

# Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MECC) Minutes of meeting

## 6 December 2023 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

### ATTENDEES

Robert Hogg (Chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Stephen Liddell (Planning), Michael Hogg, Theresa Morrison, George Jackson, Cllr Peter Smaill, Cllr Bryan Pottinger, Cllr Stuart McKenzie, Susan Ryan, Michael Davidson, Katie Brash.

### Apologies

Cal Haston, Tracylee Armit, Craig Gallier, Sharon Hill

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

RH welcomed everyone, noted the apologies (noted above) and thanked the three Councillors for attending. RH requested an amendment to the November meeting minutes to state that BM's resignation was unexpected. The minutes from the last meeting in November were moved by RH and seconded by SL. Cllr Pottinger requested an update about the xmas money stored by the council. JT reported there had been contact from the Chief Internal Auditor looking for contacts at the various agencies that have donated money to be used for the xmas lights event.

#### 2. Correspondence

- There had been a report about the state of the pavement between the store and the park – this has been actioned and is now much safer.
- There was an update from Scottish Water with further detail about the work they will be carrying out in January 2024. There will be some traffic management, including 3-way temporary traffic lights, needed on Easthouses Road from 29<sup>th</sup> January for around 2 weeks.

#### 3. Police Report Highlights

- It was noted there was nothing in the police report about Easthouses FC.
- Cannabis is still a large issue. Report of £1 million haul in Danderhall.
- Ongoing issues with motorbikes.
- MH asked about police redundancies following news reports.
- Police have been asked to attend meetings once a quarter.

#### 4. Planning

- New Easthouses primary school going well, due to open August 2024. CC hopes to get an invite for a site visit in the spring.
- The In It Together group plan to meet in January to discuss the Twon Centre Regeneration and the masterplan. More information may be available at the February CC meeting.
- The housing application for Scott's caravan park was up for discussion again. It was agreed to submit the same comments as last time as nothing had changed since then. One of the items raised to make sure the paths integrate with paths that already exist in the area.
- The draft Local Place Plan was sent to Community Councillors and it was agreed to send it to the Planning department for feedback. Action to make sure a paper copy goes to GJ.
- Concerns were raised about the capacity at the Newbattle Medical Group with all the new developments, especially since taking over the Danderhall Medical Practice. RH will ask Practice Manager Sandra Allan about the questions, and the impact on their reputation.
- There was an agreement that it would be good to find out who has won the tender for

Mayfield Campus. KB said the companies working on the local developments have been great in terms of employing young people and providing training, etc.

## 5. Councillors Report

- Cllr McKenzie gave an update about CCTV upgrades for the area, which should take place between March and April 2024. It was agreed there should be discussion, involving the Community Council regarding the best vantage places for the cameras. Thought has been given to privacy and cameras will not be able to look into residents' windows. Another safeguarding measure is that data will only be kept for 21 days. The hope is that all the systems will be linked, including the camera at Newbattle Campus. Currently the replacement is only 'like-for-like' so no extra devices, just replacements.
- Cllr Pottinger mentioned how well the event for Remembrance Sunday went. The rubbish situation near the Nisa store has been highlighted again and there has been a new bin installed that shouldn't be able to blow rubbish about. He also mentioned the walkabout that happened in the area with Robbie Beattie, Neighbourhood Services, and hopes these continue in the future.
- Cllr Smaill raised concerns about the financial situation, looking ahead to the budget talks coming in the new year. There will be no rise in council tax.
- Cllr McKenzie said he too valued the walkabout with Robbie Beattie. He showed concern that the CAT teams are likely to come up in the talks about budget cuts. He was able to reassure MH that the news reports about police redundancies were only about back office positions and not about front line staff.

## 6. Treasurer Report

- Further donations/income for the xmas lights event - £1000 from NWH and payments for stalls on the day (£100).
- Expenditure for the xmas lights event totalling £791.73, including entertainment mascots and decorations.
- Paid for church hall rental for October meeting. Total at the end of November 2023 is £8043.69
- Payment still outstanding for wreath for Remembrance Day. RH provided receipt that Mayfield and Easthouses Retired Miners paid for so JT will issue a cheque to them for £40.
- JT intends to show more detail in future about the various pots of money held by the Community Council, so that it's clear where money is reserved for a purpose.

## 7. Other Business:

- It was agreed to co-opt KB back onto the CC after her strongly encouraged hiatus. JT proposed this and RH seconded. KB accepted.
- Xmas lights not working all the way along the road – RH to report.
- Questions were asked about housing allocation and how it works. There was a discussion about allocation is decided and especially how residents transfer between properties.
- Members of the Federation of Community Council had the opportunity to view a demo of the Pot Hole Pro (The Tarminator). It was agreed better communications should be sent about the work they are doing with it and where.
- RH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.