



## **DRAFT minutes of meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7pm**

### **PRESENT:**

RDCC COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Helen Blackburn (Treasurer), Edith Cameron (Secretary), Jamie Scanlon, Janey Hoeflich

RESIDENTS: 21

ATTENDEES: 0

**APOLOGIES:** Moray Simon (Chair), The Police, Cllr Pauline Winchester, Cllr Russell Imrie.

The AGM took place - paperwork from this will be uploaded separately

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March were approved.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The balance in our account is £3504.91. This includes money ring-fenced for replacement defibrillator pads.

### **LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORT:**

No formal report was received from any of our 3 councillors. All 3 responded to the strongly worded letter from the secretary regarding their lack of attendance at meetings and gave the following reasons for non-attendance:

**Councillor Kelly Parry** - "I can confirm receipt of this email and would very much welcome future engagement with RDCC. I will prioritise the meeting you mention below, but I am also happy to meet with RDCC any time."

**Councillor Russell Imrie** - "thank you for your email the reason for not replying sooner was I was waiting for confirmation on another meeting which has now been confirmed therefore I will not be able to attend the community council meeting on Monday. However if there is anything that needs further discussion/information please get in touch and I will only be happy to help where I can. I will certainly endeavour to make future meetings."

**Councillor Pauline Winchester** - "Unfortunately two community councils sometimes clash so I have to choose which one to attend (which happened last time)".

This led to discussion at the meeting and it was suggested that the Secretary make a formal complaint to each of the councillor's party leaders regarding the councillors non-attendance for so long. Each councillor is paid £18K per year and it is one of their duties to attend community council meetings. It was also requested that the Secretary write asking them to conduct surgeries in Rosewell now that there are no Covid-19 restrictions. Details of their current surgeries and contact details are on Midlothian Council website.

#### **POLICE REPORT:**

PC Lennox and PC Hand have been redeployed to the Community Action Team and Response Unit. Officer Lennox wrote that "although our time as Community Beat Officers for the area was short, we thoroughly enjoyed covering the area and working in partnership with you all". PC Graham Black will return to be our community officer in May. The formal Police report is not yet available but Officer Lennox took the time to provide the following information:

In March there were 48 calls to Police and 13 Crimes Recorded. Almost all the incidents of notes relate to youths and off Road bikes in the area.

The youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls (approx 15 calls) came into Carnethie street, the Bus Terminus and near to the wooded area. The Community Action Team (CAT) have Rosewell down as a key area of ASB to check on evenings and are dealing with the majority of the incidents reported (including assaults on other youths and vandalism to the woodland classroom & community book box as well as fire raising). The main issue from these is that when the CAT team are on rest days, it is 'Response' allocated the jobs and they often have to attend higher graded incidents (eg threats to life, housebreakings ect.) Officer Lennox plans to push for more resources in the area (especially Friday / Saturday nights).

The police still have dedicated patrols in the area, however, due to a shortage of Police numbers and other ASB you may be aware of at Hardengreen, Gorebridge and Mayfield, it's difficult to trace all youths and be at the right place at the right time. The Police encourage everyone to call every incident regarding youth ASB so that statistics can prove how big an issue it is and provide more boots on the ground to deal with it all. Even if the call is just to report a group of youths walking to the woodland classroom, make sure to mention to the call handler all the previous issues so they are aware its an ongoing issue.

The police have drafted a letter which is going to be sent to the parents / guardians of over 40 youths who have been identified as causing ASB in Midlothian, which will advise the parents what their child is getting up to. The letter also asks that they monitor what they get up to in the future or it may result in their child facing charges. 5 youths have already been charged with offences relating to ASB in Rosewell, Gorebridge & Hardengreen and have been reported via Social work.

The police have also put a further request into the transport minister to see if they would consider restrictions on their bus passes however there has been no update as yet. As a reminder, unfortunately, Police are not allowed to seize / confiscate their bus pass.

Regarding Off Road bikes, please continue to report with as much detail as possible (colour of bike, make, model, registration, description of rider including clothing and helmet, if any other vehicle is involved e.g. a van to transport the bikes & any linked addresses). Two further bikes were seized last week in Loanhead & Mayfield as well as a Quad bike, as a result of residents contacting Police to report it.

Officer Lennox understands the residents will be frustrated (as the police are) however, they hope that now many youths are known, they can catch up with every youth identified from incidents and charge them, which should put off the majority of the usually 'nicer' kids being drawn into this behaviour.

There was lively discussion about the youth problems which have worsened since the last meeting. Residents had many ideas about controlling bus pass permissions. There was discussion of the police response and of contacting 101. CCTV is now in place at the bus terminus and one resident reported this seems to have curtailed things there at present, but residents also feel for those badly affected by the "bad bunch" as bus drivers will sometimes not collect good people, or will only let 2 people on each bus.

Residents were reminded of the main points which are given by our police both in writing and when they attended our meetings;

1 - If there are youths and you have witnessed anti-social behaviour of any kind or you have concerns that alcohol is involved - **DIAL 999** You are not wasting their time and you are not diverting calls from others who might need the police more. The call- handlers are trained how to prioritise where they dispatch officers to.

2 - The police cannot confiscate or restrict the bus passes, neither can Lothian Buses. Only the Scottish Government can introduce changes to the permissions attached to the free pass, so if anyone has ideas of how to restrict them from the anti-social youths, **please write to your Local councillors, MSP and MP about it.**

#### **MATTERS ARISING –**

**World Book Night Event** - on **Saturday 22nd April 10am-12noon** RDCC will host a coffee morning and book exchange in the **Parish Church Hall**. Entry by donation which includes tea/ coffee and home baking. Please bring along any books you would like to exchange. Bring a book, take away a book. Or even better bring 3 and take away 3. Make your old book someone else's new book. Meet friends and neighbours and have a book filled morning. (PLEASE don't take books to the hall before the event, or leave them there after the event, thank you)

Midlothian Council are planning which fields will be build upon in the next 6 years. A Local Development Plan is produced every few years which determines which fields developers can and cannot build upon.

In Rosewell, once Doctor's Field is completed, there are no more fields in our district allocated for development in the current LDP.

The next 6 years are starting to be planned and RDCC have been invited to prepare a Local Place Plan (LPP). LPPs produced in line with planning legislation will be used to help inform production of Midlothian's next Local Development Plan . Local Place Plans should be completed and returned to the Council by 31 October 2023. In early 2024 the Scottish Government will check it contains sufficient information to start work on the next Midlothian Local Development Plan. RDCC plans to submit one on behalf of Rosewell, and will form a small sub-committee group to work on it. Anyone who is interested in helping can contact the secretary.

There was discussion among residents about which fields might be sought after and what we would want in the village 10 years from now. RDCC will create a survey so that local residents can add their opinions on things they would liek - such as allotments or a community garden, protecting the woodland areas etc.

Midlothian Council have organised various events in neighbouring villages with more information and all the information is also online at a virtual consultation information page. Details of hese are on the RDCC website and Midlothian Council's website under "Planning and Building".

#### **GENERAL UPDATES:**

*Midlothian Wildflowers are having their AGM in the Steading on Saturday 22nd in the afternoon.*

Sustrans are looking at the feasibility of tarring the remaining section of the Rosewell to Auchendinny walkway as its part of the National Cycle Network Route 196 so that Road bikes can use it in addition to mountain bikes and hybrids.

#### **UPDATE ON MAJOR AND LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

none

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Pot Holes** - Carnethie Street from Lindsay Row to the A6094 is scheduled for resurfacing this year, but not the full length of it. Residents reported many potholes at various points along the street. Residents were reminded to keep reporting them on Midlothian Council's online form service as they only repair things which have been reported.

**LASC** - A resident reported she hears babies crying a lot when in the garden of the nursery and sometimes sees the childminders chatting rather than picking up the baby. The resident was advised to speak to the manager if she had concerns, or another resident suggested reporting it to the care commission.

A resident reported being unhappy at the prospect of LASC expanding due to the noise that the children and disabled young adults make. LASC have applied for a lease on land in the park so that they can build an extension. The resident was advised that on Midlothian Council's planning page they can upload a comment objecting to the lease.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 5th June 2023 at 7pm** in the **Church of Scotland Parish Church Hall**.

Updates are added to the RDCC website to keep residents informed of planning applications, community news and events. Information is also posted on the community notice board in the garden at the corner of Carnethie Street / Gorton Road.

[www.community-council.org.uk/RosewellandDistrict](http://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 us:  
MAIL: [rosewellcc@gmail.com](mailto:rosewellcc@gmail.com)