

**Mayfield and Easthouses Community Council  
(MAECC) Minutes of Meeting  
05 May 2021 7pm – Meeting held via Zoom**

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The minutes below were approved by Craig Gallier and seconded by Judy Thomson. During the community council meeting on 3 June 2021.

Attendees: R. Hogg (Chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Laura Wahlberg (Secretary), Sharon Hill, Lynda Christison, Craig Gallier, Cllr Peter Smaill, Cllr Stuart Mackenzie, Stephen Liddell, Katie Brash, Cllr John Hackett. Tracy Lee Armitt

Apologies: Michael Hogg, Theresa Morrison, Richard Bryce,

**1. Welcome and apologies**

RH (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies (documented above). Cllr Stuart Mackenzie publicly acknowledged the help that Cllr Peter Smaill has given him since he was elected Councillor and RH agreed that he has also worked very hard on behalf of the Community Council recently. RH also welcomed Cllr Stuart Mackenzie to his first meeting of MAECC.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The April 2021 minutes were discussed and moved by Judy Thomson and seconded by Stephen Liddell.

RH nominated Craig Gallier to become a member of the Community Council. This was seconded by Judy Thomson. The group welcomed Craig.

**3. Police Report**

The police report covering April 2021 has been received and was read aloud by RH. This will be published on the Facebook site after the CC meeting.

The ongoing issue of off road motorcycles was discussed among the group, which is causing great nuisance to the community.

**4. Correspondence**

Waste: Regular complaints are received from residents relating to communal waste (Dougall Court, Bogwood Road, Stone Place etc). Chris Lawson (Midlothian Council) has been contacted and has carried out a site visit followed by clean-ups. Of note, Chris Lawson will be leaving the Council shortly for a secondment.

Also in relation to waste, Cllr PS highlighted that Stobhill recycling now has 8-10 car parking spots. Also bulky uplift service has now resumed.

**5. Planning**

**Bryan's School site (housing):** Still awaiting permission from Scottish Water.

**MFI site:** Contractor has target date for completion as mid June. Again Scottish Water have held this development back. The Community Council and other community groups will be invited to the opening, where the limestone designed by local schools will be erected. The Chair requested

a tidy up to be carried out at the site at the beginning of June.

**Derelict caravan site behind Shell garage** has been sold to developers and could potentially hold 50-60 housing. This is at pre-application stage with Midlothian Council.

### **South Mayfield Pre Planning Application**

In 2003 three sites Newtongrange East, Lingerwood, South Mayfield were allocated for housing via the local plan. In 2008 Dykeneuk was added. This would result in an estimated 800 new homes taking up 168 hectares that is roughly three quarters of the size of the current Mayfield area. To date 70 houses have been built in East Newtongrange and 60 in South Mayfield (Persimmons). In March 2021 Springfield plc submitted a pre-application consultation to Midlothian Council. They are now applying for a screening option so as not to submit an environmental impact assessment (as they state there will be no environmental impact...). A public exhibition was held on 28<sup>th</sup> April. The Community Council is working with Gorebridge and Newtongrange Community Councils in relation to this application.

Update 05/05/21: Committed to 25% of (735) social housing. Easthouses Primary School will be used instead of building a New Mayfield Primary School, and developer contributions will be used to build this. Around 300 primary school pupils will come from this development, which the new Easthouses Primary could not cope with. Developer stated that an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required, and full planning application will be lodged by the end of the year. Public consultation will take place at the end of the month and community will have until 12<sup>th</sup> June to comment. Stephen Liddell suggested that we gather as many comments from our community, and then put the list of concerns to Springfield so that they can contribute these in the next stage of the plan. JT suggested that the CC hold a separate community consultation. KB requested that the plan is taken to the Youth Parliament to collect the views of young people, as this will be their future, it was agreed that KB would encourage young people to attend the next Springfield public meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

John Hackett suggested that local communities when objecting to planning applications, align them to the local development plan, and local issues that these would cause.

### **North Mayfield site**

Approval in principle subject to 18 (comprehensive) conditions. Stephen Liddell will provide a full update at the June meeting.

**Old Newbattle High School Site – Easthouses Primary School:** Work underway and update will be given at next meeting in relation to capacity issues in light of new developments and catchment areas.

## **6. Community Report**

**In It Together Update:** Masterplan has been delayed due to viability issues. Realistically finding a developer who would be willing to develop over 20-30 years is proving difficult. Parts of the master plan could happen soon though – e.g. the community building could go ahead.

**MAEDT:** Looking into providing a community meal once a month in partnership with the local mosque. Exercise classes beginning Mondays and Thursdays (2x6 weeks blocks, with 15 places on each class). Community café is open for tea/coffee and biscuits and the plan is to recruit a cook to provide meals during the day (toasties etc).

Suicide Awareness sessions taking place 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 3-4pm via Zoom. Simon Millar is

holding these.

Newbattle Storehouse has moved from Newtongrange Church to Mayfield Church and now called Newbattle Food Initiative (foodbank). Sharon Hill asked for the help of the three councillors in getting into the office space.

**Federation Report** – Bonnyrigg and Poltonhall on their way to be joining up – which will lead to 15 community councils in Midlothian as opposed to 16 that there are currently. At the last meeting the issue of Zoom was raised and why police cannot use this to join community council meetings.

Shows approached the Chair and asked if they can come to the Mayfield area mid-summer. This will need to wait on government guidance.

Litterpicks have been taking place throughout the Midlothian area in recent weeks and will continue in the coming months.

## **8. Environmental Report**

Lynda Christison (resident) was in attendance and a discussion took place in relation to Wildflower removal at Easthouses and Mayfield Parks. Midlothian Council have been in and cut the grass however the wildflower areas have been left alone and is an eyesore and attracting rats. Justin Venton has been contacted. Cllr Smaill suggested that the three Councillors carry out a walk around of the area alongside James Kinch. (Midlothian Council).

There is also a significant issue with rats in Easthouses Park too which is likely being aggravated by the large areas of overgrown and weeded wildflower. Cllr Smaill stated that Environmental Health are aware and an update will be given at the next meeting. Cllr Hackett reminded the group that the grass-cutting budget has also been cut and there is a significant review of neighbourhood services underway (to make them more effective).

It was agreed to donate £100 from the Community Council to both Mayfield and Easthouses parks through the volunteers maintaining them. Treasurer to organise this with the volunteers.

## **9. Treasurer's report**

We received our administrative grant from Midlothian Council of £300 this month and paid our usual bill of £5.99 for website/domain. Other incomings and outgoings were for shopping still being carried out as part of the Community Resilience work, which we hope will be wound down soon. Current balance of £7918.89

## **10. A.O.B.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 3 June 2021.