

# Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MECC) Minutes of meeting

## 4 October 2023 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

### **ATTENDEES**

Michael Hogg (Vice-Chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Stephen Liddell (Planning), Brian Martin (Planning), Craig Gallier (Environment), Theresa Morrison (Secretary), Cllr Peter Smaill, Cllr Bryan Pottinger, Cllr Stuart McKenzie, Sharon Hill (MAEDT), Susan Ryan, Michael Davidson, Jane Comeford.

### **Apologies**

Robert Hogg, Cal Haston, Tracylee Armit, Jennifer Allison

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

MH welcomed everyone, noted the apologies (noted above) and thanked the three Councillors for attending. He also noted that the Christmas decorations are already in place.

The minutes from the last meeting in September were moved by CG and seconded by SL. Discussion about issues arising from previous minutes:

- SL received a message from Paula Leica from Morrisons Construction requesting quarterly visits to the community council meetings for better feedback. This was agreed upon.
- JT shared an email from the police about theft of electric motorbikes, reporting that two bikes had been seized.
- Cllr Smaill enquired about funds for Christmas lights. It was mentioned that there wasn't enough evidence to prove that all the funds belonged to the community council, and an alternative of taking half was suggested. Sharon emphasised that the funds belong to the Mayfield and Easthouses Community Council from fundraising for Christmas lights. It was agreed the amount offered should not be accepted and for JT to email one more time asking to see the evidence from the other side of the argument before considering court action or arbitration.

#### **2. Police Report**

MH summarized the lengthy police report and encouraged anyone with concerns to contact him or JT later. A member of the public mentioned the difficulty of contacting the police by phone, which takes a long time.

SH inquired about the meaning of "SAS" in the police report, and it was concluded that it referred to the Scottish Ambulance Service. The police had also visited a shop in Easthouses to address issues there. Concerns were raised about the lack of police presence, again. Cllr Smaill to chase this issue at next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.

#### **3. Correspondence**

Discussion about the Scottish Forum of Community Councils, a new initiative being set up, and interest in joining it. It was agreed for JT to join on MECC behalf.

MH talked about a newsletter from Gorebridge Council and suggested it could be beneficial for the community council, as it contains information about community events and meetings.

#### **4. Planning**

BM distributed paper copies of the outcome of the LPP Public Survey. There were 53 completed online and 58 completed on paper copies. Care and Maintenance were identified as areas of discontent, with Moving Around being the least concerning. BM summarised that there was much discontent in the community. There will now be a draft LPP produced and submitted to Council at the end of October.

Stephen presented a letter (to the Head of Planning at the Council from the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils) regarding new housing allocations, highlighting the community's preference for no further developments due to cost, lack of infrastructure, and space. The community council endorsed sending this letter.

There was discussion about a planning application for four flats in Easthouses Road and potential issues associated with it, including parking and noise concerns.

#### **5. Councillor's Report**

CLlr Smaill discussed complaints about noise and dirt on D'Arcy Road and issues related to new houses and housing guidelines. There is an issue with the approach road at Hillend and although some money has been released due to a change in accounting rules, there will still be a £25million deficit.

CLlr McKenzie reported that schools have been tested for RAAC, with no issues identified. There are some issues in municipal buildings which is being worked on but not in any council housing. He also mentioned upcoming school transportation consultations and the implementation of a 20mph speed limit. The latest census data confirms Midlothian as the fastest growing council area; however the working population is quite small with higher numbers of school-aged children or retired adults. All Councillors agreed at a recent meeting that the current COSLA agreement for funding is not tenable.

CLlr Pottinger mentioned Eskbank's newsletter and the fact it included all the local Councillors. There is a comprehensive review of Council Tax. Also mentioned the inspection at Lawfield Primary School.

#### **6. Environmental Report**

JT noted damaged school fences and complaints about temporary roadworks due to pothole repairs. Confirmation that the repairs were temporary as Pot Hole Pro is due to visit the area over October and November. Noise issues from Neil Williams were discussed, along with the potential for meeting with them.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report**

This month we paid for the hire of the Church for our August meeting and we repaid Brian Martin for items purchased for the Local Place Plan survey, including collection boxes and poster holders. The current balance is £7435.42.

#### **8. AOB**

Discussion about Challenge Poverty Week with free gifts for pantry shoppers funded by lottery funds. Also efforts to combat Type 2 diabetes by providing free food and kids' toys. The use of a building in the park for storage was suggested.

Upcoming St. Andrew's dinner (funded by Morrisons Construction) and a Xmas fayre on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Volunteers for the Xmas light event were requested, and funding for Christmas lights will be discussed at the next meeting.

MH thanked Sharon Hill and her team for their work at the pavilion and pantry, highlighting their importance in the community.

MH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.