

Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of meeting, 6th December, 2018 at 1830.

At Edinburgh College, Dalhousie Road

1. Apologies and Introductions

Community Council Attendees: CC Attendees: Bill Kerr-Smith (Chair), Alan MacDonald (Vice Chair), Alastair Burnett, Elizabeth Burnett, Susan Goldwyre (Treasurer), Mo Davidson, Mo Price, Robin Barclay, John Webster, Tommy Joshi,

Elected Representatives: Cllr. Peter Smaill, Cllr. John Hackett.

Other Attendees: PC Jordan Pow, Rona Duncan (MLC Liaison Officer), Laura Goble (Newbattle Abbey College), Robin Spinks, Andrew Watson, Margaret Watson, Alexander Kelman, Gerry Goldwyre, Janet Reid, Andrew Reid, Joy Godfrey, Stuart Forbes (MAEDT), Ian Hackett, Gordon Chisholm, Kate Fearnley.

Apologies: Cllr. Kenneth Baird.

Chair opened proceedings by welcoming all attendees, making introductions and thanking all the residents who attended.

AGM

2. Minutes of 2017 AGM

The minutes from the previous AGM were reviewed and proposed for adoption by Mo Price; Seconded by Mo Davidson.

3. Chair Review of the Year

2018 saw an increase in pressures on Midlothian's Green Spaces and on the Local Authority budget, giving rise to an increased workload on ENCC members in our efforts to represent residents' interests. Highlights of the year include:

- Extensive and complex budget discussions with MLC.
- Major planning concerns regarding the multiple drive-through's at Hardengreen and the Larkfield proposals - some of which are still not settled.
- We had our Participation Request to be involved with the decisions being made about Ironmills access accepted.
- Lothian Buses briefed us on why they made the decision to re-route the No3.
- We challenged the need to register ENCC with ICC - and won.
- Ward boundary proposals were reviewed with BLCC and MLC and agreed to go out for consultation, eventually being approved and adopted in November.
- A party from ENCC visited Holyrood to meet with Colin Beattie, MSP, and attend FMQ's.
- A Planning Seminar was organised and held in May.
- In response to growing concerns about the accuracy of the data on the Planning Portal, an application was developed to undertake daily analysis of changes being made. Several anomalies are currently under review.
- Also planning related, a Fol request was submitted relating to the handling of the application for 3 Eskview Villas, which will form the basis of a formal complaint in due course.
- We requested changes to the MLC webcasting contract - which were agreed for implementation in October, resulting in Planning Meetings now being webcast.

- Scottish Water came to explain their strategy for clean-up and management of sewage contamination of the Esk, following a very successful campaign by Joy Godfrey and Stuart Seath - which is ongoing.
- Plans were put forward to create a Railway walk from Eskbank Station to Kings Park and these are progressing with support from Sustains.
- For the second year running we decided not to apply for a grant.
- Some members took part in a community planning day in Nov.
- Once again - the circle completes, with MLC consultations on budget cuts now re-started.

In summary, it has been a very positive year for ENCC, with a number of new initiatives being launched and statutory obligations met. The Chair paid tribute to the activities of all involved and thanked members for their contributions.

3. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer submitted a report on the current state of ENCC finances.

The balance advised at 7th Dec2017 was £2,780.59 which included funding of £1,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme.

After the transfer of the accounts from Diana MacKinnon to Susan Goldwyre, the bank statements showed an additional income of £62.50 with no traceable record other than the bank statement.

The bank balance forward from Dec 2017 therefore was;
 £2,780.59 + £62.50
 £2,843.09

4. Appointment of Members and Election of Officers.

Rona Duncan, Midlothian Council Communities Team, performed the function of Returning Officer for the appointment of members and election of officers.

There were 6 vacancies on the Community Council; 2 due to completion of 3-year terms and 1 due to resignation during the year. Nominations were sought and 2 nominations were submitted. As there were more vacancies than nominations, Leigh Seath and Sandy Kelman were accepted and duly elected for a three-year term.

The Chair and Treasurer announced that they were standing down from their positions and nominations were sought for these positions and others that were vacant.

- Chair: Nomination: Alan MacDonald. Prop. Bill Kerr-Smith, Sec. Mo Davidson.
 - Vice-Chair: Nomination: Mo Price. Prop. Bill Kerr-Smith, Sec. Tommy Joshi.
 - Secretary: Nomination: Bill Kerr-Smith. Prop. Susan Goldwyre, Sec. Tommy Joshi.
 - Treasurer: Nomination: Mo Davidson. Prop. Bill Kerr-Smith, Sec. Susan Goldwyre.
- As there were no other nominations, all candidates were elected.

5. Next AGM

The next AGM will be held on 5th December 2019.

6. Meeting Concluded

There being no further business to conclude, the AGM was closed at 1910.