

Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MECC) Minutes of meeting

6th November 2024 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

ATTENDEES

Robert Hogg (Chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Theresa Morrison, Stephen Liddell, Cllr Peter Smaill, Cllr Bryan Pottinger, Cllr Stuart McKenzie, Craig Gallier, David Bishop, Cal Haston, Wullie Calder, Laura Watson, Alan Greig, Hayley Young, Greg Christison.

Apologies

Michael Hogg, Sharon Hill

1. Welcome and Apologies

- RH welcomed everyone and noted the apologies (noted above). Last month's meeting minutes were approved by SL and RH.
- RH made a presentation to DB for all his work involving the War Memorial, along with volunteers. RH reminded that the memorial service will be held on Sunday 10th November. There will be a wreath from the Community Council, RH to provide a receipt for payment.

2. Police Report Highlights

- RH read out highlights of the police report for the month of October.
- A couple of issues arising again at Scotmid Store where police have been in attendance.
- Mayfield Primary school was badly vandalised with smashed windows. This appears to have been youths.
- The report highlighted an increase in calls which is quite concerning.

3. Correspondence

- We have been advised that the shop which was closed down at Bogwood Court will be reopening, hours will be 6am to 10 pm. They have applied for an alcohol licence, which can be of concern due to underage sales of alcohol. It's been advised that CCTV will be installed, however we need reassurance that this will be in working order. JT to reply to licensing request.
- Cllr McKenzie advised that checks are made for selling of alcohol to underage kids and asked anyone who suspects this to be happening to report it to him.
- MTRaP have asked each community to suggest two roads which require maintenance with a view to it being completed in financial year 2025/2026.

4. Planning

Kippielaw Hatchery:

- Greg Christison from neighbouring Cattery in attendance. SL gave a presentation with photos to show that work has begun without permission, particularly with the removal of trees. This impacted Mr Christison's business and home. There was an application granted for houses on this land but it now seems to have been sold to a scaffolding company. CC has been in touch with Planning Dept. Cllr McKenzie will speak to Peter Arnsdorf about the possibility of planning policy.

Crawlees Road Junction:

- SL presented images and gave figures from a second traffic assessment that was done by the Council in 2023. Increase of 40% since 2021 assessment. It was noted there a queue of approx 38 cars one end of Crawlees Road and 29 at the other. An increase of 40% would mean an increase of 40-50 cars each end. From 2025-2060, there is an expected increase of 20% road usage.

- The new distributor road would run from the bus terminal to a T-junction on Crawlees Road. The safeguarded route would run from the Doctors surgery to Crawlees Road.
- This would mean a Cul-de-sac for the industrial estate, keep industrial traffic away from residential area.

Town Centre:

- A meeting has been arranged with Kirsty McNeill MP on 12th December to request for direct investment from the Government and to inform her of the Town Centre masterplan.

Schools:

- Community lets are available to make at Easthouses PS, though only by email as the official system is not yet up and running. CC to host February meeting there to test its capacity, access, etc.
- Mayfield combined school is still a worry for the parents. Statement from Education Dept was deemed unclear with no real update in terms of safety and reassurance. CC was asked to investigate costs of both the scaffolding and the bus taking nursery class to Easthouses.
- New Mayfield school being paid from capital Budget so remains unaffected by budget issues but over time it is acknowledged that cost will rise and this is concerning.

5. Environment

- Reports of illegal dumping near Blackcot, Mayfield Place and Bogwood Court.
- Cllr Smaill informed CC that Matthew Kelly at the Council has taken responsibility for Access issues and should be contacted. It was noted Robbie Beattie was no longer in position in Neighbourhood Services.

6. Councillor's Report

- Cllr Pottinger: The £20 million originally pledged by Tory Government was separate to Levelling Up fund. Kelly Parry has emailed to ask about it.
- Cllr McKenzie: Compliments on fireworks, particularly from police. Community organised events are best and keep the area from the situations that happened elsewhere. If our events were cut, we could end up in that situation too. The serious assault at Abbey Road incident is still ongoing, not current any forensic evidence. Police are checking any CCTV available. Police are looking for a driver and passenger in a white van. MCAT Officers have been dealing with trouble at the bus stop near Dalkeith Library. There are extra road crossings being installed next spring on Bogwood Road near Westhouses.
- Reminder of Warm and well hubs. Plus, we apparently have access to limitless salt for winter resilience.
- CC asked about Park attendant hut in Mayfield park for a CC/resilience resource. Cllr McKenzie mentioned a Community Asset Transfer and will follow up with CC.
- Budget on agenda for next month's meeting

7. Treasurer Report

- CC paid for Zoom license on behalf of the Federation and the Federation repaid immediately.
- Christmas lights season has begun and we received £300 from Melville Housing. Also paid £30 deposit to Little Laughs for their entertainment on the day.
- Payment of £54 for the use of the Church Hall in October 2024 and of course paid for the gift for DB given at the start of the meeting.
- Balance at the end of September is £9298.58.

8. **Other Business:**

- After some concerns, our Christmas lights event will be going ahead on Sunday 1st December as usual. Volunteers needed.
- RH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed. Next meeting will be 4th December 2024.