

Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MECC) Minutes of meeting 2nd October 2024 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

ATTENDEES

Robert Hogg (Chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Theresa Morrison, Stephen Liddell, Michael Hogg, Cllr Peter Smaill, Cllr Bryan Pottinger, Sharon Hill, Michael Davidson, David Bishop, Laura Watson, Ruth McComish, Susan Ryan.

Apologies

Craig Gallier

1. Welcome and Apologies

- RH welcomed everyone and noted the apologies (noted above). Last month's meeting minutes were approved by SL and DB.
- RH confirmed there has still been no contact from the Practice Manager at Newbattle Medical Centre.
- There was anger and frustration from those present about the situation with the Christmas money. It was agreed to seek evidence of what happened to the other half of the money. There were mentions of taking the story to the local news outlets and the possibility of reporting to Ethical Standards Committee.
- MH asked if there has been a meeting organised with Kirsty McNeill MP. There had been a meeting but she had to cancel, so another meeting has been arranged for December.
- There is currently a consultation about Polling Places and, while none of the location changes affect our community, it was agreed that an effort should be made to help people to register to vote. Also, encouragement to choose postal votes if getting to the Polling Place is a barrier to voting.

2. Police Report Highlights

- RH read out highlights of the police report for the month of September.
- No recent reports of issues at Scotmid but a few mentions of pupils from Newbattle High School.
- Shell garage was included as there had been an increase in non-payment of fuel.
- Contact has been made with Police for both the upcoming Fireworks event and the Remembrance event too.

3. Planning

Safe Walking Route to Easthouses Primary School:

- JT attended a walkabout with Cllr Scott to see the proposed paths. There was concern expressed about the use of the paths in darkness in relation to isolation and potential danger. This is an ongoing issue.

Crawlees Road Junction:

- A group of Councillors met with Planning representatives from the Council. It felt like a negative meeting and felt like nothing more could be done, however it is only outlined planning permission and not yet detailed planning permission. It is believed the developer is unwilling to pay for the new road. Traffic impact assessment is inferior because it took place during Covid restrictions. Also, there were 26% fewer units planned for South Mayfield at that time which is likely to make a difference to traffic forecasts.
- It was suggested that when the detailed planning permission is submitted, the Councillors say they were misled about the traffic impact assessment and request another one to be

done.

- Duncan Robertson implied there had been a second traffic impact assessment and if this is the case Councillors should request a copy.

Potential planning breach at Kippielaw Hatchery:

- It appears a scaffolding company have moved into the field adjacent to the Cattery. The land has been granted permission for 5 dwellings but not commercial usage. It was agreed to investigate and complete a breach of planning report if necessary.

Schools:

- There is still no access to rooms or booking at Easthouses PS.
- Discussion about the delay at Mayfield campus. Lack of communication as to the situation for both the Community Council and for parents. Parents are very concerned as to the physical state of the current school and potential safety issues. There are regular Health and Safety inspections being conducted.
- There was frustration about the nursery children having to attend Easthouses school when their own building is still standing – with no set date for work being carried out. It was asked how much it costs to operate a bus to take the children from their current school to Easthouses Primary School and back each day.
- There seems to be confusion about the contractor/tender arrangements so clarification will be sought.

4. Environment

- CG absent from meeting, but it was reported that the bins already reported are still overflowing and not being emptied.

5. Councillor's Report

- There is a £9million shortfall in the budget and it will be extremely difficult to make the savings needed.
- Cllr Smaill advised the success of the recently opened Alpine Coaster. Bookings are going well but questioned whether it will make money over time.
- Cllr Pottinger reminded the meeting about the Community Action Team Midlothian report and offered to supply a copy if needed.

6. Treasurer Report

- Payment of £54 for the use of the Church Hall in September 2024. Intention to look at the possibility of alternative venue.
- Balance at the end of September is £9192.53

7. Other Business:

- Reminder of Remembrance event at Easthouses Memorial on Sunday 10th November. DB complimented on the amazing work carried out at the memorial. DB reported the new bench will be installed soon and there is a plan to 'light up red' from 4th - 10th October.
- Reminder of Fireworks event on Tuesday 5th November in Mayfield Park.
- As part of an MTRaP update, the state of Conifer Road was noted and acknowledged that construction traffic has had an impact on it.
- It was asked whether toilet facilities were a statutory requirement but unfortunately there are not.
- RH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed. Next meeting will be 6th November 2024.