

## DDCC AGM, 12 April 2021 (by zoom)

Present: Constance Newbould, Helen McKay, Sarah Ritchie, Neil Johnston, Catriona Umpleby, Ian Barr, Heather Coulson, Ailsa Carlisle, Lynne Derbyshire, Gill McLeod, Jo Gillies, Victoria North, Pippa Thompson, Robin McBride, Anna Henly, Duncan McAuslan  
In attendance: Paul Johnson, Pauline Winchester

1. Welcome and apologies. No apologies had been received.
2. Ratification of minutes of the last AGM (April 2019; the AGM 2020 was cancelled due to Covid pandemic) Proposer: Duncan McAuslan. Seconder: Constance Newbould.
3. Chair's report (Constance Newbould). In many respects there have been the same problems in 20-21 as in previous years. Safety on Old Pentland Road: Neil Johnston has collated points and brought our concerns to the relevant roads and police authorities. Funding for this year has already been allocated for roads and pavements maintenance so there are unlikely to be improvements made to drainage on Pentland Road. We continue to press the Council for lower speed limits; these should be within scope according to the key Scottish Government guidelines. In relation to planning applications, we respond where appropriate and now work closely with neighbouring Community Councils (CCs) in areas of shared interest. Jointly the three CCs have asked for a master plan to encompass the three major proposals in the Straiton area in the hope that developments will be considered as a whole rather than piece meal. In addition to the work done by the Community Council members, thanks also to Robin McBride who has made progress in understanding broadband provision and Anna Henly who has set up a very useful Facebook page for the Damhead and District community, alongside another Facebook page focused on litter picking across Midlothian. In our community litter picking can be done anytime; Jo Gillies and Anna Henly have litter pickers and bags available.
4. Treasurer's report (Helen McKay). Financial year 2020-21 started with £1494.82 brought forward. £2.08 had been received in interest. Midlothian Council had provided £5000 in contingency funding for Covid but this had been returned in full in October because there had been no reason to draw on it. There had been no expenditure during the year, leaving £1496.9 in the bank account.
5. Secretary's report (Jo Gillies). Additional points to the Chair's report include that the number 15 bus service now runs on weekdays and Saturdays, although currently on a restricted route due to the Covid pandemic, and bulk purchases of oil are available through the Broughton Oil Circle providing savings to DDCC residents. Unfortunately, however, our social gathering had to be cancelled because of Covid. Working out the implications of the Covid restrictions has taken a lot of effort, although members of the community have been enormously helpful in helping their neighbours and volunteering to help if required. The DDCC should perhaps consider if there are different activities that should be done as we move out of the pandemic and afterwards. Thanks were expressed to Stuart Clark for his help with planning issues and Catriona Umpleby for help with road/pavement issues.
6. Stand down of office bearers/election of new office bearers. The current office bearers agreed to continue and in the absence of any other volunteers Constance Newbould, Jo Gillies and Helen McKay will continue as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, alongside community council members Duncan McAuslan

and Ailsa Carlisle. Neil Johnston to continue in his co-opted role leading on traffic, roads and pavements.

7. Date of next AGM - April 2022.