

**DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th March 2019 at 7pm
IN ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH HALL**

PRESENT:

RDCC: Ann Montague (Secretary), Helen Blackburn (Treasurer), Mike Anderson (Committee Member)

COUNCILLORS: Cllr. Pauline Winchester

APOLOGIES: John Sime (Chair),

RESIDENTS: 20

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1	POLICE REPORT	
1.1	PC Alan Forbes reported the Rosewell Crime statistics for Dec18 – Jan19 which can be viewed on RDCC website CRIME REPORTS page. The meeting was reminded of the numbers to contact Police Scotland when telephoning, also Your View Counts – details are on the report.	Police/ Residents
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting 21.1.19	
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 st January 2019 were read and approved.	
3	Road and Traffic concerns from School PTA's	
	<p>Midlothian Council were invited to the meeting but declined as most of the issues appear to be caused by bad driver behaviour, however suggested more enforcement action by the Police may be what is needed. They did send a detailed account of the Council's remit on this issue which is as follows:</p> <p>Responsible for enforcement of waiting and loading restrictions, which in Rosewell are limited to the School Keep Clear and Bus Stop markings. These markings are due to be refreshed and signed again shortly, and if there are problems with drivers stopping vehicles illegally after that they can send out attendants when possible. Enforcement action against speeding, driving/parking on footway, obstructions (including sightlines) and other dangerous driving is a Police responsibility. Much of Carnethie Street already has a 20mph limit and traffic calming. This used speed cushions, rather than full-width road-humps, to reduce the disadvantages to bus users, as well as to reduce the possibility of road vibration causing problems. MC also intend to put in place some 20mph roundels on the road to reinforce the speed limit.</p> <p>Regarding the issues at the schools – there is a school travel plan co-ordinator who works with both schools (including parent councils) to produce a school plan every two years. The school travel plan looks at ways to increase walking cycling to school, reducing the cars at the gate, and also at making the routes safer so that more children/parents do walk and cycle.</p> <p>Police Scotland's traffic department were also invited to the meeting, however thought this matter was an engineering issue which Midlothian Council are better placed to comment upon. The Road Policing Traffic Management Officer would be carrying out a joint site visit with MC and feedback the outcome of their meeting to us. The local officer will attend this meeting and provide an update on the road safety work which has been carried out by Police around Rosewell.</p> <p>Residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • due to the inconsiderate parking around the schools there have been some near misses and something has to be done before there are casualties. • there needs to be clearer signage warning of school ahead, perhaps flashing signs. The village has grown a lot since 2010, it's now 2019 and there's a lot more traffic. • developer contributions should be used. Could it be as part of planning permission • entering village from A6094 (North) – its 40, then 30, then 20mph in a very short distance, it would be better having being 20mph along the length of Carnethie Street. • local business vehicles ignore speed limits in the village. 	Midlothian Council/ Police Scotland/ RDCC/ PTA's

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who is responsible for area immediately outside the schools? • would it be helpful if Schools and PTA's wrote letters to council? • there were 15 drivers stopped for speeding at a recent Police check. • barriers at St. Matthews are buckled and need upgraded. • signage to show there is a school needs updated. • speeding is only part of the problem – badly parked cars on corners etc, children are told not to cross between parked cars, which can be impossible in Carnethie St. It is particularly difficult for children to cross at the corner junction of Gorton Rd/Carnethie Street with three-way traffic. • it's just a matter of time before there is an accident. • It was suggested both schools keep near miss forms to keep records and build a profile and proof of why there needs to be change. • could a zebra crossing be installed? <p>Secretary – markings on the road outside the schools are MC responsibility and they can send out traffic attendants, when available. Rosewell Neighbourhood Group has offered to help raise funds for signs, but no response from Midlothian Council.</p> <p>Cllr. Winchester – it would be helpful to write letters to local councillors as well. Also there has been a proposal to reduce 30mph roads to 20mph in Midlothian. It would be helpful to get the traffic wardens to visit the area unannounced in the mornings and afternoons – this has worked at other schools in Midlothian.</p> <p>PC Alan Forbes – on 22nd February a road policing officer carried out a site visit from 09.45 till 10.20hrs and noted Carnethie Street is a wide road with cars parked on full length between both schools and because of width of road there's enough room for cars to pass, with a couple of points where they have to slow down to give way. Outside both schools have yellow painted zig zag keep clear markings, which is clear outside Rosewell Primary, however faded outside St. Matthews. Across the road from Rosewell Primary, there was parked cars and nowhere for parents to stop and drop off children and the same at St Matthews. Although not his area of expertise and not knowing how practical it could be, he suggested some sort of priority traffic calming, where one side of the road gets closed off with a pinch point in the middle (chicane), where drivers have to slow down. He also commented on parents parking & driver behaviour and local police getting involved.</p> <p>Resident asked about parking on the pavement – it is an offence and this could be the reason the surface appears damaged.</p> <p>Resident – are you able to deal with speeding buses and business vehicles – letters could be written and a campaign of education is something we can look at and I will report back to my sergeant.</p>	
	TREASURER'S REPORT.	
4.1	<p>The balance in our account is £2280.58 which includes Rosewell Neighbourhood Group's money being operated separately from RDCC money. Breakdown of account is:</p> <p>RDCC Balance - £507.58</p> <p>RNG Balance - £1773.00 with pending payments of £1024.61 for electrical installation of defibrillator, which will leave RNG a balance of £748.39</p>	Treasurer
5.	LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORT.	
5.1	<p>Cllr. Pauline Winchester reported that at the budget meeting it was decided Council Tax will be going up 4.79% across all bands. There were things saved due to a change in the budget at the last minute, but MC still had to make a saving of 9.5 million pounds from last year and it appears the same will have to happen next year and the year after.</p> <p>Resident asked what the take up was of the brown bins.</p> <p>Cllr Winchester – the aim was 50% but we do not have the information yet. There has been a number of complaints about the online payment, which is being looked at for next year.</p>	Cllr. Winchester /Residents
6.	CHAIRS REPORT	

6.1	Crown Estate Scotland - (Interim Management) held a drop-in event in Rosewell Resource Centre on Wednesday 27 th Feb 2019 as part of their comprehensive consultation on how Crown Estate Scotland rural land and property is managed on behalf of Scottish Ministers. Through working with others, they innovate with land and property to create prosperity for Scotland and its communities. This includes ensuring families, businesses and communities can live, work and thrive on the assets. All revenue profit is paid to Scottish Government for public spending. The consultation period runs from 15 February until 26 April. The final rural assets strategy that follows this consultation will cover 2019 to 2023 and be aligned with wider Scottish Government policy and guidance. Links to the consultation is on our website.	Crown Estate/ Public
7.	SECRETARY'S REPORT	
7.1	Midlothian Council's lifelong learning staff met with a group of residents in the Resource Centre to ask if the community would be interested in writing a book about the history of Rosewell. This is a new group and plan to meet once a fortnight with the next meeting on 11 th March at 1.30 – all welcome.	Midlothian Council/ Residents
7.2	Community Resilience planning groups following on from the public survey last September, asking what more could be done to help support volunteers in an emergency. Volunteers will be invited by MC to meet week beginning 11 th March – we will confirm date and venue. A range of skills are needed to make these groups work - things like driving to the chemist, making cups of tea and talking to people are just as important as helping clear snow from paths.	Midlothian Council/ RDCC/ RDT
7.3	Bonnyrigg Rose Community - reach out to reduce social isolation and loneliness in our community. Working in partnership with 'Health in Mind' and sponsored by the local Co-op invite Senior Citizens and likeminded people the opportunity to meet in a lovely, safe environment. Food provided as well as bingo and other entertainment... Where: Poltonhall Pavilion. When: The last Friday of every month, 7pm - 9 pm Transport can be provided upon request. Contact details on website/FB/Notice board	Police/ RDCC/ Residents
7.4	Mary Poppins Returns – is being screened in St Matthews Church Hall on Saturday 13 th April 15.00-17.00	Residents
8.	UPDATE ON MAJOR AND LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS	
8.1	Rosslynlee Hospital Site – at Midlothian Councils planning meeting on 19 th February the Planning Committee gave consent for this development against officer recommendations. reasons put forward by councillors in favour of the development were: - if we say no, we'll have to spend money fighting an appeal which we'll probably lose - if we say no, we'll allow Midlothian's biggest listed building to go to rack and ruin. a) Secretary asked Cllr. Winchester if would like to share her reasons for her decision to vote for this development. Cllr. Winchester asked if anyone had looked around Rosslynlee Hospital? It's an absolute fabulous building and personally think it would be a shame to lose it. Some residents disagreed - there's painful memories attached to this hospital for a number of residents in our communities. b) Cllr. Winchester , I know there are provisions for Councils to issue an Urgent Works Notice if it had gone to rack and ruin, but it is in rack and ruin and it's going to cost millions to turn it into flats, which, it is going to be changed into. If the developer Oakridge (limited company) who own it at the moment had not got planning permission would've been quite able to say sorry we can't afford it and close the limited company. If we had voted against it, then it was likely it would have gone to the reporter and we were likely to have lost it, which could have cost Midlothian Council thousands & thousands of pounds. As far as I'm aware, from a history and historic buildings buff in the council – it is Midlothian's largest listed building! It is only a Category C listed building, but it is still listed and because there are some features in there I would like to see saved. Every councillor in Midlothian Council sits on the planning committee and we don't operate as members in parties, as	Midlothian Council Planning

	<p>it happens this is the first time (I think) that the 5 Conservative councillors have voted the same way on any planning issue. The SNP councillors voted the same way as the Conservative councillors and it was carried by a majority.</p>	
c)	<p>The Section 75 payment were turned down initially by the planning officers because they weren't giving enough. There's an argument whether it's called an enabling development or not. Residents say it's not an enabling development.</p> <p>Cllr. Winchester - 'that is your argument', there is another argument to say it is an enabling development.</p>	
d)	<p>Resident - asked who owns the building and asked why this building had been left to get into such a state of disrepair? Secretary - Oakridge bought the site from NHS for £800k in 2015. Oakridge had a community consultation event in this hall (26/5/16) and came along to our RDCC meeting here on 23/4/18 at which Rupert De Klee told us 'ideally this should be a win win win situation' and there would be meaningful contributions to the essential services on which it relies. We are now left to question this? Cllr. Winchester – well the essential services on which it relies were education.</p>	
e)	<p>Resident – what about community facilities? Cllr. Winchester - they will be providing a community centre at the development.</p>	
f)	<p>Secretary – when RDCC asked Oakridge if they were planning improvements to the infrastructure? Answer given - transport is a big concern and they would be advised by Midlothian Council.</p>	
g)	<p>When RDCC asked why there was no safe route to school in their transport report? Answer - given the distance children will be taken by bus. Cllr. Winchester – they will be taken by car! Secretary – at a previous meeting you stated that there is a legal distance in which pupils must have transport provided. Cllr. Winchester – Legally if it's three miles from the school, which it is not. Secretary pointed out it is to Lasswade High, which will be a cost of thousands to the council (tax payers).</p>	
h)	<p>At the RDCC meeting on 23rd April 2018 Oakridge claimed to have saved NHS thousands of pounds by providing 24hr security on the site, yet there has been numerous 'raves' and more recently over 100 smashed windows! Cllr. Winchester – there is 24hr security and has been for months, but not sure when it started.</p>	
i)	<p>Resident spoke of a policy where the worse the decline, the better their argument for it to get through planning. Cllr. Winchester – No, the bigger their argument is to get it knocked down.</p>	
j)	<p>Resident claimed our community do not believe what has been said them or to MC and believe it will be sold on within months. Also, if a large developer buys the site and claims it is not feasible, they could go to Scottish Government and ask for permission to knocked it down because it's a C listed building. Cllr. Winchester – it is a condition of planning that the building is developed.</p>	
k)	<p>Secretary asked if Cllr. Winchester had facts and figures to establish cost effectiveness of saving the building and proposed development before making her decision. Cllr. Winchester said yes, they had all the facts and figures and that the Section 75 contribution for education does include the cost of buses and is being paid for 100%, the developer contributions which haven't been put on is the Borders Railway and I don't think any housing in Rosewell should pay towards it.</p>	

l)	<p>Resident – Our Community Hub lost out because of payment towards Borders Railway, so how are they managing to get away without paying?</p> <p>Cllr. Winchester – because the Councillors voted for it.</p>	
m)	<p>Resident – this will have a horrendous effect on this community with more site traffic to contend with coming through the village.</p> <p>Cllr. Winchester – site traffic should not come through the village and should use the A6094.</p> <p>Resident – Lorries are coming through the village now because it's the only place to get something to eat.</p>	
n)	<p>Resident asked how much council tax payers will contribute toward this development?</p> <p>Cllr. Winchester – Council tax payers will not pay a penny in relation to this development.</p> <p>Resident – It will cost the tax payer millions to upgrade roads going into the development.</p>	
o)	<p>Asked how many listed building owners are assisted by Midlothian Council?</p> <p>A resident said they don't – this is a first.</p> <p>Questioned the relevance of a planning department in Midlothian Council, when councillors go against their expert decisions.</p> <p>Cllr. Winchester – this does not happen often. Very rarely does this happen.</p>	
p)	<p>Resident – there is insufficient infrastructure and there has been no planning to support this development of over 400 houses.</p> <p>Cllr. Winchester – we are not allowed to turn any planning application down on the fact there are no school places, infrastructure, roads are not up to date or doctor surgeries can't cope with the influx.</p>	
q)	<p>Resident – why bother consulting communities when nobody listens to what we say. It's a wasted exercise. Both Rosewell and Roslin/Bilston CC's made comments to planning and feel we have been completely ignored</p> <p>Cllr. Winchester – I wouldn't say completely ignored, but sitting on the planning committee we are expected to take a balanced view and, in my view, at that time it was given the go ahead from me because all the questions I wanted were answered.</p>	
r)	<p>Resident – you answered the question earlier when you said that the reason it was passed was if it went to appeal it would cost the council thousands of pounds to fight the appeal, which the council don't have. Therefore, to pass a huge development like this with the effect it will have on our community – nobody understands how bad this is going to be. The A6094 will become even more of a death trap.</p>	
s)	<p>Resident asked why it took so long to sell the site because it was closed in 2010 and why was it allowed to get into such disrepair. Apparently, it had been pitched to a number of developers who showed no interest.</p>	
8.2	Residents asked if Cllr Winchester could take forward a request for the flower buckets at the cemeteries to be replaced with larger ones. Requests have been made to MC.	Cllr. Winchester
8.3	Cllr. Winchester was asked follow up on the request about the wheelchair access path to the top graves in the new cemetery.	Cllr. Winchester
8.4	A resident spoke of youths drinking in the cemetery. Cllr. Winchester will pass this on to the Community Sergeant.	Cllr. Winchester
9.	UPDATE ON ROSEWELL DEVELOPMENT TRUST	
9.1	<p>Work has now gone out to tender and there should be feedback by second week in April, after which a meeting with all the funders, including a representative from Midlothian Council will make a joint decision on who to go with. The Community will be updated as work progresses. It is hoped there will be people on site to work in April and it will take a year to 18 months to bring to completion. Plans for the new Community Hub can be viewed on MC planning portal and there is also a link on RDT's Facebook page.</p> <p>As Midlothian Council have cut back on flower planting, a new group has been established in the village 'Rosewell in Bloom' who are looking for willing volunteers to help plant and maintain</p>	RDT/ Residents

	<p>planters and other areas around the village. The groups first meeting is on Wednesday 20th March for everyone who is interested, or contact RDT for update.</p> <p>Kids World citizens are fundraising for the Rock Trust, which is a charity that works with young people who are encountering homelessness. They are planning to do a sponsored walk and they have a 'just giving page' if anyone feels compelled to give a little donation to reach their target of £200</p> <p>RDT's litter pick is on 23rd March – meet at 09.30 outside the Resource Centre. Help make the village look nice and get refreshments afterwards.</p> <p>If anyone has any questions, or needs more information, please contact the RDT office or Robert Scott on 0131 629 9398 for more details on any of the groups and projects run by the Trust. RDT's website – http://www.rdtrosewell.org.uk/eventcalendar/</p>	
10.	UPDATE ON ROSEWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP	
10.1	Calendar – The 2019 Calendar. It has been noted there are 2 pancake days, which surely can only be a good thing!	RNG/ Residents
10.2	Community Accessible Defibrillator – Defibrillator Cabinet has been delivered to Rosewell Primary School where it is to be installed. We will update everyone once it has been placed.	RNG
9.3	Meetings – The group's next meeting is on Thursday 7 th where we will be discussing new projects to take forward. New members are always welcome.	RNG/ Residents
11.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
11.1	There have been a number of complaints about bird scares that have been going off for a number of weeks. A resident spoke of NFU guidelines and another said RSPB had also been contacted, who apparently said it was illegal due to geese in the area! Another resident said the rape was now beyond the pigeons and thought it was quieter because they're running out of gas, but this could occur next year and could be closer due to crop rotation. RDCC will contact MC	RDCC/ MC
12.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
12.1	The next meeting will be held on Monday 15 th April 2019 at 7pm in Rosewell Parish Church Hall. MEETING DATES for 2019	Chair

UPDATES ARE ADDED AT REGULAR INTERVALS TO THE RDCC WEBSITE TO KEEP RESIDENTS INFORMED OF PROGRESS ON MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS, COMMUNITY NEWS, AND EVENTS. INFORMATION IS ALSO POSTED ON THE COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD IN THE PUBLIC GARDEN AT THE CORNER OF CARNETHIE STREET/GORTON ROAD
www.community-council.org.uk/RosewellandDistrict

If you would like to discuss any matter relating to Rosewell with RDCC, or add your address to our mailing list, please contact our Secretary – details below:

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