



Minutes of meeting held on Monday 6th March 2023 at 7pm

PRESENT:

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

RESIDENTS: 16

ATTENDEES: PC Euan Lennox

APOLOGIES: None received

POLICE REPORT:

The police report was read out by PC Lennox. It will be available on the RDCC Website and will be posted in the village noticeboard.

The police have organised a Drop-In session on Saturday 11th March at the RDT Steading. Anyone can pop along to chat to officers if they have any issues or questions for them.

A resident reported ongoing issues with groups of teenagers at the bus terminus. PC Lennox was only aware of 3 calls of youth disturbance in the last 2 months, only one of which was at the bus terminus. He encouraged residents to call 999 if youths are drinking, causing a disturbance or causing damage. More calls to the police is evidence to support having more active patrols in the area. They also strongly encourage bus drivers to report issues. A resident asked if youths could be traced using their bus pass data. PC Lennox stated this is only possible if a crime has been reported

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th January were amended as a resident wanted it added that there was a discussion at the end about speeding near the school as it's an ongoing problem. Updated minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The balance in our account is £3130.91. This includes money ringfenced for replacement defibrillator pads. It will help towards producing the calendar next year and for various events throughout the year. RDCC usually receive £300 per year from Midlothian Council, towards paying for the hall, the website, public liability insurance etc but with the recent budget cuts its uncertain whether the same amount will be received in the future.

LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORT:

None received.

It was noted how disappointing this was, especially given the recent budget cut consultations and media attention. All 3 councillors were invited to the meeting and no apologies were received, or reports. In the last 2 years, Pauline Winchester has attended a few meetings but neither of the other councillors has attended or apologised. Plan - Secretary will write a direct letter to each, highlighting the residents' unhappiness and ask that they make a stronger effort to attend in future. There were particular concerns from one resident regarding the future of St Matthew's school and the proposed closures. It was felt that we need a direct meeting with councillors to get clarity on the future of the school and also address the ongoing threats to its continuity. Residents felt that the recurrent threat of closure led to fewer parents choosing the school which then creates the vicious cycle that numbers fall and the education authority renew their closure ideas. Parents of children in the school and residents in Rosewell want the school to continue and the staff to continue their good work without the threat of closure from budget cuts.

MATTERS ARISING –

Easter Eggstravaganza Raffle – RDCC will be selling tickets for their Easter Raffle to raise funds for future community events. If anyone would like to donate any prizes could they contact the treasurer at rdcc.treasurer@gmail.com Members of RDCC will be selling tickets outside Ash's shop on the corner of Carnethie St and Gorton Rd at the weekends. The draw will take place before the next meeting on 17th April and will be live-streamed on facebook.

World Book Night- 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)

Pharmacist got back in touch to let us know that his application process is underway in that his expression of interest has been acknowledged by the health board. There is a pause in pre-application meetings. The health board told him – *“A significant amount of work has been undertaken within the primary care contracts team over the past 18 months implementing a recovery plan for pharmacy applications to ensure that NHS Lothian has a flow of applications being progressed through due process. While significant progress has been made with our recovery plan, there are a number of constraints now impeding progress which make it necessary to pause the current plan and assess realistic timescales before progressing further pre-application meetings. We will review the decision to pause on a quarterly basis and will continue to update the website quarterly. The next update will take place on 1st April”*

Midlothian Council Conservation and Environmental officer emailed to inform us of a **pond creation** project that will be undertaken in February and early March off the Dalkeith-Penicuik Walkway, near Rosewell, on Midlothian Council land. The project is being undertaken by a contractor on behalf of the Council. The pond will be approximately 8 x 16 metres in size. No paths are being created to the pond. The work is being led by the Council's Ranger Service with support from Land & Countryside Services and the Planning Sustainable Growth and Investment Service of the Council. The works are being funded by grant money the Council received from the Scottish Government's 2022/2023 Nature Restoration Fund. This grant money is required to be used to further nature conservation and biodiversity in Midlothian in the current 2022/2023 financial year. Ponds are acknowledged as being a very important method of enhancing biodiversity and are advocated in the Council's adopted Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan. (A resident reported that the pond has been finished now).

RDCC received an invitation to all Community Councils in Midlothian – To consider joining the emerging **Midlothian Climate Action Network**.

It is being built around community groups in Midlothian which are facing up to challenges with food, energy, housing, transport, health and wellbeing, social justice and poverty? The aim is to make a community-led space and resource that helps to create a low carbon, just, thriving and resilient future in Midlothian. It free, there are no obligations.

They are also inviting community groups to help develop a community- led and independent, staffed Midlothian Climate Action Hub with funding available from the Scottish Government. Similar regional networks and hubs are being developed across Scotland. How this Hub is shaped, works and what it will do - is for network members to decide. RDCC treasurer has made contact to find out more. If anyone else is interested in finding out more, please contact the treasurer.

Midlothian Wildflowers were in touch and have been working on the wildflower meadow in Rosewell park, just down from the tennis courts. There are 2 areas which used to be tended by the council but are now being looked after by a Rosewell resident who founded the volunteer group. She's looking for people to support her vision, volunteer to help and become committee members and she's keen to work with the others in the village who want to start a community garden and allotments. If anyone would like more information or wants to get involved, her email address is midlothianwildflowers@gmail.com They'll be having their first AGM soon and are going to tidy up the tree maze in Rosewell Park.

GENERAL UPDATES:

Rosewell Pump Track: From MC Land Resources Manager (9th Feb23): *"There is still £39k allocated for children's play in Rosewell Park from developer contributions. Originally a concrete skatepark was proposed. The view was taken by the CC along with ourselves that a pump track would suit the older children as well as younger ones and to be located the far side of the tennis courts. I recall some of Cllr Parry's HRA funds were to be used to support this project but will check on this point but this is probably where the figure of £50k may have come from. The costs of this work now will be in excess of £50k, more like £75-85k.*

We will submit a paper to request more funds from our Capital Plan Board for projects that cannot be progressed due to funding shortfall. This does not mean the request will be successful but offers a ray of hope that funds might become available for what was originally intended ie a pump track. We have exactly the same problem at Roslin Park where we are also looking for a pump track and have been waiting forever due to lack of funds, which is largely due to the massive increase in materials, labour and plant."

Hedges around Doctor's field – we've written to complain to the planning officer in Midlothian Council and have asked him to pass our concerns to the developer and to seek assurance that other hedges and trees will not be destroyed. A reply was received from the Planning Officer as follows:

"I have had email correspondence with a couple of residents about this. As I understand the submitted and approved landscaping information does indicate that the trees and hedgerow at the location identified could be lost. I forward to you my response to residents which hopefully clarifies how the position was arrived at and other mitigation sought to counter the loss.

The assessment of this planning application was undertaken in the light of the proposed development already benefiting from planning permission. Indeed, it originally achieved planning permission for residential development under application ref: 18/00403/DPP. A more recent application was approved under application reference 21/00732/DPP. The proposed development is largely the same (for 100 houses) with variations in layout and final design. Under the former 2018 application the areas of vegetation along Cemetery Road referred to were proposed to change and new replacement landscaping delivered along this boundary. The proposed development does seek to remove and replace sections of the existing landscaping with new hedging which largely reflects the proposals of the former application. The proposals were submitted with ecology studies and these were reviewed by the council's Ecology consultee. Whilst the proposed removals might have some impact on biodiversity and habitat, the proposals are required by conditions to deliver a biodiversity enhancement plan that will mitigate the loss of habitat and will provide new bird and bat roost/nest opportunities. In addition, other new landscaping will be delivered within the development to reduce any impact of lost landscaping.

Whilst the loss of trees is resisted by the Council, there are instances where this will still occur. Given the proposed mitigations on a landscaping and ecological nature, alongside the extant planning permission from the 2018 application, the proposals have been considered appropriate on this occasion".

Broken Bridge – this has been reported to Strutt & Parker, the land agents for Crown Estate Scotland who own the land. They've replied saying they'll report it to the police and have it fixed.

No reply from Scottish Water yet, regarding whether we're at risk of further burst water mains.

No reply from council regarding double yellow lines near the shop

No reply from council about whether the massive glass recycling bins are coming back to the bus terminus or not. (Residents at the meeting tonight stated they do not want the bins to be brought back as they were untidy and an eyesore).

UPDATE ON MAJOR AND LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Easthouses primary school – there's a proposal to establish a new primary school and its catchment areas within the land at Easthouses and to realign the catchment areas of Dalkeith High school, Newbattle high school and Lasswade high school. The consultation is open until 23rd April and is at

<https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/easthouses-education-consultation>

If anyone has children in these secondary schools, comments can be sent to the council using the survey.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

On Saturday 11th March there's a coffee morning and pre-loved fashion sale in Rosewell Parish Church Hall.

Potholes – Again residents reported how many potholes there are everywhere. At the MTRaPs meeting Carnethie Street has been nominated for complete resurfacing but it's not clear which roads in Midlothian will be chosen. Everyone is encouraged to report potholes. Don't assume someone else has done it. The council don't drive around looking for them, they only deal with the ones which have been reported.

The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to Jo Robertson for her excellent work in achieving the Miners Memorial in the front garden of the Rosewell Miners Welfare Sports and Social Club. It was unveiled on Sunday 5th March, has a beautiful sentiment and is a fitting tribute for brave men. It is really appreciated by the people of Rosewell and it was a lovely unveiling ceremony.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 17th April 2023 at 7pm in the Church of Scotland Parish Church Hall**. This will also be the AGM.

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

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