

Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MAECC) Minutes of meeting

2 August 2023 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

ATTENDEES

Robert Hogg (Chair, CC), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Theresa Morrison, George Jackson, Stephen Liddell, Peter Smaill, Brian Martin

Apologies

Tracylee Armit, Sharon Hill, Craig Gallier, Bryan Pottinger

1. Welcome and apologies

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies (documented above). The minutes from the last meeting in June were moved by GJ and seconded by SL.

2. Police Report

RH mentioned that there has been no contact received since Michele Lindsay left her position. He requested Peter Smaill to investigate the lack of engagement. It was suggested to possibly change the format of reports, focusing on discussing ongoing issues rather than reading them out. This way Police could be invited to attend less often but with higher value for their time. This approach was well received.

RH read out the police report, which was also available in printed form for review. Ongoing issues with bikes were noted, with police being aware of the situation but not allowed to chase the individuals. RH shared an instance where he provided police with information about a bus involved in pursuing suspects.

3. Planning

SL intended to present planning issues, but due to low attendance, it was decided to postpone until a larger audience is present. It was agreed to be concerning that MLDP3 (Midlothian Local Development Plan) was being discussed/planned when we haven't even agreed on MLDP2 yet. A one-to-one meeting between SL and Cllr Smaill was suggested. Four potential development sites were discussed: Scott's Caravans, Lothian Drive, Conifer Road and Kippielaw Farm. Concerns were raised about increased population without corresponding facilities. SL's presentation on planning would be a priority for the September meeting. Brian Martin distributed a sheet relating to the local place planning update to attendees, this is attached in *Appendix i*. RH advised that the Bryan's school site is ongoing, as is the North Mayfield site.

4. Councillor's Report

Cllr Smaill highlighted issues with neighbour disputes, drug use, and the need for more equitable solutions when addressing these problems. He also expressed concern about the capital budget.

5. Environmental

CG reported that one of the badgers had been killed. Craig was advised to approach the environmental department to investigate the cause. An update from Craig on this matter was expected in the next meeting. CG had reported 48 gulleys/drains that needed to be cleaned in June but they still hadn't been. RH said this needed to be passed on to Wayne Clark.

6. Treasurer's Report

As there was no meeting in July, JT gave a report covering the last two months. In June, payments were made for miscellaneous expenses and an advert in Midlothian Advertiser about the Local Place Plan. Each month £30 was paid for the rental of the Church Hall for the CC meetings. The account balance at the end of July was £7,637.97. The issue with the Council withholding money for the Mayfield and Easthouses Christmas Lights is still ongoing.

7. AOB

TM asked what's happening with the loss of the indoor football pitches at Saltire. The business owner has decided to return to it having industrial purposes again; this is now going to be used for making glamping pods. This now means that there are no indoor facilities in Midlothian which is a concern. It was suggested the community should push for a community hub on the old Leisure Centre site in Mayfield.

The last MTRaP meeting, in June, included a discussion about several paths are getting done at top of Mayfield. With regards to the potholes in the roads they now have a list of streets.

Easthouses Community Football club will be merging with Easthouses Lily (junior club).

RH thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted that SL's presentation would be rescheduled for September.

M&ECC, From BM re LPP, 2 August 2023

LOCAL PLACE PLANNING - Update

Following the successful pilot of the draft survey questions, the public survey has been developed and is almost ready to launch. This is (inevitably) later than planned but the survey should be launched around 11 August. It will close on 30 September 2023, meaning it will be open for just over seven weeks.

Cascaded information will be sent by email re the online version of the survey and arrangements are being finalised with public facilities in the community regarding the paper version. These include commercial organisations (shops etc), voluntary organisations (churches etc) and public services (e.g. the library, schools etc).

An A4 poster will be printed for display in such facilities and print copies of the questionnaire made available (printing by MAEDT). It is planned that the printed questionnaire will be collectable from M&ECC boxes and returned to M&ECC boxes available in all participating public facilities.

The only issues to be resolved are

1. Securing an up-to-date and accurate population figure for our CC area
2. Using existing data to help determine the likely % of that population not having internet access or not using the internet.

Both these issues will help determine the print-run requirement for the public survey questionnaire. Members' help is requested in relation to these issues.

Meantime work continues with collaboration with all community interest bodies in our area.

Brian Martin
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