

# Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MAECC) Minutes of meeting

## 7 June 2023 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

### ATTENDEES

Robert Hogg (Chair, CC), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Stuart McKenzie, Theresa Morrison, George Jackson, Craig Gallier, Stephen Liddell, Peter Smaill, Sharon Hill, Bryan Pottinger, Michael Hogg, Susan Ryan, Jennifer Allison, Laura D'Arcy, Eileen Kerr, Arthur Blackhurst, Cal Haston

### Apologies

Brian Martin, Tracylee Armit

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies (documented above). He suspended normal business for a presentation about the new Easthouses Primary School, by Council Officers, emphasising its inclusivity and open nature.

- Questions were raised and answered regarding security, subsidence, footpaths, catchment areas, maintenance strategy, solar panels, and pupil capacity.
- It was mentioned that local people, including apprentices, would be employed for the project.
- Jennifer Allison introduced herself as the Head Teacher of the new school and expressed excitement about the upcoming developments.

Review of previous meeting minutes:

- RH read out the minutes from the last meeting.
- MH enquired about any updates on a new Community Police Officer, the traffic report, and issues related to NWH.
- RH shared the changes made to Midlothian Community Officers, reducing the number from 9 to 6.
- MH suggested requesting a meeting with the police to discuss their attendance at community meetings.
- Ongoing discussions with NWH were mentioned, and SL presented a report from environmental health stating that NWH is in breach of regulations regarding noise and dust.
- It was recommended that surveys be carried out by NWH before submitting them to the council.
- A survey measuring speed between Kippielaw and the Steading was conducted by the council for a week. The report provided raw data, making it challenging to analyse. However, it was noted that the majority of drivers maintained speeds between 30 mph and 40 mph, with some reaching 65 mph. This route is a major commuter road.
- The opinion was expressed that implementing a 20 mph limit would likely be more challenging than the existing 30 mph limit, considering the safe routes for school policy.
- It was mentioned that Lloyds Chemists now have new owners, but assurances were given that there would be no staff layoffs and minimal changes.
- The minutes from the last meeting were approved by CG and seconded by SL.

## **2. Police Report**

Robert Hogg presented the May police report. Updates on CCTV installation were requested, with hopes that the installation would be completed within the current year.

- Local Resident, Eileen Kerr, raised concerns about the increasing number of bikes being driven in the area. RH advised calling the police immediately when such incidents occur and stated that he would highlight the issue again.
- The problem of dumped cars in lock-up garages was raised; this has been reported to the council multiple times without any action taken.
- Eileen expressed uncertainty about where to send the complaints, and RH offered to have them sent to him for forwarding to Melville Housing. Stuart suggested contacting trading standards as well to address the issue, as it was suggested a business might be running from the garage(s).

## **3. Planning**

BM had prepared a report to be distributed in his absence (*Appendix i*). All points were raised and agreed by those present.

## **4. Councillor's Report**

- Questions were asked about housing allocations and the eligibility of Melville house tenants. Cllr McKenzie told the meeting there were 4653
- Modular housing as a cost-effective solution was discussed, along with the long list of housing requirements.
- Clean-up efforts, discussions with local stores about litter issues, and updates on local budgets were also mentioned.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

CC have been reimbursed the expenditure from the Christmas Lights events (just under £1000), this money will be ring fenced for this use only. We were successful in our grant application and that came through this month; admin costs (£300), venue hire (£300) and funds to put towards a projector (£500) - £1100 in total. We paid out for hiring the church for our meeting, costs for our website and then we paid out nearly £1200 for our new projector, screen and accessories. The balance is £7842.58.

## **6. AOB**

- Local resident, Eileen Kerr, suggested the Mayfield and Easthouses Community Club for use of meeting facilities free of charge.
- The success of the gala day was celebrated, but concerns were raised about the limited number of toilets available.
- Recognition was given to Lawfield Nursery for winning the GLiN (Grown and Learn in Nature) award for the second year in a row.
- Cal has put forward his candidacy for the Scottish Youth Parliament.

RH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.

**M&ECC, From BM re LPP, 5.6.2023 (ref 2.5.2023 & Agenda 7.6.2023)**

**LOCAL PLACE PLANNING: Report to M&ECC**

Many thanks to all who made time to do the pilot survey questionnaire. While it would have been better to have a 'full house' of returns, the number we received is sufficient for the proposals that follow.

- 1.** Confirm the publication of the public notice in the Midlothian Advertiser.

*DONE*

- 2.** Write to MC formally intimating our intentions. Copy to elected members.

*DONE*

- 3.** After the closing date for the wider public survey, formally write to all community interest bodies in our area, intimating our role and asking them *either* to a meeting *or* to respond in writing in relation to the same points as contained in the pilot survey & about their intended input to the development of the draft LPP.

*TO DO*

- 4.** For discussion, with a view to receiving approval from CC for the proposed wider public survey, in line with

4.1 The questions proposed, the basis of which is the feedback received from CC members, and their suggestions for improvement, along with the principle that *less is more* and the established practice of asking respondents who supply 'information-rich' responses either to be interviewed or to attend a public meeting of the CC (6 September 2023).

If anyone feels that any of their suggestions were not addressed or any member who did not manage to complete the pilot survey wishes to comment, that can be addressed in the discussion, prior to a decision.

Please note that the issue of housing developments will be fully addressed in the draft LPP, which will come to the CC for discussion, and hopefully approval, at its meeting on 4 October 2023, prior to submission to MC. We will also ensure that existing data and other relevant information (including that by the Development Trust and that gathered by MC in relation to LPP) is referred to in the draft LPP.

- 4.2 It should be noted that, in addition to online circulation of the (short) questionnaire, hard copies will be made available locally and 'snowballing' will be used to encourage as high a response rate as possible.

- 4.3 The questions now proposed are as follows:

Question 1: What do you think are the most valuable assets, resources, or benefits that Mayfield and Easthouses have, whether they are being currently utilised or not? [housing, transport, education, jobs, recreation and amenities, shops, social support?]

Question 2: What do you see as Mayfield and Easthouses's most significant disadvantages or absence of assets or resources that limit the area's potential?

Question 3: What do you believe should be our area's most important goals or aspirations for the future?

Question 4: What ideas do you have for improving existing facilities? Would you be interested in joining or helping to organize any of these improvements, particularly in relation to facilities and activities that you're not currently involved in?

Question 5: Do you have any other comments or ideas that you think we should reflect on with a view to including these in our LPP?

**Brian Martin**  
**LPP Lead for M&ECC**