

DDCC AGM minutes, 4 APRIL 2022 (by zoom)

Chair for AGM is Paul Johnson, Midlothian Council Community Liaison Officer

Present: Jo Gillies, Helen McKay, Ailsa Carlisle, Gareth Derbyshire, Pippa Thomson, Robin McBride, Victoria North, Mark Hartree, Keith Burwell, Stuart Clark, Liz Junor, Duncan McAuslan

In attendance: Paul Johnston MLC

Apologies: Constance Newbould, Catriona Umpleby, John McLean, Janice and Ian Milne, Alexis Moyer, Councillor Winchester

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Ratification of AGM April 2021 minutes: Moved by Duncan McAuslan and seconded by Victoria North
3. Chair's report (Constance Newbould, read by Jo Gillies)
Firstly, my apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting. We are away in Czechia visiting my new grandson, Lachlan.

This past year has been quite frustrating one way and another. Many parts of the Council who have been working from home have been difficult to contact. Hopefully this will improve going forward.

Over the last year we have as normal spent many hours replying or giving our views to the various planning applications, not least the A701 relief road. Despite the Council saying they would have a final option picked by early 2022 this still has not happened. I still maintain there is no necessity for the road and we have been in contact with as many people who may support us. They are currently carrying out 'non-intrusive environmental & ecological surveys' to give them 'essential information on the existing bat, badger, otter, water vole, great crested newt and winter and breeding birds'. All I can say is I do hope they will make use of the results and not ignore the findings as they do with other surveys. They are carrying this out until 31st October – hence I am not sure how they can make a decision on a specific route prior to that date?

With all the new housing developments we are keen to have an input to the Active Travel Plan and also the 20-minute neighbourhood plan as the current ATP is merely many short lines on a plan which are meaningless unless they can reach the wider area and be useful to the local residents.

The Old Pentland Road has seen more serious accidents over the last year and despite our attempts we have been unable to have speed restrictions implemented on this road. With the landfill nearing completion hopefully there will be less lorries but I do plan to still fight for restrictions to be put in place.

We are a very small committee but we have been helped immensely by Robin and Anna. Robin has spent many hours fighting our corner to have Broadband installed in the area and fingers crossed we will all have it by the end of this year! Anna has taken over the litter picking and this has made a big difference to our verges despite the best attempts of the customers of Burger King and others.

Thank you both, also thank you to Jo our Secretary and Helen our treasurer for a successful bid for funding. More to come from Helen about this.

Now that we are living with Covid we are planning a Summer Gathering once again and I hope to see lots of you there.

4. Treasurer's report (Helen McKay). The opening balance was £1496.90. On 8th April the Midlothian Small Grant of £210 was added and there were four quarterly additions of £0.21 interest. There were no withdrawals leaving the end of year balance at £1707.74. Our application for 2022-23 had been successful providing us with £90 for running costs, £180 to put towards speed warning signs, £565 for trees and hedges, and £560 for bird and bat boxes.

HM informed the meeting that we have registered for on-line banking, with the three office holders as authorised signatories.

Paul Johnson explained that although our accounts did not need to be formally audited, they are required to be independently examined by a competent person with no direct connection to DDCC. In view of the simplicity of the 21/22 accounts PJ was content to accept them without further scrutiny.

5. Secretary's report (Jo Gillies). Meetings on Zoom had allowed more people to attend. Unfortunately, the Police cannot attend Zoom meetings although they do provide reports regularly. Attendance by Councillors is very poor with the exception of Pauline Winchester. Many people have helped with community activities, e.g., litter picks and responding to planning applications. A lot of time has been spent responding to planning issues, especially on proposal for the A701 relief road though specialist information is often required. The oil circle helps to keep costs down and additional members are welcome. Our summer gathering will be held at Pentland House on 4th June.

6. Proposed changes to the DDCC Constitution to allow virtual meetings and BACS payments. The proposed amendments had been discussed at a previous meeting in February and circulated before the AGM. The proposed amendments to the Constitution were passed on a show of hands. The revised DDCC Constitution (including the amendments) should be forwarded to PJ. One remaining point was the timing of the DDCC AGM. The timing of Midlothian Community Council AGM's will be discussed at the next Midlothian Federation meeting. DDCC will then revisit our timing (our Constitution says that the AGM will be held in May). **ACTION:** PJ will then update DDCC on the outcome of the discussions held at the April MFCC meeting.

7. Stand down of office bearers and current community councillors.

8. Election of new community councillors. Valid nomination forms had been submitted by Ailsa Carlisle, Constance Newbould, Jo Gillies, and Helen McKay. All applications were in order so all four were elected. Duncan McAuslan had intended to apply but did not make the deadline because of illness. PJ says we could accept a nomination if DM is willing to submit his application, otherwise DM will be co-opted to the Community Council.

9. Election of new office bearers PT nominated Constance Newbould as Chair, seconded RM; DM nominated Jo Gillies as secretary, seconded by MH; AC nominated Helen McKay as Treasurer, seconded by MH. LJ proposed Jo Gillies as Vice Chair (stand-in on an occasional basis), seconded by HM.

10. AOB. None

11. Date of next AGM: Monday 3 April 2023