

GOREBRIDGE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING
17 JUNE 2025, 7PM, BIRKENSIDE PAVILION

IN ATTENDANCE:

Community Council Members

Chair Gael Robertson (GR), Alice Drever (AD), Lorraine Amedro (LA), Heather Webb-Nelson (HWN), Jac Frankitti (JF), Mary Davidson (MD) John Campbell (JC)

Midlothian Councillor

Cllr Ellen Scott (ES), Cllr Douglas Bowen and

Police

No Police Representative in attendance

Visitors

R Rafferty, S Clark, J Paget, E Moffat, G Learmonth, M Cowie, S Gabowski Cllr Willie McEwan

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her pleasure at seeing so many new faces. She also welcomed back Cllr D. Bowen.

A moment of reflection was shared on the recent passing of our former Chair, E. Robertson. A condolence card has been sent to his family.

APOLOGIES:

R Horsburgh, J Bruce Dickie, I Hewitson, M Webb, Robert Mackie, Cllr Kelly Drummond

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approved – J Frankitti

Seconded – L Amedro

MATTERS ARISING

Main Street Local Review – A meeting is scheduled for Monday 23rd June. Although the chair GR is unable to contribute, she will attend to observe.

Action to be taken:

- The chair GR to attend the Main Street Local Review meeting on Monday 23rd June and report back to the GDCC members.

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL ISSUES

- **School Roll Projections** – The appeal has been submitted to the Scottish Information Commissioner. They will verify our eligibility and respond in due course.
- **Crawlees Road** – Richard is currently in the process of producing a presentation based on data gathered by himself and Robert. He will brief the Community Council on the findings, including safety concerns and other key issues, at the next meeting in August.
- **Bus 800 – Usage remains modest.** Midlothian Council will be asked to better publicise the service. Issues discussed include:
 - Lack of visibility at bus stops (no physical timetables).
 - Limited route coverage in Gorebridge.
 - Need for afternoon services.
 - Service sustainability dependent on usage.
 - Cost analysis and passenger figures requested—Cllr Scott will follow up.
 - Willingness among some users to pay a small fee if extended.
 - The trial period ends on 31 August 2025.
- **Complaints to Midlothian Council** – Ongoing dissatisfaction was noted. No general complaint will be submitted. The Community Council will collect evidence-based complaints before approaching officials. Meetings with Labour councillors have taken place; meetings with the Council Leader and SNP councillors are pending.
- **Library Update** – Additional rain damage has worsened the roof's condition. Repair costs are too high. If relocation is necessary, it should happen quickly. Concerns were raised about the Leisure Centre's weekend availability. A clearer timescale is needed to ensure services remain viable.

Action to be taken:

- Secretary to monitor the outcome of the School Roll Projection appeal submitted to the Scottish Information Commissioner.
- Richard to present findings on Crawlees Road at the August GDCC meeting, based on data gathered with Robert.
- Midlothian Council to be asked to improve promotion of Bus 800, including providing physical timetables at stops.
- Cllr Scott to follow up with the Council for usage figures and a cost analysis for Bus 800.
- Community Council to collect well-evidenced complaints before arranging meetings with the Council Leader and SNP councillors.
- Secretary to request an updated timescale from the Council regarding the relocation of Gorebridge Library to the Leisure Centre and raise concerns about weekend opening hours.

CHANGES TO THE MIDLOTHIAN AND GOREBRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

The changes to the constitution were discussed at the previous meeting, and relevant documents were circulated to members beforehand. The proposed amendments are significant, particularly in relation to the structure of Gorebridge Community Council.

Under the current constitution, the Community Council requires a maximum of 18 elected members. If, at any point, membership falls below 9, the Community Council would cease to exist. It was unanimously agreed by members to amend the constitution to reduce the maximum number of members to 14. This would mean that at least 7 members would be required at the AGM to remain active.

The proposed amendment to the constitution was formally proposed by A. Drever and seconded by J. Frankitti. This marks the first major revision to Midlothian Council's Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in a considerable time. It was noted that Community Councils have the ability to make constitutional changes that reflect local needs.

Action to be taken:

- The Secretary to inform Paul Johnson of the approved amendment to the Gorebridge Community Council constitution, specifically the reduction in the number of elected members from 18 to 14. This change was agreed by vote during the GDCC meeting held on 17th June 2025.

PLANNING MEETING – 5TH JUNE UPDATE

Amendments to the Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP) are underway. Richard and Jac attended a planning session with other Community Councils to review proposed development sites. Key points included:

- Ladybrae Road does not require development at this time.
- There is a recognised need for pensioner housing.
- Redheughs should include an industrial unit to support small businesses, with interest in commercial space noted.
- Greenhall is now the more likely site for new development.
- Concerns were raised about the merging of villages and loss of greenbelt, with no clear answers provided.
- Infrastructure issues (GPs, dentists, buses) remain unresolved.
- Housing targets are set by the Scottish Government, and councils must meet them regardless of local capacity.

No decisions will be made before November. Not all sites will go ahead, but with over 6,500 people on the housing list, pressure remains. Developers show little interest in building single-person units.

Action to be taken:

- The Community Council will continue to monitor and engage with the planning process.

LPP AUDIT UPDATE

Members were reminded that the Local Place Plan (LPP) was launched in April 2025, with local groups invited to provide input on services and activities in the area. Community organisations have committed to sharing updates on their ongoing work to help build a clearer picture of local activities and needs across Gorebridge. The deadline for submissions is the end of June 2025. Once all responses are collected, they will be reviewed to identify key themes and priorities.

Action: to be Taken:

- The Community Council will coordinate the collection of information from local groups by the end of June, with a view to compiling a comprehensive update on the LPP.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Drummond:

No report submitted

Cllr Scott:

Cllr Scott took part in Education Placement and Exclusion Appeals and chaired the recruitment panel for St David's RC High School Head Teacher. She also thanked Mrs Hunter of St Andrew's PS, who is retiring, for her service.

A meeting with the Council Leader is proposed for 25 June. Officers Anderson and Arnsdorf have requested a list of GCC concerns ahead of their meeting. Cllr Scott continues to attend regular education and community meetings, as well as ward surgeries, including a new Children's Surgery.

A report on potential Gorebridge High School sites will go to Council on 24 June. A zebra crossing at Gore Glen Primary is due soon, and the Gore Glen Crossing project will go to tender, aiming for installation before winter. Updates have been requested on Main Street bollards, and Bonnybank Playground fencing has been repaired.

Following concerns about the library, officers have been asked to move it to the Leisure Centre as soon as possible. Once relocated, the Centre will be open on Saturdays until 1pm. Cllr Scott praised the restoration work at Vogrie Hall, which will reopen soon.

She attended Newtongrange Gala Day and judged the Gorebridge Gala gates, congratulating the Gala King and Queen. School visits included Stobhill and Rosewell Primaries. Committee work included General Purposes, Planning (rescheduled for 26 June), and the Midlothian Council meeting on 24 June. I'm also assisting constituents with a range of concerns, including housing and neighbour disputes

Actions to be Taken:

- Cllr Scott to provide an update at the next meeting on the outcome of the Council discussion regarding potential sites for Gorebridge High School and any progress on the relocation of Gorebridge Library to the Leisure Centre.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (continued)

Cllr Bowen

Since the March meeting, my activities were limited due to hip replacement surgery during the school holidays. I was unable to drive for six weeks but continued attending meetings via Zoom, including the Planning Committee (29 April) and other briefings.

On 25 April, I joined a Zoom meeting of the Tyne & Esk Local Action Group, which awards grants to local businesses and organisations. I am now involved in assessing around 30 applications for grants up to £30,000.

More recently, I've attended the Local Review Body, Full Council, Education Placement Appeals, Performance Review and Scrutiny, and the Audit Committee in person. I continue to pursue issues such as the proposed Gorebridge High School site, Newtongrange village centre and library, dilapidated buildings, drainage, and road safety.

I'm also assisting constituents with a range of concerns, including housing and neighbour disputes.

Actions to be Taken:

- Cllr Bowen to continue progressing issues related to the proposed Gorebridge High School site, local infrastructure concerns, and constituent casework. Updates to be provided at future meetings as appropriate.

ROAD CALMING & MAIN STREET ISSUES:

- Speeding remains a concern on Barleyknowe Road and Main Street.
- Speed monitoring data read out by Cllr Scott.
- 20mph speed limits to be implemented soon, though signage is obscured in places.
- Speeding measures are costly—potential FOI requests for full figures.
- Education and enforcement both required.
- Police engagement recommended for further action.

Action to be Taken:

- Cllr Scott to share speed monitoring data with the Community Council.
- Secretary to request clarification from Midlothian Council on the timeline for implementing the 20mph speed limits and address concerns about obscured signage.
- Community Council to consider submitting an FOI request for detailed speeding figures.
- Police to be contacted to discuss further enforcement and educational measures regarding speeding in the area.

POLICE REPORT / SURGERY:

- Police report was distributed to the Community Councillors before the meeting.
- Jason (Community Officer) will attempt to attend quarterly.
- Youth disorder around Hunterfield Road/Beacon/Church/Scomid area was discussed.
- Cllr Scott engaging with young people to address the issue.
- Next police surgery may not take place until after school holidays.

For reference, the Police Report for June is appended to the end of this document.

Action to be Taken:

- Alice Drever will continue to liaise with PC Jason McFarlane to schedule future Police Surgeries including an evening surgery.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Primary Schools (Gore Glen)** – Meeting still to be arranged.
- **School Roll Projections** – Matter ongoing; Scottish Information Commissioner reviewing.

Actions to be Taken:

- Secretary to follow up and arrange a meeting with Gore Glen Primary School.
- Secretary will continue to monitor and await a response from the Scottish Information Commissioner regarding the School Roll Projection appeal.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Balances:
 - Community Council: £2,195.31
 - Awards Fund: £1,307.82
- £960.00 received from Midlothian Council for 2025/26 (included in balance).
- Gala Day leaflet has been published.
- Banners are available.
- Funds are allocated to repair the noticeboard.

Actions to be Taken:

- Treasure to arrange repair of the noticeboard using allocated funds. Gala Day banners to be made available and leaflets distributed as needed.

MIDLOTHIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FEDERATION

- Next meeting: 18 June 2025.
- Road resurfacing to begin on the A7 along Hardengreen over the school holiday and will include a new bus stop.
- Powdermill Brae will be getting resurfaced in October.
- The A7 from Stobhill Road to Newton Toll.
- Bus terminals being reviewed over the summer holidays.
- Overgrowth at Ashbank and other locations to be cleared.
- Clarification needed on ownership of land with trees on Vogrie Road—Council or developer?

Actions to be Taken:

- Secretary to email the GDCC members the minutes of the meeting once they are received.

PERSIMMONS/NEWBYRES UPDATE

- Persimmons now confirmed as the main contractor.
- Contact details shared.
- Ongoing issues with debris and lorry-related disruption.
- Early lorry arrivals still occurring—Site Manager is communicating working hours to drivers.
- Parking continues to be problematic—no Warden visits yet.
- Development is called “Arniston Grange”. Homes are now advertised.
- Concerns persist regarding lack of response from Planning. Issues at Site 2 escalating.

Action to be taken:

- For IH to keep the GDCC informed of any issues regarding Persimmons.

GALA DAY

- Date: Saturday 20 June 2025.
- Leaflet ready for distribution.
- Gazebo and tables available. A gazebo was kindly donated by the Beacon – thanks recorded.
- Chairs needed – the Beacon will be approached.
- Gael to coordinate volunteer rota via email.

Actions to be Taken:

- Gael to coordinate the Gala Day volunteer rota via email. Chairs to be requested from the Beacon. Leaflets to be collected in advance of the Gala Day.

MEET & SHARE

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 28th June, 09:30 at the Beacon.

AOCB

Bins- New bins are appreciated, but some older ones haven't been replaced on the Main Street

Actions to be Taken:

- Cllr Scott to follow up and confirm locations for new bon installations.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 19th August 2025, 7pm, Birkenside Pavilion.



Gorebridge Community Council Report 1st – 30th June 2025



Between 1st & 30th June 2025, there were 165 calls received to the Gorebridge area.

Incidents of note

01/06 – Roseberry Crescent – report of a fire to a vehicle. Crime report raised for fire-raising and there were no positive lines of enquiry.

01/06 – Scotmid, Hunterfield Road – report of a theft shoplifting whereby a male fills a basket of goods and leaves. Technical issue prevented police identifying the male. Unsolved.

04/06 – Gorebridge Leisure centre – member of the public parked their vehicle within car park and when going back to it observed minor damage. Perpetrator left no details, and CCTV didn't pick up where it occurred. Unsolved road traffic offence.

04/06 – David Herkes Way a Edinburgh council van was broken into and a quantity of tools were stolen, no person seen at the time of the incident, no CCTV covering the area and door to door complete.

06/06 – Gorebridge Library – report of damage to a window at the rear of the building. Community officer dealt, viewed CCTV and identified a male responsible who was charged in the presence of a parent. Child attended to apologise with a parent and reported to Youth Justice.

10/06 – Hunterfield Road – police carried out a check on a moving vehicle which showed as having no insurance. The driver was stopped which revealed he didn't have a licence either. Driver charged for both offences and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Vehicle seized.

12/06 – Barleyknowe Terrace – report of an ongoing neighbour issue. Police attended and one person issued with a recorded police warning for threatening and abusive behaviour.

17/06 – at Newbyres Avenue – a report of assault due to a neighbour dispute, police attended and 1 female was issued a recorded police warning. No injuries.

18/06 – Hunterfield Road -Roads policing officers stopped a vehicle due to it having no insurance. The driver was charged and report submitted to the PF and the vehicle was seized.

19/06 – Hunterfield Road – within Gorebridge Parish church a male entered and stole a folding table. The male has been caught on CCTV and attempts being made to identify the male.

20/06 – Powdermill Brae – around 10 youths stood in front of an LRT bus preventing it from moving. Police attended but the youths had left prior to police arrival.

21/06 – Hunterfield Road, 2 males have smashed house windows and damaged a parked vehicle. Police have attended but the males had left prior to police arrival. Details noted from complainer and attempts to be made to trace the males responsible.

21/06 – Castle Place – police received a call from the SAS stating a male had been slashed. Police attended and observed a male with a cut above his eye. The male would not tell the police how this happened and was conveyed to hospital to have the cut treated.

21/06 – Main Street – 2 youths entered a shop and stole some alcohol. The youths ran off from the shop and police have been contacted. Details noted and attempts to be made to identify the youths.

22/06 – St Andrews Way, police received a call from the SAS stating a male had stabbed himself in the neck. Police and SAS attended and found the male with injuries to his neck. Male treated at the scene then conveyed to the ERI. No criminality.

22/06 – The Crescent a male called police to report he had just been approached by 3 males on bikes and electric scooters who presented knives at him and took all his belongings. The male did not recognise the 3 males and police have attended and noted the details. CID to progress this incident.

26/06 – Gore Avenue, The SSPCA executed a search warrant due to concerns for the welfare of puppies. Entry gained and the SSPCA seized around 11 puppies were seized the SSPCA.

26/06 – Braeside Road North, a vehicle had its license plates stolen. No person seen, no CCTV and door to door complete.

David.Rourke@scotland.police.uk – Community Inspector.

David.Reilly@scotland.police.uk – Community Sergeant

Amanda.Johnston@scotland.police.uk - Community Sergeant

Additional information

The community are reminded that your local Community Officer PC McFarlane and the Dalkeith Community Policing team can be contacted at any time to provide guidance and advice and are available at the below email address.

MidlothianSouthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

For Information Purposes Only

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above or indeed any other issue, please contact your Community Policing Team at

MidlothianSouthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Police Scotland use social media to circulate the latest news, events and information to the public via Twitter/X (@Midlothpolice) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/policescotland).