

Mayfield and Easthouses Community Council (MAECC)

Minutes of Meeting

07 August 2019 7pm – McSence Business Park

The minutes below were approved on 4 September by George Jackson and seconded by Judy Thomson.

Attendees: Robert Hogg (Chair), Michael Hogg (Vice Chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Laura Wahlberg (Secretary), George Jackson, John Weighand (resident), Ann Weighand (resident), Helen Watson, Wilma O'Meara, Charles Morris, Tom Hannan, Tracylee Armit, David McQueenie (Easthouses FC), A Blackhurst, Elaine Cowan (resident).

Apologies: Cllr Smaill, PC Trevor Newton-Jones, Cllr Hackett. Rudi Bregulla, Theresa Morrison, Stephen Liddell.

1. Welcome and apologies

RH (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies (documented above).

2. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes were approved by George Jackson and seconded by Tracylee Armit.

3. Police report

There was no police in attendance but a report was submitted and read aloud at the meeting.

- For the month of June there were 212 calls received to the Mayfield and Easthouses beat area (ME04.). Calls covered all areas of policing activity including, thefts, disturbances, vandalisms, misuse of drugs, road traffic matters, assisting members of the public and those of a domestic nature.
- From these calls 38 crimes were recorded with 23 to date being solved, providing a solvency rate of 60%. The solvency rate is expected to rise further on completion of various investigations.
- In all there were 8 youth related calls, relating to general noise/nuisance in the street, kicking of footballs at cars and houses, a report of youths on garage roofs and two for youths thought to be drunk. There were four calls regarding off road motorcycles at various locations, particularly at the top of Mayfield.
- For the month of July there were 222 calls received to the Mayfield and Easthouses beat area (ME04). Calls covered areas of policing activity including thefts, vandalisms, misuse of drugs, road traffic matters, assisting members of the public and those of a domestic nature.
- From these calls 29 crimes were recorded with 14 to date being solved, providing a solvency rate of 48%. The solvency rate is expected to rise further on completion of ongoing investigations.
- For July there were 5 youth related calls, relating to youths gathering, suspected drunk, throwing stones and building of fires within dens in woods. This considered to be a particularly low number of calls considering the school summer holiday period, meaning a continuation of a trend in this respect. There were 5 calls

regarding off road motor cycles, mostly relating to the top of Mayfield. Proactive officers along with the CAT teams have been targeting this issue.

- The serious road traffic accident involving two boys was discussed at the meeting. A report has been requested from the police regarding road traffic accidents on this road, in particular as there is no lay-by for buses at this stop and can pose serious threats to safety for those crossing.
- Garages at Stone Place was discussed as ongoing ASB there including a firerarsing on 06/08 as youths are using this as a den in the colder/wet nights – this was previously a hotspot for youth disorder and drug misuse.
- A resident raised the issue of motorcycles creating loud noise nuisance in the area of Saint Lukes Way and Blackcot. Residents were urged to call police and report with description/times/days in order to deploy resources.

4. Car Parking for Easthouses Football Club

David McQueenie attended the meeting to request the removal of the temporary path and install a proper path from the gate to the football ground. The main reason for this request is for access for emergency vehicles as currently there is no proper access. David requested a site meeting between CC and Midlothian Council. A resident queried who has the keys for the bollard however it was stated the bollard is not locked. Also there is little car parking facility, although here is an overflow car park there is no signage for visiting teams. Also David wanted to update residents that no cars are being parked on the grass. RH will organise a site visit with Midlothian Council to address the issues raised and asked David McQueenie to get photos of the area.

5. Easthouses Primary School

The site of the new two tier Easthouses primary school is on the grounds of the old Newbattle High School. Work is due to start in Spring 2020 with completion date Summer 2021. There was some discussion around the changes to the school catchment areas and how this will not suit some residents. Safety issue was raised regarding children from the primary school attending the high school and crossing Easthouses Road (it would have been better planned if the primary school was in the complex next to the High School). A pathway has been requested to be installed behind Lothian Road and to the Dykes and into the new primary school – negotiation is ongoing between Midlothian Council and the Duke of Buccleuch who owns the land. The community council have also suggested the primary school be named Newbattle Primary School as opposed to Easthouses Primary School in order to uphold the history of Newbattle High School.

A more contentious issue is the plan for a primary school in the area of Kippielaw. It appears that meetings have gone on behind the backs of the community council between Gladstone and Midlothian Council and freedom of information requests are currently being submitted to uncover the truth behind the secret negotiations and ensure a fair and transparent public consultation. The community council is sternly objecting to the school at Kippielaw as there is no benefit to the community, the issues of coalescence, and safety risk due to the gas line pipe that is located behind Kippielaw.

Linked to the schools, school higher and standard grade results were issued this week – the chair is keen to examine the results of the new Newbattle High School in light of the new building and teaching staff as historically the school has sat at the bottom of the league table.

6. Correspondence

None.

7. Planning Report

Pinewood Road update – legal bills well over £100,000 (scaffolding alone was £80,000, likely double that as only just taken down). Agreed for demolition of properties. Estimated completion date for demolition August 2019 then rebuilding will take place.

Bryans School Site – application for a path to be installed with entrance/exit at Rowantree Road/David Scott Avenue and Conifer Road. MAECC asked for this and agreement finally drawn between Melville and Midlothian Council. Anticipated that house build will start in March/April 2020.

Lime Kiln Site/MFI – Anticipated completion date October 2019. Reassurance from Melville that height is within limit and will be four storeys (it looks higher than this at present due to builders lift however this will come down post build).

Rowantree Inn – Owner of the land has shown a preference to sell to Iris and keep the building. A new application has been submitted to Midlothian Council for sixteen flats from the developer. The Community Council submitted a letter of support to the planning committee in support of Iris' application and to secure the building as a family home. No update at this meeting however update will be given at next meeting.

Old Mayfield Leisure Centre Site – In It Together Group is looking to develop Bogwood Court and rebuild it. This will include the site of the old leisure centre. Need to wait until 31st October 2019 re the European Funding. However there are reports that the education dept are looking to use the site of the old leisure centre for a new Mayfield Primary School.

8. Environmental Report

Ongoing **fly tipping** in the community. A resident mentioned a photograph that was posted on facebook of a male fly tipping however the Chair reminded the group that the CC is a public organisation and they cannot allow people

Easthouses Park - In previous years the wildflower in Mayfield park has been beautiful however the parks are now full of weeds, nettles and is a disgrace. Resident John Weighand has contacted Cllr John Hackett a number of times regarding the state of Easthouses Park however has not received a response. Justin Venton from Midlothian Council has carried out a walkabout and agreed that Easthouses Park was a disgrace. He has assured resident Weighand that the grass behind the bowling club will be cut in the next two weeks. There was some discussion that council officials have said that they are awaiting money from developers in order to update the park. Easthouses has been named as the worst park in Midlothian – there are no flowerbeds, no pathway around the park, the grass is wild, full of nettles and smashed glass. A resident stated he will be billing the council following his dog receiving a cut paw from glass in the park. Also there are tics in the long grass which was reported to the council however the resident was merely told not to allow children near the long grass. There are a reported 60 employees working for the parks dept at Midlothian Council however they will not pick up cans or glass due to health and safety issues – a resident stated how they had to pick up the glass and cans herself in front of council workers who were set in a van. The

Chair will raise this issue with Cllr Hackett next week and suggested a petition be organised and posted on the facebook page or contact Advertiser. Pubic pressure is required to get things done.

There was some discussion around the banning of a **weed killer** by the SNP and Conservative councillors in Midlothian - a weed killer that is used by the NHS and other organisations and has not been banned from the Scottish Government. The community council was in uproar at this. It was noted this is on the agenda at the 21 August full council meeting. There was a unanimous agreement that Easthouses Park is in a desolate state and requires money to be spent on weed killing, flowers, a pathway, and clearing smashed glass.

9. Councillor's Report

No apologies were received from Cllr Baird and no updates were received from Cllr Smail or Cllr Hackett.

10. Community Report

Safe walking routes to schools – following a campaign by a local resident the council are no longer withdrawing the bus service to schools for pupils.

There are three **signs** 'Welcome to Easthouses' 'Welcome to Mayfield' located in the area and the Community council pay for the flowerbeds within. There are now plans to make summer and winter signs that will be displayed.

A resident stated that **traffic lights** outside the community club are only intermittently working. The Chair will follow this up.

11. Treasurer's Report

Paid out DVD sharing cost, keys for notice board and payments for internet and renewal of domain name. Balance £2221.20.

12. A.O.B.

Thank you to everyone who attended and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 4 September 2019.