



Minutes of meeting held on Monday 5th June 2023 at 7pm

PRESENT:

RDCC COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Jamie Scanlon(chair), Janey Hoeflich (vice-chair), Helen Blackburn (treasurer), Amy Ferguson, Julia Pennycuick, Jen Maddalena

RESIDENTS: 33

ATTENDEES: Jo Cooke, Midlothian Ranger Service

APOLOGIES: The Police, Cllr Pauline Winchester, Edith Cameron (secretary),

Guest Speaker is Jo Cooke from the Midlothian Ranger Service who is here to talk about the pond which has been created near the old railway-line walkway.

Jo explained the pond creation on the railway came from central funding, the Nature Restoration Fund, to increase freshwater body across Scotland and the funding had to be spent in a very short time frame. Ponds were also created in Vogrie and Straiton. They have already been monitoring wildlife at the pond in Rosewell and the plants have established. A resident asked how child friendly was pond was and was assured it's as safe as any freshwater body, river or pond, currently in Midlothian. After the summer there will be engagement with the local primary schools at the pond. There was a suggestion to add an informative board for children to help identify wildlife species at the pond. A resident asked for advice on pond creation and Jo recommended the Frog Life website and the Just Add Water information pack that can be found there. A resident pointed out that is a path that leads from the road B7003 layby by the big houses to the railway line that needed some maintenance, Jo thinks that it maintained by the Scottish Wildlife Trust but said she'd look into it.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th April are online - Approved and seconded no amendments.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The balance in our account is £3808.62. Replacement adult defibrillator pads were bought for £124.80. They expire in 4 years and we will seek clarification from Midlothian Council about whether they will cover the cost of these in future or whether community councils must fundraise when they need replaced. New perspex was purchased and replaced on the noticeboard.

LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORT:

None received yet

POLICE REPORT:

During the month(s) of April / May of 2023 in Rosewell there were 72 calls made to Police. There were 19 Crimes recorded of which 9 have been solved.

Incidents of Note

On the 18th of April 2023, Around 0000 hours, persons have entered an Outbuilding on Whitebog Farm, Rosewell, and have stolen 1x Quadbike and 1x Motorbike worth a combined £20000. Enquiries are still ongoing.

On the 30th of April 2023, Around 0700 hours, Officers were made aware of an alarm sounding at Whitehill house, Rosewell. Officers attended and noted the door to be insecure. Officers searched the building with a negative result. PC Lennox is aware that youths have regularly been attending in the area and there is a possibility they may have gained access. No property is missing and no damage has been recorded. * Note* a further call re youths in this area came in on 15/05/2023, where officers attended and youths ran on site.

On the 12th of May 2023, around 1805 hours, Police Received a call regarding a possible drink driver on Gorton Road in Rosewell. PC Lennox was on mobile patrol and traced the driver in Rosin. The driver Failed the Roadside Breath test and was arrested. The driver also failed the Station Procedure and was reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On the 18th of May 2023, around 2020 hours, Lothian buses reported youths spitting on the upper deck of the bus. CCTV is awaiting to be collected with a view of once identified, the youths will be spoken to in the presence of their parents. If any crimes are identified and the youths are aged over 13, they will be charged with the offences and reported to the youth offending officer.

A resident noted that youths are gaining access to Whitehill House via the scaffolding. RDCC will inform PC Lennox.

MATTERS ARISING –

Boundaries Scotland is undertaking it's Second Review of Scottish Parliament boundaries. The consultation on constituencies runs from 17th May to 17th June 2023.

Please see attached news release and further information on our website - <https://boundaries.scot/>

The maps attached show that Rosewell and District would then become fully part of Midlothian South, rather than the current situation where most of the village is within Midlothian West, and those living on the other side of the Shiel Burn are part of Midlothian South. This change would mean we were all served by the same 3 elected councillors and would make things easier to know who can help. If anyone has any concerns about the change, can they contact the secretary who will collate a response by the deadline.

Midlothian Council are inspecting the village area on Monday 12th June at 11am for housing related problems, untidy gardens, flytipping etc and if anyone wants to report any issues in advance they can contact tenantparticipation@midlothian.gov.uk Residents general sentiment is that it's unproductive and have asked what actions are taken following the visit. If residents want an update they can email the email address given above.

Lothian Buses have changed the route of the Number 49 bus and renamed it the 46. The route and times are identical to the 49 up until the Royal Infirmary - at which point it changes route and carries on to Musselburgh rather than into Edinburgh centre. This means people will have to change bus to get into Edinburgh from now on. They changed the route on a bank holiday which caused significant disruption to many residents and the issue was also worsened as they only had a single deck bus. RDCC wrote a letter on complaint to all 6 councillors and to Lothian Buses and invited them to attend our meeting but Lothian Buses sent this response:

“Unfortunately we will not be able to attend the meeting however I have some information below regarding the Lothian Service Change for Sunday 28 May and how it will impact the Service 49 going forward.

From Sunday 28 May, the Service 49 will no longer operate to Midlothian. Residents of Rosewell are now covered by our new Service 46, running from Rosewell to Musselburgh via the Royal Infirmary, where those requiring onward travel can connect to a number of services for the city centre and beyond. At peak times, Rosewell will continue to be served by our Service X31 to the city centre.

If you have any other questions please feel free to get back in touch.”

We feel this doesn't address the issue.

Councillor Russell Imrie responded and informed us that at the 9th May Midlothian Council meeting he presented an emergency motion on the proposed bus changes and have asked that MC pursue a meeting with Lothian buses. This will include the six elected members for Midlothian West along with Bonnyrigg as that is the main corridor that is affected by these changes.

Councillor Douglas Bowen responded: “The whole Council shares your concern and the motion attached was unanimously passed at the council meeting yesterday. You will see that a meeting with Lothian Buses is to be arranged asap.”

Councillor Ellen Scott responded: “Thank you for your email and I am sure the Rosewell and Bonnyrigg Councillors will also respond. There was an emergency motion at the Council meeting yesterday asking for an urgent meeting with Lothian buses to discuss these changes. Midlothian Council had neither been notified nor consulted on the service changes and expressed disappointment that was not done before these changes were implemented because of its effect on our residents. I hope this reassures you that all the Councillors are taking this seriously and will be meeting with Lothian Buses to discuss this.

Councillor Kelly Parry is collecting feedback from residents regarding the issue and can be contacted if anyone has evidence of how the change has affected them personally.

The secretary has contacted all 6 councillors again to find out when the meeting will occur.

There was a very lively discussion about the impact on residents of the change to the local bus service. A summary of the feedback from residents is listed below:

- Buses are not reliable and not accurate according to the timetable. Residents have waited over an hour for buses.
- Buses are leaving the terminus from Rosewell 'not in service' driving past residents stood on bus stops waiting for a bus according to the time table.
- Lack of connections to Rosewell, with long wait times particularly in the evening.
- A single decker bus does not have the required capacity for a village of our size.
- There is discrepancy across Midlothian and a general feeling among residence that this new service is unjust for Rosewell.
- The last bus to Rosewell from the hospital is 8:30pm and that's not practical for people who work in the hospital or visitors.
- It's more expensive to get into Edinburgh for residents who still use cash.
- Vulnerable residents are at risk, a 14-year girl choose walked home in the dark rather than wait an hour for a connecting bus. An elderly gentleman, who does not have access to the internet, did not know about the service change and was left stranded in Dalkeith.
- Residents asked why the 31 that terminates in Bonnyrigg cannot be extended by 3 or 4 stops to Rosewell – possibly down to the roundabout.
- Residents asked why there was no community consultation.

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.

If anyone wants to help the committee create a local place plan, please let the secretary know. The deadline is 31st October.

Residents were keen to input into this with some suggestions put forward. E.g. limit new houses to be built around the village and opening up the stading in the evenings to youth groups so there is somewhere for adolescents to go in the village.

Hedge near the tennis courts:

A section of hedge was cut down from Whitehill Road below the tennis courts. It was done without requiring planning permission and caused anger to local residents. RDCC wrote a complaint to Midlothian Council and received this reply: **"I am writing to advise that we have removed a section of hedge below the tennis courts in the Park. This is to allow a unit (class room) to be delivered to the Primary school across the Park this summer. This will also allow access for the building of the pump track in the future as well. The hedge has been removed now to avoid issues with nesting birds latter in the year. (the hedge was inspected and there were no nesting birds at this time)"**

A resident felt this was insufficient as they felt MC had lied to the school and residents about trying to contact a farmer for an alternative route. We received this reply to the second complaint: **"Sorry I am not responsible for the liaison with land owners or route planning for the unit for the school. We have simply facilitated what those organising this work described as their preferred route."**

Residents thought the response from MC was inadequate. Residents expressed disappointment at the hypocrisy of MC giving us funds to increase biodiversity and wildlife at a pond whilst destroying it at the other end of the village.

Resurfacing of penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway. The section of route from Rosewell to Auchendinny forms part of Sustrans' National Cycle Network Route 196 from Haddington to Penicuik, and is the only section of the route along the Dalkeith to Penicuik stretch currently without a sealed surface. Improving surface conditions along this 3.5km section of the 17km route from Dalkeith to Penicuik will make the route more resilient in poor and wet weather, and make walking, wheeling and cycling a year-round option for leisure, commuting and every day journeys. The surface material being used is open texture to improve grip, rather than being a smooth bituminous surface. The work is expected to take 4-6 weeks.

Residents were very happy the railway is being made accessible to all residents in the village, particularly since the resurfacing here is long overdue for Rosewell compared to all other sections of the walkway. Residents noted it was useful timing as the new wildlife pond falls within this sections and currently it cannot be visited by some in the community who struggle on difficult terrain. No objections were made to this work being completed or the timeframe.

**Bottles / Rubbish being dumped at the bus terminus:
Issue were raised at our last community council meeting and we've received
this reply from MC:**

"Following on from your email dated 3 May, action has been taken by both our waste services team and our environmental wardens. I can update you with the following information.

- Waste Services did remove the glass recycling bin I'm told, and this was to do with the height of the kerb and being able to safely manoeuvre the large bin off the pavement. I believe this caused injury to a member of staff, and also there had been noise complaints about bottles being emptied into the bin around 02.00am. I have been advised that Waste Services will not be returning the glass recycling bin.**
- A sign was erected to the lamppost where the bin had been, advising members of the public that if a household requires a glass recycling box, they can request this via our website or Contact Centre.**
- The area has been inspected and all the bottles and broken glass have now been cleared. If any member of the public see or know who is dumping the items here they can get in touch through the Contact Centre and we will investigate the matter further."**

A resident does not have access to recycling and was recommended they contact the council for a new blue bin and red box to enable curbside recycling.

GENERAL UPDATES:

RDCC member Julia Pennycuick was nominated for a Midlothian Volunteer Award for her work in creating Midlothian Wildflowers.

RDCC responded to a Library consultation about service improvements and have asked for the possibility of a better book space than the current phone box where books are vandalised or get damaged by the weather. We've also asked for clarity on the mobile library bus. The website states its at Rosewell Primary school on Mondays (week 1 and 2) from 1.30 - 2.15pm.

Residents can find information on the Midlothian Council website.

Rosewell Primary School parents are tidying up an area of the school playground which has become neglected and overgrown. Raised beds and a greenhouse made of plastic bottles were created about 10 years ago but never maintained. Midlothian Council have no funds or staff to maintain this type of garden project and lack of volunteers led to its current derelict state. The parents have put out and appeal on facebook for some materials.

UPDATE ON MAJOR AND LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

23/00288/DPP - Erection of modular unit and associated works at Rosewell Primary School, 85 Carnethie Street.

This is for the provision of a temporary classroom unit. It seeks to address the immediate requirement for additional spaces due to the influx of residents to the area. It will be a modular unit placed on the tarmac in the north east corner of the school site. Due to the flood risk of the current area of tarmac, an area of grass next to it will be removed and the tar extended. This will increase the area of hard standing and address pooling of rain. The building will not have an adverse effect on current biodiversity as the location is identified as having low value due to being tarmac and grass which is regularly cut and treated. Pressure of timescale mean MC this can have a faster response which a more long term strategy and permanent solution be developed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

RDCC are organizing a railway wildlife walk for approx. an hour to end at the Church Hall for a cup of tea on the 4th August in the evening. Followed by an Environment fair in the Church Hall on Saturday 5th. All welcome.

Traffic and parking. Parking on the junction of Gorton Road and Carnethie street is illegal and dangerous. Cars park in the bus stop adjacent to the shop. Speeding through the village is causing residents distress. There is a caravan permanently parked on the road in carnathie street. Residents are reporting near misses consistently at every meeting. Secretary has already emailed about getting double yellow lines at that corner.

The speed humps on Gorton Loan do not have the white arrow signals painted on them yet.

The pinewood plantation is old and dry and prone to fire. A resident reported putting out smoking dried timber and has previously called the fire brigade to put out fires here.

Having another fairy trail would be a fun activity for the children over the summer. A resident reported not hearing back from an MSP, they were reminded that the RDCC doesn't have any influence over MSPs.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 21st August 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:
MAIL: rosewellcc@gmail.com