

Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MECC) Minutes of meeting

1 May 2024 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

ATTENDEES

Michael Hogg (Vice-chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Robert Hogg, Craig Gallier, Cllr Peter Smail, Cllr Bryan Pottinger, Cllr Stuart McKenzie, Alan Greig, David Bishop, Mr and Mrs Stevenson.

Apologies

Stephen Liddell, Tracy-Lee Arnit, Theresa Morrison, Sharon Hill, George Jackson.

1. Welcome and Apologies

MH welcomed everyone and noted the apologies (noted above). RH still awaiting a meeting with Newbattle Medical Practice. There were updates about fly tipping and pavement parking. Cllr McKenzie said he would forward data for the Pothole Pro so that it can be published. Last month's meeting minutes were approved by CG and RH.

2. War Memorial in Easthouses

- David Bishop showcased the work that was happening at the War Memorial with images on the screen.
- There is now a second gate to allow a one-way system. The plaques are being repaired and the plan is to prune the trees. A sculptor from Newtongrange is fixing the wing of Nike, the goddess of Victory.
- The online fundraising raised the desired amount of £1500 and it was continued, to ask for more donations. A Scotmid grant was applied for too.
- Action for Community Council to contact the Councillors to ask for a donation from their Environmental funds.
- Discussion about the event held on Remembrance Day:
 - Last year's event felt rushed.
 - Concern shown for public safety due to traffic. Can road be closed? RH to attend a meeting of Safety Advisory Group (SAG).
 - Proper procedure for Last Post is to have the colours raised during it, then lowered for the 2mins silence and raised back up afterwards.
 - Intention to get Easthouses Primary School involved going forward.

3. Police Report Highlights

- MH read out highlights of the police report. It was agreed it seemed to be a very poor report, with weeks missing. RH to feedback.
- CC to check whether receiving MCAT reports.

4. Correspondence

- There is currently a Review of the Midlothian Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. Both members of the CC and the public are encouraged to take part.
- RH and JT met with Yvonne Montgomery, Tenant Participation Officer from Midlothian Council. A report was given about this positive meeting and how the CC can utilise Yvonne's services in the future. She and a colleague Victor have been bringing about real change but do cover the entire county.

5. Planning

- The recent public meeting about the new Mayfield Community Campus was poorly organised and managed. There was no provision for the After School Club and members of the public were frustrated that the Early Years would be decanted, apparently to the Hawthorn Centre. It was learned afterwards that the Early Years would actually be decanted to the new Easthouses Primary School until the building work has been completed. The Parent Council had met and they have organised a petition. It was agreed that comms had been the main issue.
- There is an intention, and indeed the space, to have a café at the new Mayfield Community Campus. The Council don't think it is viable for them to run it and have asked if any community groups would like to run it, or maybe just have a self-service area. The seating area will stay either way. CC to approach community groups.
- CC has been persistent in trying to open the conversation about booking the community facilities at the new Easthouses Primary School, but nothing has been forthcoming so far. Clubs need to book for next year and they have a dilemma over whether to wait for these facilities to become available or book their usual spaces.
- Safe Route to new Easthouses Primary – a meeting has been arranged for next week. A path from Lothian Drive will be explored as well as potentially joining up the Kippielaw Estate as they are part of the catchment area. There is a push to encourage walking or cycling for environmental reasons.
- Mr and Mrs Stevenson attended the meeting to report their concerns with the North Mayfield development. There was litter from the building site and the site agent organised a little pick but it was back the same straight afterwards. The boundary fence keeps falling down and there is insulation and other materials being distributed in the high winds. Lovell are the developers. Cllr Smaill to an action to report the situation is not improved since an email on 22nd April. The Director of Place is aware. It was suggested that CC contacts Lovell to ask them to attend a CC meeting and explain the situation as they should be held accountable and responsible.
- Additional complaint that Stobhill recycling centre shuts too early.

6. Environment

CG gave the meeting an update on fly tipping in the area.

7. Councillors Report

- Cllr McKenzie celebrated the progress at the new Easthouses Primary School, it's on time and on budget. There is to be a Football Zone in Kings Park to watch the football games. Issues raised with communal bins, request for Derek Oliver to sort it.
- Cllr Pottinger mentioned dumb dumpers at Blackcot and ladders that were stolen from Bogwood Court. There was a fridge behind the fish and chip shop but it has been removed this morning. Time for another Community Walkabout. The pool at Newbattle Community Campus is back open after the storm damage. Also reputational damage. Another mention of the meeting at Mayfield School and agreement that the After School Club needs a permanent space – at the new school they should have worse or less facilities than they already have. Keir, the developers, have committed to tyre washes and a designated route for construction traffic.
- Cllr Smaill told the meeting about work carried out on bus shelters by Wayne Clark since there were complaints. NWH are looking to move part of their facilities to North Middleton.

School transport provision changes from 2miles to 3miles, this will affect Mayfield to St David's. There is a debt of £320million at the council, but they did take some of the spend out of the Hillend development.

8. Treasurer Report

- JT chased the Rentamascot company that was used for the Xmas lights events and managed to retrieve the £100 deposit. The cheque for Fancy Footwork at the Xmas Lights event was banked this month (£100) and £100 was donated to the Easthouses War Memorial fundraising effort. After paying for the hire of the church for the CC meeting (£30), the balance is at the end of April is £7177.99.
- The fee to hire the church for CC meeting will rise from next month to £18 per hour of the Sanctuary (main church hall). This rise is due to energy costs.
- JT will chase the Chief Auditor at Midlothian Council again about the Xmas Lights money.

9. Other Business:

- Gala Day will be on the first Saturday in June (1st June). Parade from Easthouses Miners Club at 1pm. TM in touch with schools and will speak to Jennifer Allison for Easthouses to be involved from next year. Question about Girls Brigade taking part in the parade and having a stall. RH to contact them.
- MH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.