

Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MECC) Minutes of meeting 4th September 2024 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

ATTENDEES

Robert Hogg (Chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Stephen Liddell, Cllr Peter Smaill, Michael Hogg, Cal Haston, Sharon Hill, Michael Davidson, David Bishop

Apologies

Cllr Stuart McKenzie, Cllr Bryan Pottinger, Theresa Morrison, Craig Gallier, Jennifer Allison

1. Welcome and Apologies

- RH welcomed everyone and noted the apologies (noted above). Last month's meeting minutes were approved by MH and SL.

2. Police Report Highlights

- Chair read out highlights of the police report for the month of August.
- Shell garage, scotmid ATM, Oak Place, drugs and weapons all mentioned.
- CC to ask for update on drugs issues in the area.

3. Planning

Safe Walking Route to Easthouses Primary School:

- SL read out email from Wayne Clark about phases and priorities. School is now open. Phase 1 is 4 week project. Phase 2 is Lothian Drive to back gate of school. Asked Peter to find out the timescale. Parent Council for EPS is onboard, need to check with HT about her feelings on it. Published recommended route don't include path. The back gate is currently locked but concern about that if it is a fire evacuation point.

Crawlees Road Junction:

- Request for the three Councillors to get involved in Crawlees road issue. Crawlees road has Mayfield on the left, Newtongrange on right and Stobhill/Gorebridge at the end. Old Crawlees school house is boundary of mayfield. Main point is the traffic survey that was undertaken during lockdown. Land ownership shouldn't be an issue. Entrance to new residential estate would be going through an industrial estate otherwise. Cllr Smaill to talk to Cllr Bowen about setting up a meeting. MH expressed concern that Councillors might be compromised at a future planning meeting. Statutory consultee on roads said they supported the safe guarded route.

Development of Town Centre:

- Need a meeting with Kirsty McNeill MP to talk about town centre. JT to chase.
- There is a Scottish Government finance emergency. In It Together met and agreed to decline Fiona Clandillon's offer for the town centre. We do not want the site allocated for housing in MDLP2. Our priorities are Bogwood Court and Community Hub. We would like to be involved and not have it completely taken away from us. Discussion about what to do and if there's any hope. Is something better than nothing? How long is the masterplan valid for before we have to consult with the community again? We want to know why we were picked for the £20million? It must have meant something? Town Centre was in the MLDP1 and even before that (2013).

Schools:

- There is still no access to rooms or booking at Easthouses PS. Hopefully middle of Sept when bookings open up.
- Major delay at Mayfield campus. Major concern about costs rising and the possibility of getting less in the end. Cllr Smail to write to Fiona Robertson to ask about delay.
- Easthouses football team were supposed to attend meeting due to their frustrations but hadn't made it. Meeting learnt there is a teacher at Newbattle interested in rugby, so is using the facilities in preference to local football teams. Easthouses Lily and community youth team and joined together and has about 200 youngsters.

4. Environment

- CG and Chair have been corresponding with the Council regarding waste issues at Blackcot Drive. CG absent from meeting, so will report at next meeting.
- Bins in David Scott Avenue not being emptied. RH has emailed Wayne Clark, but he's off on holiday.
- Noted that Justin Venton has left Council, to be replaced by Tam Finlay.

5. Councillor's Report

- Cllr Smail concerned Council is potentially £800million in debt. New school at Beeslack costing £120million (£17million from Scottish Government). Hillend alpine coaster costing £6.5million just to get to this stage. Looking for a return after a year from it.
- Vandalism at Easthouses bowling club.
- Pressing for another Pot Hole Pro. There's been an increase in insurance claims for pot holes.
- Discussion about Newbyres home being understaffed and underutilised.
- Budget very difficult, hard times ahead.

6. Treasurer Report

- For August there was no charge to hire the church hall as there was no meeting in July.
- The Council have paid £2131.75 into CC bank account for Christmas lights event. This is only half of the full amount; the other half has been given to the Beatties to do as they wish. It is believed the money will be passed on to at least three of the local schools but no evidence of that as yet.
- Balance at the end of August is £9246.52

7. Other Business:

- RH nominated David Bishop to be co-opted onto the Community Council. This was seconded by CH and agreed by the meeting.
- RH showed a leaflet created by Gorebridge Community Council and expressed a wish for similar. CH agreed to look at it.
- Agreed to look to get lines painted at the war memorial to stop cars parking there. BD asked about possibility of zebra crossing by the war memorial or at the park gates.
- MAEDT update - funding issues for all organisations. MAEDT have enough until Dec 2025. Many groups were funded by UK shared prosperity fund. Volunteer celebration tomorrow night in the garden. 57 volunteers have worked with MAEDT over the last year.
- RH attended University of Edinburgh event and invited them to visit us to show off MAEDT, McSence, etc.
- The church hall is up for sale. McSence is interested but it is open to the public. Closes on

Friday.

- There is to be a Polling station review. Should people from the top of Mayfield have to go to Newbattle campus? Particularly as buses only stop at the roundabout and don't enter the site. Consider promoting postal votes more.
- RH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed. Next meeting will be October and will include our postponed AGM.