

DDCC MEETING MINUTES, 6th FEBRUARY 2023 (by Zoom).

Present: Julian Holbrook, Kate Holbrook, Duncan McAuslan, Alexis Moir, Gareth Derbyshire, Helen McKay, Constance Newbould, Alisa Carlisle, Mark Hartree

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies: David Newbould, Jo Gillies, John McLean, Pippa Thomson, Graeme Buchanan, Cllr Pauline Winchester, Paul Johnson (Midlothian Council)

2. Ratification of minutes, December 2022, and update on actions not on agenda
 - Minutes of last meeting were proposed by Mark Hartree and seconded by Helen McKay
 - Snowsports: Cost now estimated at £3.9M and expected to bring in £1m per year
 - School at Bush/Seafield Road crossroad will go ahead despite bigger number of pupils
3. Police Report is attached as Annex 1. There have been lots of accidents recently including a fatality on A702.

4. Midlothian Council proposed budget cuts

Responses to Midlothian Council proposals were requested within 7 days. CN wrote on behalf of DDCC and got standard response apart from Pauline Winchester and Derek Milligan. Many of the cuts proposed this year were proposed and rejected last year. JH suggests that we need to ask for a new approach, e.g. community wealth building. Midlothian Federation of Community Councils decided that none of the cuts are acceptable. Furthermore, the budget does not reflect the scale of recent building in Midlothian and needs to be recalculated on the basis of actual number of people in Midlothian.

There is a meeting on 7th February to discuss the budget at central government level.

ACTION: CN to ask about the number of houses built in Midlothian (and relative to other councils) over the last 5 years and the target. If possible, could this be broken down by settlement? What kind of land is being built on?

5. Traffic, roads and pavements

- MTRAP (Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths) update. MTRAP meeting was looking for suggestions for improvements to paths for next financial year. This year 10 projects were completed and 3 more will be completed by end of March. Old Pentland Road scheme will be carried forward to 23/24. An Active Travel Plan is needed but our previous suggestions submitted by Catriona have not been included. We need to pursue.
There has been recent activity in clearing drains on Old Pentland Road. CN advised that Wayne Clark Operations and Asset Manager Roads Acting Up for Midlothian Council, or Alan Heatley Network & Structures Manager Midlothian Council are best to contact with complaints. JH asked if he could be contacted before any action taken on the Burnside.

ACTION: CN to respond to BEAR.

6. Community

- Community Climate Action Plan. HM drew attention to the key table of proposed actions in the draft plan. Relatively few people had had a chance to consider the consultants' report. In general there was support for the suggestions although there was scepticism about how to take all the actions forward in terms of our capacity, the timings, and whether outside organisations would really be willing or able to lead the

actions. On the other hand, the survey includes useful information about areas of common interest which could be used to form small groups to take particular actions.

ACTION: HM and JH to send header to Jo to circulate plan.

ACTION: JH to respond to consultants asap.

▪ Superfast Broadband

Andrew Mitchell Scottish Government could not attend our meeting. There has been a delay in roll out. People expecting installation should chivvy the relevant installers to try to get it completed by the end of the financial year.

7. AOB

- Future format of DDCC meetings. Following a short discussion we agreed a mix of in-person and zoom meetings. The AGM in April will be by Zoom and the June meeting will be at the Steading when we will discuss other options for in-person meetings, e.g. the Glencorse Community Centre.
- Small Grants Funding update. HM received an email on 21st Feb notifying us that Midlothian has decided to remove all small grant funding in 23/24 as one of their money savings actions.
- AGM planned for 3 April.
ACTION: Anyone willing to volunteer to stand for DDCC or with suggestions of speakers to invite to contact JG.
- There has been no news of the proposed A701 Relief Road
- Hedgerows: verges and hedges are cut regularly on adopted roads for safety reasons, whereas Julian would prefer that only a proportion are cut so he's been asked to advise. Julian is mapping Damhead hedges.
ACTION: JH to provide an update for JG to circulate.
- Activities funded by Midlothian's 22/23 small grant
 - Bird boxes: 13 boxes up, 17 made and still to go up. Bat boxes not started.
ACTION: to circulate note asking willing hosts to respond.
 - Need decisions for areas to plant hedges and trees.
ACTION: Julian to give list of questions to be circulated.
- Website. HM suggested that it might be more efficient if some of the actions could be progressed through our website rather than circulating emails and asked what the current situation is.
ACTION: JG to approach John Marsh.
- **Date of AGM and next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 3 April 2023 (by zoom).**

In general, meetings will take place at 7.30 by zoom on the 1st Monday in every second month for 2023:

- 5 June
- 7 August
- 2 October
- 4 December.

Annex 1 Police Report



Damhead Police Report

December 2022 & January 2023



Hello all, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I have attached the incidents of interest to the Damhead area of Midlothian for December 2022 and January 2023. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself (PC Julie Hand) or PC Euan Lennox.

Incidents of Note

On 23rd December 2022, police were made aware of 1 car accident on Seafield Moor Road, Damhead. Police attended and the driver failed the roadside breath test. The driver was arrested and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

During the hours of 1300 to 2300, 29th December 2022, a property has been broken into on Seafield Moor Road, Damhead via the conservatory doors. Access was gained to the property however nothing was taken. Enquiries are ongoing to identify those involved.

On 31st December 2022, a male has been driving his car on Pentland Road, Damhead when a car on the opposing side of the road has hit his. A report was noted by police and enquiries are ongoing.

About 17:30 hours, 10th January 2023, police were made aware of an accident on the A702 near Boghall involving several cars. One of the drivers failed the roadside drugs swipe and was arrested. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. The road was shut for several hours to allow police enquiries.

About 13:30 hours, 12th January 2023, police received a call regarding a vehicle accident involving a car and a motor bike on the A702 at Boghall. Officers attended immediately and sadly the driver on the motorbike was pronounced dead at the scene. The A702 remained closed for several hours on said date.

Can I please ask everyone who lives in the area to complete the following survey, see link or QR code;

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2V9MKLR>

