displays.

ID	Description	Who?	Next Update
2020-10-10	Liaise with Ellen on virtual Christmas light turn-on or map of local garden displays	CM	17-Nov-20

10 Councillor Reports

10.1 Councillor Johnstone

Not present - apologies received.

10.2 Councillor Muirhead

JM provided a reminder to add 27 November to the diary as the Community Planning & Development Day.

JM also provided an update on the Midlothian Council budget. The Council believe there are problems with central government funding not allocating suitable resources for the growing population in Midlothian. This was raised at council meeting using the example of 1140 hours childcare funding. There is cross-party agreement that this is, in essence, a good policy, but Midlothian has never been issued appropriate funding according to our growing population. Has been raised several times with the Deputy First Minister and the Finance Minister. This is now being highlighted officially – 24% short by some estimates. Due to Covid and knock-on delays to legislation taking effect, there is still no legal requirement to provide the 1140 hours funding, but Midlothian has achieved this early.

JM provided detailed background as to how figures were reached for illustration. The Scottish Government asked for estimate to deliver 1140 hours. Midlothian Council provided honest estimate at £18M, but the Scottish Government provided £13M. The total 'ask' from all councils was £600M, and the total awarded was 6% less than this (around £560M). Midlothian was 24% down. Cosla decided to go with estimate, not with funding formula. Will be asking for a meeting with John Swinney to try and illustrate that point further. It is believed that the latest population estimates used by the Scottish Government are based on 2014 data, whereas our actual population has increased substantially since then (fasted growing in country).

JM also noted that Midlothian don't offer same flexibility as other areas (in order to work with the finance available) on the 1140 hours policy. For example, Midlothian can't offer spaces out-of-catchment (for example if you would prefer to use a nursery closer to work than home) and so it's a bit of a postcode lottery.

10.3 Councillor Munro

Not present.

11 AOB

11.1 Vogrie Park

MD asked if Vogrie open and what the status was of parking charges. Vogrie is definitely open, and at time of meeting the parking charges were still waived. Brief discussion over feasibility of only charging for parking for those travelling from outside of the Midlothian council area, but JM pointed out that would lead to a reduction in the overall 'take' available to the Council which would have to be made up elsewhere or lead to a reduction in service.

11.2 Station Planters

SB proposed that we should make sure we recognise Craig for his work on the planters, and this was agreed.

CM closed the meeting at 9.05pm. The next meeting will be 17 November and will incorporate the AGM.

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