

Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MAECC) Minutes of meeting 2 November 2022 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

ATTENDEES

Robert Hogg (Chair), Judy Thomson, Craig Gallier, George Jackson, Stuart McKenzie, Peter Smaill, Michele Lindsay, Sharon Hill, Betty McDonald, Arthur Blackhurst, Cal Haston, Linda Christison, Allan Sheils, Laura Watson, Michael Hill, Abby Smith, Susan Ryan, Paul McCallion, William Kivlin, Destiny O'Neill, Jayne Comerford, David McQueenie, Wilma MacKinlay

Apologies

Bryan Pottinger, Bryan Martin, Stephen Liddell, Theresa Morrison, Tracylee Armit, Michael Hogg

1. Welcome and apologies

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies (documented above).

The minutes from the last meeting were approved by George Jackson and seconded by Craig Gallier.

2. Police Report

Michele Lindsay discussed the police report. This included Operation Jewel about off road bikes, working with Edinburgh Council, where they recovered several bicycles and one off road bike. Buses in Gorebridge were smashed over Halloween. Email MidlothianEastCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk to contact Ally Livingston. Concern about the offenders getting younger. Meeting heard about a campaign going on at schools about knife crime.

3. Planning

CC welcome new housing, particularly council housing, but worry about infrastructure. On the old Newbattle School site in Easthouses there is development in three phases. There are private houses on left, there will be council housing in the middle and the new primary school on the right hand side. New school will have ASN provision. We would like to see a new path from Lothian Drive straight to the school rather than having to go up to the main road and along. All developments should include 25% 'affordable' housing. New Mayfield campus will be built besides the current combined school. Old school to be knocked down in phases and the new school built in phases. Community is happy it's staying where it is. Looking for an alternative access road for this campus site to ease congestion. Garages at Stone Place could be the access, leading down towards the medical practice. Arthur asked about the yellow lines in Easthouses and the problems with electric scooters. He questioned the start and finish marks in Easthouses Park - people are using it for scooters/bikes. Garage is using the hardcore in Easthouses park for car parking. It was for parking for football but now the garage is using it, which might be preferable to parking the cars on the road. Concern about traffic/parking by Mayfield school at Stone Place - some near misses.

Alan Sheils told the meeting about planning application he is involved in. Council denied permission for half the amount of land they had already agreed beforehand. Also a BT post been erected on the land outside the house. Planning officers referred to a buffering zone. There's a precedent on two similar houses using similar bits of land nearby. He will be able to appeal the decision at the Local Review Board.

William Devlin presented his planning application for a hot food bar in Mayfield Park. There were supporters and opposers of the proposal. The Chair encouraged everyone to post their comments on the planning portal so they can be considered by the Planning Officers.

4. In It Together

There is a change needed to the walk through video, then masterplan can be released. The group need to meet.

5. Community

Easthouses FC – there is a leak in the roof of the pavilion that causes damage. The Council said they would fix it. They signed the lease in 2021 but it's still not be fixed. Councillors visited the building today. On top of this, their electricity bill is extremely high. They want to fight this and aren't happy with how they were put onto a high tarriff without being told. The bill is £8000, they've had a VAT rebate of £2000. Meter went up 40kw in three days, something isn't right.

Member of the public told the meeting about the hoist at Newbattle Campus that has been broken for months. Councillor Smaill will chase this up.

6. Councillor's Report

Cllr McKenzie - Schools strategy, getting ASN provision which costs more. Single Midlothian Plan. Fire Brigade investigation. Annual housing report due in December - report issued to councillors.

Cllr Smaill - Window replacement, Blackcot being done. Mentioned the £11 million deficit and the rent freeze. Looking to use capital account and council housing account for other expenses, but still need to make cuts. Can't cut teachers, that's the big bill, and can't cut social work. Joint board is flush but can't transfer the funds. Consider leisure facilities, maybe price increases. Mini budget on 17th December, with Scottish government giving theirs on 15th November. Report about Hillend due in December, viability is questionable.

7. Treasurer's Report

Balance is £7225.44 after paying out £50 for our advert in the Gala Day programme and for the Federation Zoom license. The cost of the Zoom license will be reimbursed by the Federation next month.

For the Xmas lights switch on event we have received a pledge of £300 from Melville and we are asking NWH Group for a donation. Always looking for volunteers and donations from local businesses.

8. AOB

Winter Planning – we have ask for the big dumps of grit again (at McSence, old leisure centre and Easthouses miners club) as well as Judy working on the current grit bin situation with a new map with details.

Remembrance Sunday on 13th November – CC needs to be pay £40 for a wreath. Looking for grant to fix the angels wing. Arthur does great work maintaining the memorial, thanks to him and David Bishop.

Fireworks – Fingers crossed for good weather. The entry costs have risen to match the higher price for the display this year.

Cal raised we need to renew our SSL, no charge. Cal turns 16 in February, and wants to join the CC. We have asked Cal to help source a projector to show plans on better at meetings.

RH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.