

Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MECC) Minutes of meeting 1 November 2023 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

ATTENDEES

Robert Hogg (Chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Stephen Liddell (Planning), Brian Martin (Planning), Craig Gallier (Environment), Cllr Peter Smaill, Cllr Bryan Pottinger, Cllr Stuart McKenzie, Sharon Hill (MAEDT), Susan Ryan, Michael Davidson, Jane Comeford. Catherine Henderson and Raymond (Scottish Water)

Apologies

Michael Hogg, Cal Haston, Tracylee Armit, Jennifer Allison, Theresa Morrison

1. Welcome and Apologies

RH welcomed everyone, noted the apologies (noted above) and thanked the three Councillors for attending.

The minutes from the last meeting in October were moved by CG and seconded by SL, after the following amendments were made:

- Clarify housing allocations letter that was approved was to be sent from the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils to the Head of Planning at the Council.
- Clarify that it was decided at the last meeting not to accept the offer of half of the amount of the Christmas funds held by the Council.

2. Scottish Water Update

Catherine and Raymond gave a report about what Scottish Water are doing about flooding and sewerage.

- Emphasis on not disposing items down the toilet.
- Introduction of new Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) in field across from the new primary school.
- Temporary traffic lights anticipated during the £2m project, starting in January for approximately 6 months.

3. Remembrance

RH gave a special mention for the late Mark Williams. Condolences extended to the family.

4. Police Report Highlights

- Issues with fences at the school, CCTV coverage gaps.
- Request for councillors to address the matter with Education.
- Incidents of teenagers accessing the AstroTurf and marking the field with scooters.

5. Planning

- Discussion on various planning issues, including Scott's caravan park application.
- BM gave an update on the Local Place Plan. There was debate about the Town Centre Redevelopment project.

- BM unexpectedly gave his resignation to the Community Council.
- Focus on the IIT collaborative group (In It Together) and town centre planning.
- RH reminded to include Easthouses in the Local Place Plan as can be overlooked.
- SL gave update on the letter about Housing Allocations from the Federation. There are 11 out of 15 community councils in agreement, 1 against and 3 abstain. RH agreed to send the letter indicating the majority but also representative of the dissent.
- Update on Crawlees Road and safeguarded route, following Newtongrange meeting on the subject. Agreed to add the safeguarded route to the Local Place Plan.

6. Councillors Report

- Discussion on potential changes in Mayfield property acquisition rules so that the Council could purchase properties when they appear on the open market.
- Updates on CCTV improvements with facial/number plate recognition capabilities. Councillors to check with Officers about safeguarding how it is used.
- Hillend mentioned. There is cross party agreement to investigate how the budget had increased from £9.5million to £37million.
- There are now Passivhaus examples by Midlothian Council in Dalkeith, these are 'green' eco houses. However, they are very expensive to provide.

7. Treasurer Report

- CC paid out for Zoom licence for Federation but Federation paid the money straight back.
- Update about Christmas funds held by the Council - had a meeting with Chief Internal Auditor at the Council and presented evidence. He will now speak to the other party and come back when he is ready with a decision.
- Donations starting to come in for the Christmas lights event. Plus paid for church hall rental for October meeting. Total at the end of October 2023 is £7765.42
- Approval sought and agreed to pay for a wreath for Remembrance Day.

8. Other Business:

MAEDT have their Christmas event on 24th November. Decision taken to close the garden for fireworks night. Request for old bricks for a fire pit. The Christmas sleigh has been decorated and will ask Council if it could be stored in the building in Mayfield Park.

RH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.