

# **Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council**

## **Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of meeting, 5th December, 2019 at 1830.

At Edinburgh College, Dalhousie Road

### **1. Apologies and Introductions**

**Community Council Attendees:** CC Attendees: Mo Price (Vice Chair), Bill Kerr-Smith (Secretary), Mo Davidson (Treasurer), Robin Barclay, John Webster, David McNeill, Jane Wailes, Brian Wailes.

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

**Other Attendees:** Andrew Watson, Margaret Watson, Isabel Pattie, Joy Godfrey, C. Davie, Alan Symon,, Janis Neil, Mike Armstrong, Lindsey McGregor, Christina Harley, Alan Symon, Krissy McKale, Alan MacDonald, PC Robert Wallace, Paul Johnson (MLC Liaison), Krissy McKale.

**Apologies:** Tommy Joshi, Leigh Seath, Susan, Goldwyre, Rona Duncan, PC Pam Begbie. Cllr. Kenneth Baird.

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

## **AGM**

### **2. Minutes of 2018 AGM**

The minutes from the previous AGM were reviewed and proposed for adoption by Robin Barclay, Seconded by Mo Davidson.

### **3. Chair Review of 2019**

#### **Early part of the year: Feb - May:**

- **Roads** - We began our Roads campaign against speeding on a number of local roads and wrote to Midlothian Council to ask to work on the issues together
- **Planning** - we developed an app (called RAMPS) to monitor changes to the planning system, which highlighted several irregularities. We wrote to the Chair of the Midlothian Planning Committee, and met with him, to request action to improve the quality of planning decisions in Midlothian. We submitted objections to the Larkfield and Kippielaw proposals for housing development.
- **River Esk Pollution** - we supported Joy Godfrey and Stuart Forbes in publicising and requesting action to mitigate the ongoing pollution in the Esk.
- **Ironmills Steps** - we established a Participation Group, with Midlothian Council, to evaluate and explore options to re-open the steps or to provide alternative access.
- **Railway Corridor** - ENCC indicated that the future use and development of the former Smeaton railway corridor remains under consideration, following the decision of One Dalkeith to stop further pursuit of the multi-use pathway option.

#### **Second half of year: Jun - Dec:**

- **Planning** - The Scottish Government Reporters reviewing the appeals against refusal of planning permission for the two restaurants at Hardengreen and the Eskview Villas case, overturned Midlothian Council's decisions in both cases.
- **School Buses** - our then Chair, Alan MacDonald, worked with a group of local parents to overturn the decision to cut some school bus services.
- **Communications** - ENCC developed a Communications Strategy, to keep residents better-informed of local issues. This resulted in a decision to undertake direct mailings of flyers on any important issue and to develop a newsletter on local issues.
- **Newsletter** - in October ENCC members and some community volunteers produced and delivered our first newsletter, to almost 2,000 homes. We hope to repeat the process regularly, if we are successful with our grant application.
- **Place Planning** - this process replaces the old Neighbourhood Plan process and ENCC has taken part in preparatory sessions to become familiar with the process. Place Planning is an element of the new National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), which is in the process of being introduced. ENCC is preparing a "Planning Matters" public event in January 2020, to address these issues.
- **Local Authority Funding** - ENCC organised a public debate on this topic, in response to a request from Colin Beattie (MSP) and Councillor John Hackett. In the end only Cllr. Hackett and Cllr. Smail took part but the meeting was very well-attended and informative.
- **Recycling** - ENCC took part in a visit to the Millerhill food waste plant and the MLC Waste Manager, Chris Lawson, attended a meeting to discuss waste management issues and answer residents' questions.
- **Active Travel** - ENCC has formed an Active Travel sub-group to explore options in Midlothian. The first project is a joint undertaking with MLC and Newtongrange CC to create a multi-user path between Eskbank and Newtongrange, implementing one part of Midlothian's Active Travel Strategy.
- **General Election 2019** - ENCC organised, in partnership with Midlothian View, a Hustings to which all candidates were invited to answer questions from residents. Over 150 people attended and the event was broadcast on Black Diamond FM 3 days later.

In summary, it has been a very busy 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 full report is included at the end of these minutes.

### 4. Appointment of Members and Election of Officers.

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

There were 5 vacancies on the Community Council and two Co-opted members were put forward for ratification as full, elected members. Nominations had been submitted for 4 of the vacancies. As there were more vacancies than nominations, Christina Harley, Alan Symon, Jane Wailes and Krissy McKale were accepted and duly elected for a three-year term. David McNeill and Brian Wailes were also confirmed as duly elected.

Nominations were sought for Office Bearers, as follows:

- Chair: Nomination: Mo Davidson. Prop. Mo Price, Sec. Robin Barclay.
- Vice-Chair: Nomination: John Webster Prop. Bill Kerr-Smith, Sec. Mo Davidson.
- Treasurer: Nomination: David McNeil. Prop. Mo Price, Sec. Bill Kerr-Smith.

As there were no other nominations, all candidates were elected.

## **5. Constitutional Amendment**

A proposal was submitted to establish the possibility of designating up to two Community Councillor positions as “Digital Community Councillors”. This proposal is to facilitate the participation of individuals who may find attendance at Community Council meetings problematic for a variety of reasons and should enable them to participate fully in the workings of the Community Council via electronic means. Proposed: Bill Kerr-smith, Seconded: Mo Davidson.

The proposal was discussed and the following issues raised:

- ENCC were urged to explore means of transmitting meeting proceedings to digital CCs.
- It was suggested that the participation of Digital CCs should be noted in the regular minutes, particularly regarding their activities.

Following the discussion, the proposal was approved. Note that this will require approval from MLC Legal Department.

## **6. Next AGM**

It was agreed that the December timing of the AGM was not ideal and it was proposed that the AGM should, in future, be held in October. This proposal was carried unanimously.

## **7. Meeting Concluded**

There being no further business to conclude, the AGM was closed at 19:18.

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## **ENCC Treasurer’s Report AGM December 2019**

The treasurer’s Report briefly outlines expenditure over the year. No application for funding was made to Midlothian Council for this year, though an application has just been made for the coming year.

The greatest expenditure this year was for two items

- ENCC purchased a PA System prior to our public meeting at the Art’s Centre. This made it considerably easier for speakers to address the floor and for members of the public to ask questions. This will be a useful piece of equipment in the future and one we may be able to hire out.
- 2. We produced and distributed our first ENCC newsletter. The cost (£478) was for professional printing of enough copies to deliver to every household in the ward

The funding application, if successful, will enable us to produce and deliver a quarterly newsletter.

The amount carried forward to this year was £3227.

Our balance currently stands at £2106.05

Mo Davidson, Treasurer (December 2019)



## ENCC Financial Report

- **Balance at 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 £3227.80**
- **Accounts from December 2018 – December 2019**

Date	Name	Chq No	Description	In	Out	Balance
<b>12.18</b>						<b>3227.80 carried forward</b>
6.12.18	B Kerr-Smith	266	Printing costs		43.88	3183.92
6.6.19	S.Goldwyre	267	Litter pick – equipment		44.47	3139.45
14.6.19	MVA	268	Annual subscription		15	3124.45
14.6.19	One Dalkeith	269	Donation		100	3024.45
30.9.19	Pace Print	270	Printing leaflets		30.00	2994.45
3 10.19	Susan Goldwyre	271	Child litter picking gloves		39.49	2954.96
10.10.19	B Kerr-Smith	272	PA system and catering		196.03	2758.93
23.10.19	Pace Print	273	Printing of ENCC newsletters		478.00	2280.93
27.11.19	St John's and King's Park Church	274	Hire of hall for the Hustings		60.00	2220.93
4.12.19	B Kerr-Smith	275	Printing costs		44.88	2176.05

An application for funding from Midlothian Council is being made this year. This will contribute to the costs involved in publishing and printing a quarterly newsletter. At the time of this report no decision has been made.

These accounts were updated prior to the 2019 AGM

Mo Davidson, Treasurer (4.12.19)