

Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MAECC) Minutes of meeting 7 September 2022 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

ATTENDEES

Judy Thomson, Robert Hogg, Theresa Morrison, Craig Gallier, Stuart McKenzie, Bryan Pottinger, Michael Hogg, Michele Lindsay, Cal Haston, Helen Gilmour, George Gilmour, Alan Greig, Mamie McKenna.

Apologies

Tracylee Armit, Sharon Hill, Bryan Martin, Stephen Liddell, Peter Smaill

1. Welcome and apologies

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies (documented above). The issues relating to prescriptions and chemists were brought up and JT confirmed she had not yet contacted Colin Beattie about it. Dr Rebecca Green will be attending the October Federation meeting; she is the Clinical Director of the Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership. Cllr McKenzie said it is a problem all over Scotland, not just in Midlothian.

In It Together – still no Masterplan published. It appears to be held up by the Council. Sharon has put a lot of work into it and it's disappointing to have no results, especially considering Newtongrange and Dalkeith are moving forward with their regeneration. There is skepticism about how any regeneration would be paid for. Lessons need to be learned from this experience.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved by Craig Gallier and seconded by Michael Hogg.

RH advised that Cal who was in attendance wants to get involved with the community council, JT is going to investigate under the constitution if he can before he is 16.

2. Police Report

Michele Lindsay discussed the recent police report. She advised that there is a recruitment drive on just now in the police. She also discussed the ongoing issues with electric scooters and how they are actually illegal in Scotland - you can only use a scooter in private land. She is having a meeting tomorrow to discuss these ongoing issues, these incidents are not being ignored. Michelle also added that although these are illegal in Scotland they can be sold and purchased in shops? Perhaps a campaign advising people that these are actually illegal would help? This Friday the police and fire brigade are spending time with school kids between 2pm and 4pm in the park to educate them on the dangers of setting fires to prevent further incidents.

MH discussed the volunteering side of prison visits which he participates in, anyone can sign up, it's on-spec visits to check on detainees to ensure they are being treated correctly. MH encouraged anyone interested to sign up

3. Planning

RH distributed planning documentation from 26th Aug 22 regarding North Mayfield, this document had questions on it from the last meeting. Discussions were held regarding the level of traffic increasing due to the new houses being built and also does the doctors surgery have the capacity to take in new patients. RH also brought up, the ongoing issue re Neil Williams and Springfield and advised that the council have a duty of care, Neil Williams have invested a lot in our community however this all has to be within the law. A local developer has also put forward ideas to MDC for the development area at the shell garage and a new planning application has been submitted.

There has been a lot of roadworks which should be due to end to allow them to get in with the main work as

there has been a lot of disruption just now. JT advised that regarding traffic lights not working about what can be done for people to contact - there is a number on the traffic lights to contact for repair.

4. Environmental

CG had discussed at previous meeting about finding badger setts, he used a camera to catch three different setts. This was informed to the council as these are protected species.

Discussion held about how good Easthouses Park is looking.

5. Councillor's Report

Cllr Stuart McKenzie is due to meet Wayne Clark re the park at Lothian Drive . Also funding has been applied for for a few Hebridean Houses . To assist people the council are looking at having one point of access with all the information to help with the cost of living crisis to ensure you don't have to go to several different places .It would be good if maybe carers etc could be aware of this to allow them to help the people they are caring for. Douglas Bowen and Stuart were out and about in Midlothian, we don't want lose our green space. Midlothian is the fastest growing community, we need to build the right houses for the right people with the right quality. Stuart also advised that the Covid fund has been moved into a hardship account to help with the crisis.

Cllr Pottinger advised that council deficit will have to be resolved by 2023, cuts are inevitable, pressure will build to increase council tax cuts will be discussed at next meeting. There's also ongoing consultations going on regarding the 20mph speed limit. Bryan attended a successful event recently called Meet You Councillors at Dalkeith Arts Centre.

Cllr Smail sent his apologies and the following report:

- Council generally- a £13m deficit in 2023/4 will need to be resolved by March 2023. As before we are trying to get more flexible accounting rules as a short term help but reductions especially outside the protected areas of health, social work and education will be the subject of consultations. Cuts are inevitable based on the likely allocation from the Scottish Government, and pressure will build to increase Council Tax.
- Police- continued concern expressed at Police Committee re motorbike nuisance
- Drugs- same committee observed Midlothian below Scottish averages for dealing and community action teams picking up sizeable amounts
- 20 mph limits- consultation will be forthcoming across county aimed at an event-evidence approach, Derek Oliver handling
- Windows replacement- the failure of a contractor has put this programme back. Saty Kaur has offered to advise new timescale based on any specific addresses awaiting the upgrade.

6. Treasurer's Report

Balance £7592.20 with no incoming or outgoing payments. CC has requested we buy a projector for a more reliable experience when discussing planning issues. It will be looked into.

7. AOB

RH advised that thankfully the library at Newbattle Campus is fully opened now and good to have it back.

RH thanked everyone for attending. There was no other business, and the meeting was closed.