



Minutes of Meeting, Thursday 13th October at 18:30

Boardroom, Edinburgh College Midlothian Campus

Community Council (CC) attendees: Brian Farrell (Acting Chair), Robin Barclay (Secretary), David McNeill (Treasurer), Christina Harley, Mo Price, Joy Godrey (Associate)

Elected Representatives: Cllr Stuart Mackenzie, Bryan Pottinger, Cllr Peter Smail

Residents: Bill Hunter, Gordon Chisholm, Dennis Wilson, Linda Wilson

Apologies: Brian Wailes (Chair), Rebecca Lewis, Sally York,

Welcome & Apologies: Brian Farrell (Acting Chair) welcomed all. Apologies were received as above

1 Approval of Minutes: the minutes from the meeting on 9 September were postponed for approval until the November meeting. There were no amendments

2 Matters Arising: None.

3 Finance: Treasurer David McNeill advised the current bank balance is £2,695.99. David has approached Chair of Local Rotary society – Alan Symon to audit the accounts for the forthcoming ENCC AGM. The meeting agreed Brian Farrell and Christina Harley are to be added as signatories for the ENCC account. This will give 4 signatories in addition to the current Chair and Treasurer. David will make arrangements to meet Brian and Christina to go through the online process of adding them to the account.

4 Health and Wellbeing: The ENCC defibrillator installed at Eskbank Trading is now live and was deployed but not used following a recent 999 call. David McNeill was successful in tracing and retrieving the kit from the ambulance station at Mayfield.

Residents from Newbattle Abbey Crescent enquired about locating one in their area. We are aware there is one at the Beekeepers hut at Newbattle Abbey College and inside Newbattle Golf Course. David suggested we could assist Newbattle Golf Course with a cabinet to move the defibrillator outside. We are also now aware of the defibrillator at Dalkeith Police Station.

Brian Farrell has assurance from Roads Asset Manager that it should be possible to mount one on the street lighting electrical cabinet – the cabinet has 24hr power whereas columns only have power when illuminated. Once funding is secured, Newbattle Abbey Crescent would be the next location. Brian F to put David in contact with Roads Asset Manager.

5 Planning: Peter Smaill was updated on the title restrictions on the site of the unauthorised tree works as discussed at the September meeting.

There is now a confirmed enforcement action on the land adjacent to Deaflawhill Cottage following the refusal of the recent planning application. The land sits in Bonnyrigg & District (BDCC), although the resident of Deaflawhill is within ENCC and BDCC are monitoring progress of the enforcement process. It was noted enforcement can take a considerable period of time but has legal penalties for non-compliance.

ENCC have been consulted on plans for new Easthouses Primary as the site boundary is also part of the ward boundary. It was agreed that ENCC would respond to comment that we have no concerns regarding the proposed boundary planting/fence along the ward boundary.

It was agreed to submit an objection to the illuminated signage proposed for Costa at Sheriffhall South.

Cllr Smaill was asked to explain why he moved to consent to the Sheriffhall South planning application in June, against the wishes of the local community who objected primarily to the drive-thru and the removal of trees at the Melville Gate Road / Gilmerton Road junction which would partly screen the development and maintain ambience. Cllr Smaill responded that he voted in favour on the basis of job creation, the proposed path link to Ironmills (from the north) and the need to fund the development via the drive thru. Acting chair pointed out that Costa pays around £30 gross per week above minimum wage and this was high value employment land, further pointing out that the applicant had declared gross profit of £20m pa for the last 3 financial years. Resident Linda Wilson asked if the proposed path would definitely happen, the answer was “don’t know”. Cllr Smaill was thanked for providing an explanation, albeit one that did not accord with local wishes and which would lead to an ongoing litter issue.

Cllrs Smaill, McKenzie and Pottinger were requested to provide answers and action to ENCC concerns following the granting of consent to Dandara for Lasswade Rd South amended plans. The 3 storey elements were repeatedly refused previously and the ENCC objection made reference to this. The Feb 20 objection was cc'd to Cllr Smaill, Cllr McKenzie and former Cllr Hackett. Vice Chair asked why community views on 3 storey had been ignored. Cllrs were also asked to establish why Dandara had been permitted to reduce open space with Cortleferry Park green space as a mitigation but no requirement for contribution to ongoing maintenance of the local authority asset. Finally, serious concerns raised regarding lack of footpath connecting this site to any other part of the surrounding area. Residents and children likely to walk on the roadway of Lasswade Road past Westfield Cottage, where there is a recognised issue of speeding. Council could and should have had this provided as a condition of consent. David McNeill pointed out the SUDS in the development doesn't appear to have min 5m clearance from roads. Cllrs undertook to seek answers and report back.

6 Environment: The relevant ERIG notes were shared at the September meeting with no further update.

The planning meeting for the Sheriffhall South drive thru referred to litter as a “societal issue” – Cllrs were asked what action the education dept. and schools were taking to discourage littering. Noted there had been a remarkable difference with the awareness campaign run by Edinburgh College earlier in the year and something schools should be emulating.

Newbattle Road at Ancrum Road has had further discharge from sewers. Larger scale survey to be undertaken by Scottish Water following contact from Christina.

Any resident finding a leak from the water or sewer network should report this as soon as possible to Scottish Water by calling 0800 0778 778 or using their twitter https://twitter.com/scottish_water or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/scottishwater/> accounts.

7 Roads/Road Safety: Brian Farrell met with PC Martinez on 9 September to discuss the Council Speed survey results and speeding issues within ENCC particularly Bonnyrigg, Lasswade and Dalhousie Roads. The meeting was curtailed due to the need for resourcing of events following the death of Her Majesty The Queen. However, it is hoped PC Martinez will be joined by another speed detection equipment trained officer to allow enforcement activity. It was noted that few residents' complaints have been received. ENCC may need to encourage the community to raise concerns to demonstrate case for additional resource. PC Martinez will investigate if an "inflatable Bob" is available.

Cllr Pottinger advised the meeting there will be a county wide speed consultation exercise following the adoption of the new speed review and roads hierarchy framework.

Concerns raised over the width of Newbattle Road between Abbey Road and Newbattle Abbey. Also, the road markings here are no longer visible. Roads Asset Manager has limited budget, allocated on priority basis. Street view shows cars over the centre line due to no markings.

Double Yellow lines are programmed to be refreshed on Dalhousie Road.

8 Active Travel: The woodland path between Newbattle Abbey Crescent and the A7 by the Sun Inn is in poor condition, not fully related to sewage leak clean up but it has worsened. Land is owned by Kerr family and so council funding unavailable for repair. Cllr Pottinger has referred path to council officers, Derek Oliver is to attend and investigate repair and charge to Scottish Water.

9 Communications: The ENCC newsletter was shared with Midlothian Federation of Community Councils, receiving positive feedback.

Discussion of recruitment drive for additional members to join ENCC. Christina proposed an article for Midlothian View, website and shared on the local community Facebook forum.

Defibrillator training to be arranged once Edinburgh College have confirmed if they can provide space to host training.

10 AOB: AGM to be held December.

Cllr McKenzie advised paper for Vogrie Park improvements have been agreed – toilets and car park payment/barrier upgrade.

Capital Roads programme resurfaced parts of Newbattle Rd and Bonnyrigg Rd with part of Abbey Rd due to start.

Rent consultation with tenants underway.

Petanque Piste likely to be installed in Kings Park following successful parks installed elsewhere.

High hedge order issued at last planning meeting.

Deficit of £13m for next year in council funding.

11 Date of Next Meeting: the next meeting will be Thursday 10 November at 6:30 pm in the Boardroom of Edinburgh College. Meetings are open and residents may attend. We encourage residents to raise points before meetings by contacting us by email or our website form so that we can seek answers to give at the meeting.

DRAFT