

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 16th January 2023 at 7pm

PRESENT:

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

RESIDENTS: 14

ATTENDEES: 0

APOLOGIES: The Police, Councillor Pauline Winchester

1.	POLICE REPORT
	The police report was read out. A copy is available on the RDCC Website and will be posted in the village noticeboard.
1.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 November 2022 were approved
1.	TREASURER'S REPORT.
	The balance in our account is £3105.91. This includes money ringfenced for replacement defibrillator pads. The Rosewell 2023 Calendar cost £1847.31. The committee and residents of Rosewell expressed their thanks to all the local businesses for their generous donations towards the cost and to all the people who joined in with various fundraising activities and events in order to make it possible. Everyone was also very grateful to all the volunteers who delivered the calendars to the houses of Rosewell and District.

1.	<p>LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORT. –</p> <p>COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - CLLR PAULINE WINCHESTER</p> <p>My apologies for not being able to attend in person.</p> <p>The main area we are all working on is the budget for Midlothian Council and what the council tax will be for the coming year.</p> <p>There is a special meeting of the council on 31st January where it is likely that all cuts that are on the table will be given for the first time. It is likely that this will be streamed, so I advise watching it if you can to see what the cuts are likely to be. Currently less than £11m worth of cuts have been identified, which means there would be a minimum of 6-8% council tax rise.</p> <p>The cuts themselves are absolutely horrific (and I can't think of any other word for them). We are talking about how many education posts need to be cut – and this includes teachers. It is not a small number! The council meeting on the 21st February will make a final decision on where the cuts will fall and what the Council tax will be. Anything that can be cut will be.</p> <p>Midlothian is having to venture in to cutting areas where there is a statutory duty to provide. At the same time the population keeps on increasing and money is taking 3 years to catch up. In that time, services still have to be paid for and school places found.</p> <p>I note that in a local paper it was reported that Midlothian was getting a good deal – please don't believe this. Some services will now only be provided up to the money that Midlothian Council receives from Scottish Government for that service. For example – if Midlothian needs £22m to fund something, but only receives £15m, then only £15m worth of those services will be provided. The main problem is, is that this is the first of five years where cuts will have to be made.</p> <p>I still have a little funding for this year, and am not sure if I will have any next year (due to cuts) so if you can think of anything that is needed in the area please let me know. I am putting in for a bench facing the tennis courts and have a commemorative bench for Rosewell on order.</p>
1.	<p>MATTERS ARISING –</p> <p>RDCC needs more committee members – 3 committee members stood down in the last few months and the committee described their role and asked for volunteers to join the committee. A few residents showed an interest and were asked to directly contact the secretary with their details. RDCC is a link between residents and Midlothian Council and as a constituted organisation can apply for funding from charities and other sources if there are things in the village that people would like. There is a resilience group who can act as a support team if Rosewell faces another covid-like situation. The committee could organised more social events and has indemnity insurance for anyone wishing to organise something for the community. Community councils have to be consulted on local and major planning applications. If anyone else would like to join the committee then they can get in touch by email with the secretary for more details.</p> <p>Roslin GP surgery are revising their catchment area due to the increase in population and expected increase in population from Rosslynlee development and the Dalhousie area. No current patients will be asked to leave, but new applications may be directed to the Bonnyrigg practices if their lists are open. Maps will be displayed on the noticeboard and Facebook page if permitted by the health authority. There was a discussion about local buses, travel issues, pharmacies and GP services in the area. The collective feeling at the meeting was that our response should state that we are not happy with their proposed changes as there isn't sufficient GP provision in Bonnyrigg.</p>

1.	<p>GENERAL UPDATES:</p> <p>It's been documented that Rosewell Primary will breach capacity in August 2024 and the current premises are not fit for purpose. Midlothian Council is in talks to find land for a new primary school rather than extending the existing building. One resident wanted it noted that 90% of parents walk their children to school and so a site central to the village would be pertinent, rather than choosing a site closer to Hopefield. There was discussion about who owns the building next to the school which used to be used by RDT before the Steading was built. Midlothian Council are not sure which of its divisions has the rights to authorise its use to the school.</p> <p>A resident asked whether people can only access the RDT food bank on Tuesdays and Thursdays or at any time. The community fridge / food bank is in the Steading and is available to those in need or anyone struggling with the current cost of living crisis and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-5pm. Outwith those times residents can ask a member of staff at reception who would be happy to help, as long as items are available. If anyone would like to donate items to the fridge, please speak to a member of RDT staff. A resident expressed concerns that there might be people struggling who don't visit the steading or who aren't on Facebook. Secretary will speak to RDT about getting a poster which could go in the noticeboard.</p> <p>Warm Space has been poorly attended and there was discussion about people knowing about it and about leaving their homes to come out in the cold to be warm for a couple of hours to then go out in the snow again. A suggestion of making it a social space too with board games, jigsaws or dominoes was suggested.</p> <p>There was discussion about how people in the village could get to know about local events, especially those people who don't use Facebook. Leaflets are not likely to be a solution due to printing costs and the challenge of delivering them to every house. It was proposed to update the RDCC website and to allow more local information onto the Facebook page, which has a bigger audience than some other Facebook groups. Having more information on the noticeboard was also discussed.</p>
1.	<p>UPDATE ON MAJOR AND LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:</p> <p>A resident expressed concerns that hedges had been dug up along the cemetery road where the houses are being built in Doctor's field. There were concerns that they might dig out more of the hedges and trees as the trees are what soak away water and help prevent flooding. They also provide a habitat for wildlife and nesting sites for birds. Secretary will try to find contact details for the site manager to seek confirmation about what they plan to remove and leave.</p>
1.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>

	<p>A resident expressed concerns about the recent burst water main on Carnethie Street the length of time without water, the damage caused when the water returned and about whether this would keep happening as there have been 2 major bursts within the last 12 months. Secretary will write to Scottish Water.</p> <p>A resident requested that we chase up Midlothian Council regarding the £50,000 which was ringfenced for Children's outdoor play and whether this money still potentially exists.</p> <p>A resident is keen to renovate the field area at the top of Gorton Road into a Community Garden. She was willing to take over the Keep Rosewell Beautiful Facebook page and email address and RDCC are very willing and keen to support this initiative. The area where the builders yard currently sits is designated for commercial use, but the field area next to it which is currently weeds will be "park area" maintained by Midlothian Council once the builders have formally handed over the land. This will only occur when the very last house on the site has been completed.</p> <p>A resident noted that the glass recycling bins had been removed from the bus terminus area and asked whether they were coming back or not. Secretary will write to the council to try to find out, but in the meantime residents have their kerbside recycling boxes or can use large recycling bins at Stobhill recycling centre or various supermarkets.</p> <p>A resident reported that the food bins from their street had been forgotten about. There is an online form people can complete if their bin collection is missed.</p> <p>A resident expressed concerns about illegal parking on the corner of Carnethie street and Gorton Road where the shop is. It is illegal to park within 10 metres of a junction but cars are frequently on the corner, blocking the view for pedestrians and other vehicles. Secretary will write to the Council and local councillors to see if we can get double yellow lines painted on the road.</p> <p>Parking on Carnethie Street was discussed as it is becoming more problematic especially on Hearts B match days. There was discussion about whether Hearts B would renew their contract with the club and whether this was going to be a long term problem or not.</p> <p>A resident reported that speeding was still an issue near the primary school and also on Gorton Road up from the Steading, and along Carnethie Street.</p>
1.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
	The next meeting will be held on Monday 6th March 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 Steet / 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 us:

EMAIL: rosewellcc@gmail.com

