

**GOREBRIDGE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**21 JANUARY 2025, 7PM, BIRKENSIDE PAVILION**

Approved – Juliet Bruce Dickie  
Seconded – Alice Drever

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Community council members**

Chair Gael Robertson (GR) , Treasurer Juliet Bruce Dickie (JBD), Ian Hewitson (IH), Alice Drever (AD), Lorraine Amedro (LA), Jac Frankitti (JF)

**Midlothian councillors**

Councillor Ellen Scott (ES)

Councillor Douglas Bowen (DB)

**Visitors**

G Amedro, S Gorbowski, R Rafferty, R Mackie, A Murray, J Campbell, M Cowie

**WELCOME**

Chair welcomes everyone to the first meeting of the year.

**APOLOGIES**

R Horsburgh (secretary), J McFarlane (Police Representative)

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Seconded – Alice Drever

**MATTERS ARISING**

**339 bus route**

No update but we shouldn't lose sight of this service. Review of actions to date required.

**Gorebridge Local Place Plan**

Nothing new to report.

**Gorebridge welcome signs**

Chair asks if the signs must have Gaelic equivalent of Gorebridge under the place name. ES explains it maybe be a stipulation of the prosperity fund grant that is funding the signs. Could other funding be found if this is a stipulation? Other local communities don't have Gaelic on their signs. Gaelic was not used in lowland Scotland.

Chair proposes the sign decision is suspended till next month. More funding details are required.

**Christmas light switch on**

Chair thanks all involved with the Christmas light switch on, the bowling club and bands that attended.

## **GOREBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

Chair asks if there is any more information regarding the projected school role. ES has asked Council officers for further information and put forward a FOI on behalf of the community council. Some confusion regarding the FOI and why officer couldn't simply answer question. ES says work is ongoing with the projected school rolls because it's for the whole of Midlothian. The questions should be answered in February at Midlothian Council meeting. JF asks if a location for the potential high school has been looked at. ES says this should also be answered in February.

## **PLANNING APPLICATION OBJECTION**

Community council members unanimously agreed to object to the planning application concerning 26 Main Street, change of use from commercial to residential short term let. It goes against the communities wish to revive the high street stated in our local place plan. Individuals who feel strongly can object using the Midlothian planning portal. A member of the public spoke of worries regarding it becoming an empty boarded up property if objected to. No effort to keep it as a commercial property has been made to back up this concern.

## **COUNCILLOR'S UPDATES – SUMMARY REPORTS**

### **Councillor Ellen Scott**

#### **Gorebridge Station**

A very fruitful meeting was held between myself, members of Gorebridge Community Council, Network Rail, ScotRail and Midlothian Council to discuss the possibility of reopening the passenger entrance to the station from Station Road. This would be a fully accessible ramped scheme and make it easier for everyone to access the station from the north. It is very heartening when everyone works together towards a common goal and will improve access to the station enormously.

#### **Parking on pavements – complaints**

Complaints continue to be made about parking on the pavement at Hunter Square/Main Street and I have been told that bollards are being sourced to prevent this. I have asked that the Main Street be leafletted about this.

#### **School Rolls**

In response to a query from the Community Council, I was able to provide information that the Education Service update school roll projections every year taking account of the housing land audit and they also track school rolls during the year to ensure forecasts are as accurate as possible. Officers are currently working on updating school roll projections to inform the learning estate strategy update to be presented at February Council. I also asked the FOI Team to answer this query as the information provided can be used for any other Community Council that requests the information.

### **Gore Glen Primary School**

I visited the Head Teacher and had a productive talk about various issues relating to the School Estate, school patrol crossings etc. There is also an ongoing problem with P5 to P7 having a safe access to the school/playgrounds. At the moment they have to cross over the car park for the Glenable drop offs, which involves Taxis etc coming and going. I have asked if it is possible to have an access further down, that perhaps could tie in with the potential new bottom playground, this would make things safer. Muster points are also going to be looked into. Discussions are ongoing.

### **Constituent matters**

I am dealing with housing matters as well as complaints, which involves anti social behaviour. The Newbyres/River Gore site is a constant source of complaints and a meeting has been arranged with the Planning Officers, Persimmons, Ward Councillors early February to try to resolve these matters, which are causing some of my constituents a great deal of frustration. A fuller report is being given by a Community Council member.

#### **Education matters**

A great amount of work was done by Officers in relocating the Mayfield Primary School over the Christmas period. Feedback so far is that the children are very happy at the new Easthouses Primary School.

### **Meetings**

I attend weekly with Education Officers, fortnightly with Chief Officer Children's Services, monthly with the Finance Team for these Directorates. I also attend the BTSG, Planning, Briefing and other meetings as necessary. I have also met with constituents face to face and here is my Surgery dates for the next few months.

## **Councillor Douglas Bowen**

In my capacity as Depute Provost I have carried out a Citizenship Ceremony, attended the flag raising ceremony at Mauricewood primary School in Penicuik to celebrate the Year of the Military Child and two Twinning Meetings.

On my ongoing agenda I have the following to pursue with reminders having been sent this week where relevant;

1. Crawlees Road – awaiting word from Planning re Lingerwood Development application
2. Middleton Quarry – awaiting to hear from Planning re query about final surface to infilled quarry.
3. Newtongrange village centre – awaiting to hear about progress with development of former pool site from Economic Development dept.
4. Newtongrange station buildings – awaiting to hear from owner and Network rail
5. Garages in Morris Road Easthouses – awaiting to hear from Lothian Estates re development/ and clearance of site.
6. Litter Bins – communicating with neighbourhood services team re various problems.
7. Lady Victora estate drainage - ongoing problems with foul drainage system – awaiting to hear from Environmental Health
8. Newtongrange PS parking – ongoing problems raised with officers concerned.
9. Various “constituent” raised problems including building control delay, safety at pedestrian crossings, anti-social neighbour problems.

Regarding anti-social issue and mental health problems associated, chair asks if there is anything we could do within the LPP to help our community. Local solutions done in a modest way.

## **BOLLARDS**

Bollards have been installed at Arniston to prevent dangerous pavement parking. Awaiting more for the Main street for the same issue. Council officers are sourcing the same type of bollard already present on the main street. Concerned resident complaints to Midlothian Council were the trigger for these safety measures. Mobility scooters struggling to get passed illegally parked vehicles. Problem of incorrectly positioned bins after emptying also mentioned, in regard to mobility scooter access problems. ES to look into this. Pavement parking on the garage side was also mentioned as a concern.

## **ROUNDEL/GORE AVENUE**

ES says this has been passed to council officers. But nothing back about a consultation so far.

## **MTRaP**

A7 sustainable transport – consultants Stantec wish to involve community council members in this consultation. Biggest issue for those at the meeting is trying to make the Stantec meetings in the evenings when people aren't working.

Access officer – Midlothian council have reinstated the access officer post. Dean Anderson will be the new access officer. This will be great to open up and improve the path network in Midlothian. For all Midlothian residents physical and mental health, as the path network has become very neglected and over grown in recent years.

Co-prioritisation of capital work expenditure – Community councils have put in their choices for this. Officers will look through the choices to be discussed at next MTRaP meeting. Gorebridge has submitted the B704 footway as its commonly used but in very bad condition.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Report has been shared via email. Police surgery date still not decided, but will be looked into. Anti-social behaviour still a problem at the local convenience stores.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Emails have been received from a Mr Morelli regarding the bollards around his chip shop in Arniston. Chair and secretary have offered to meet Mr Morelli to discuss any issue.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

GDCC £1,330.11

Miners bench £1,750.83

Awards £1,345.99

Total £4,426.93

Website coming along well. JBD requires help to edit and update the website as it is very out of date.

Miners bench ordered. Just requires a location to install it. JBD, IH and JF to meet at location to agree the bench location.

JBD was successful in obtaining a £500 grant for putting on an event to promote the LPP and for office 365 to enable email addresses for office bearers to make for easier correspondence.

## **FEDERATION**

JF raised question regarding putting in a complaint regarding lack of response to communication from council officers. Federation members said this was a very common problem with no easy solution. To keep emailing going up the chain of office till you get answers.

Federation members told to expect correspondence from Zurich Insurance regarding community council insurance invoice. This took up a lot of the federation meeting.

## **GOREBRIDGE STATION UPDATE**

Meeting held with RH, IH, ES, Scotrail and Network rail regarding the blocked access to the north of the car park. Meeting was very successful. It was agreed to make a safe gradient path going to the right, joining to the existing path. A clearly marked pedestrian access. Funding being looked into but believed to not be a problem. Conversation also included the possibility of a noticeboard for this high traffic area.

## **PERSIMMONS/NEWBYRES UPDATE**

The CEMP has been signed off. This should have been done before the site started in September. Meeting in December to try and improve the parking / traffic issue has not improved the site entry. Residents say road improvements suggested will unlikely help, as the area the lorries are running over to navigate the road, are not included in the improvements. Residents also having problems with hazardous driving from the road sweepers employed by the site.

Persimmons to meet with residents next week at the beacon to discuss issues. This will continue the last Wednesday of every month.

## **CRAWLEES**

In 1953 the safeguarded route was designated to provide a safe road in the future. RH to work with Robert Mackie to collate Roberts years of road statistics to present a planning objection to Crawlees housing. Chair thanks Robert for his work on this.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Leafleting now complete.

Meet and share – Saturday 25th 9.30 – 10.30

MP Kirsty McNeil – Event Biscuit and Bleather at the Beacon Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 2.30 – 4.30

## **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

18<sup>TH</sup> February 7 – 9 pm, Birkenhead Pavilion