

DDCC AGM, 2 April 2018, The Steading

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: John Marsh, Helen McKay, Jo Gillies, Councillor Pauline Winchester, Ailsa Carlisle, Stuart Clark, Steven Amabile, Julian Holbrook, Police Sergeant Michelle Lindsay

Apologies: Constance Newbould, David Newbould, Ian Milne, Janice Milne, Nick Moss

2. Ratification of minutes, AGM May 2017. Minutes were approved.

3. Chair's report (Constance Newbould). The full report is available on the website and notice board. The report was read in full by John Marsh. Constance began by thanking all the committee for their hard work throughout the year. The main challenges, which all related to planning applications or the inadequate enforcement of planning permissions, were then outlined: the agricultural improvements by Haig Hamilton; the film studio and associated developments, and the realignment of the A701. We did have one successful planning encounter and as a result the new Avian Centre proposed by Edinburgh University was moved to a much more suitable site at the back of Bush House. Other successes were the purchase and installation of a noticeboard, the purchase of a second-hand bus stop, a summer gathering, a spring event to begin the process of updating the WRI Jubilee report about Damhead up to the early 1950s and two litter picks. Discussions to redraw community council boundaries are in the early stages.

4. Treasurer's report (Helen McKay) The full report of DDCC's finances and other related activities is on the website and notice board. In summary the year's starting balance was £2,454.70, income lodged during the year was £63.34, expenditure was £1,354.90, leaving a balance at year end of £1,226.55. The pattern of income in 2017-18 was unusual - Midlothian Council awarding 2017-18's funding in the 2016-16 financial year so there had been no grant banked in 2017-18.

In the discussion that followed we agreed that, given that funding is to cover community cohesion and to give a voice to the local community, we should alert people to the opportunity to hold events to enable people to meet together and/or to consider pertinent issues. This can be initiated by raising the idea first at a committee meeting. DDCC members should also be more vigilant about claiming for our costs to justify the small grant, e.g. postage and paper, etc.

5. Secretary's report (Jo Gillies) Full report is on the website and notice board. It is important that all local people have opportunities to share their views to ensure we can properly act as a voice for the local area - for example, by speaking with community councillors face to face, or sending comments by email ddcc@mfcc.info, by attending DDCC meetings or via our Midlothian Councillors. There are also opportunities to become a community councillor. In the discussion it was agreed that we need to re-establish and update our DDCC group email address so that personal addresses are not made available. It was noted that people have been visiting the noticeboard, and that Jo is still to get a key for the noticeboard in the bus stop, which can then be used as a second site for DDCC news. One of the issues to address in 2018-19 is how to involve additional people.

6. Demit of current office bearers/election of office bearers. The following official roles were agreed: Chair - Constance Newbould; Treasurer - Helen McKay; and Secretary - Jo Gillies

In addition, Steven Amabile will consider being co-opted on to the committee.

7. Date of next AGM: 1st April 2019 (TBC)

DDCC Meeting, 2 April 2018

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Apologies: Constance Newbould, David Newbould, Ian Milne, Janice Milne, Nick Moss
2. **Ratification of minutes, February 2018.** A few names have been corrected and the minutes were agreed as a true record of February's meeting.
3. **Police Report.** Lewis Hodkinson had moved to a new role within Police Scotland, but he had prepared the report covering 1st February to 31st March before his departure (see end for full details). An addendum had been made to the previous report to include a jewellery theft at Flowerfield; the thief had not yet been caught. Distress flares and helicopter activity had been reported on the Pentlands. A Rural Crime Initiative was launched in early April, a particular issue at this time of year is to safeguard livestock, especially during lambing time. Hate crimes are also being highlighted during school visits. After information on vehicle incidents was shared, members pointed out some additional crashes, including on the A702 at the end of March.
ACTION: JM will put Information about dog worrying and contact details for Tam Crawford (Environment Officer a.k.a. Dog Warden; tam.crawford@midlothian.gov.uk Mobile: 07703528802) on the website. Jo to put information on dog worrying on noticeboard.
4. **Planning/Development issues**
 - Midlothian Snowsports Centre. Midlothian Council is considering future activities at the Snowsports Centre and we were asked to suggest any ideas that would be of interest to DDCC. Some immediate suggestions were crofts, access for disabled people, cycle hooks on the chairlift.
 - Pentland Biomass chipping. The scale, noise and operating hours were greater than we think are allowed in planning permission. This led to a discussion of the value of the Green Belt designation. The Green Belt is now described as Green Space or Green Networks and if approved by the Council it can be used for building regardless of the Planning Department's advice.
 - Midlothian population is supposed to grow by over 13% over the next 5 years. Julian Holbrook had visited Alastair Mather (CPP) and James Kinch (Head of Parks) to make the case for community food belt and to press planners to consider including spaces for allotments or starter farms within all plans for high density housing.
 - Parking has been decriminalised so from 9th April will now come under Midlothian Council remit.
5. **Community issues**
 - Spring gathering on WRI report, update. 15-20 people attended and lots of additional photos and other historical information was passed round. **Action:** at next DDCC meeting we will discuss how to take this forward.
 - Litter pick, it was agreed to delay the litter until Sunday 22 April 2018, 10am-12 noon. **Action:** Stuart Clark to arrange 'men at work' signage or similar to slow traffic speeds. Some sections could not be done safely so Jo to ask the Council to do these sections through the payback scheme. Jo to organise empty bags and collection of full bags, Helen to buy and deliver drinks and energy bars!

- Summer lunch gathering, 3 June 2018; 12-16:00 pm at Pentland House. Everyone welcome. Feel free to bring a contribution to the community picnic.

6. Links between community councils. There has been a meeting to discuss local CC boundaries, in particular Cameron Gardens. Once the position of the A701 realignment road has been agreed, changes to the community council boundaries can be agreed. In the meantime, both DDCC and RBCC will reach out to residents at Cameron Gardens.

7. AOB

- Discussion of the noise generated by the kennels, which seems to be excessive. We discussed whether a noise limit had been set. Originally the application had been for a boarding kennels but this was now a day-care dog kennels. Owned by John Tickle. **ACTION:** Councillor Winchester will investigate whether the permission granted covered a day centre.
- Our primary school catchment area is now Bilston Primary which reinforces the need to extend the 40mph speed limit on the A703 to the cross roads with traffic lights towards Ploverhall. Sergeant Lindsay to ask on our behalf for the following actions: speed cameras to be set up; police with the relevant roles to visit the area to consider road safety implications for A703 and Pentland Road: and for police presence from time to time. **ACTION:** Representative from Roads Department (Rickie Moffat) to attend a DDCC meeting to discuss further, along with Police Scotland representative (Steven to identify relevant individual). Councillor Winchester to provide update on position re 3-way junction.
- We will update the DDCC map. **ACTION:** Can we all consider any recent changes and alert John.
- Drain broken at junction at Secret Herb Garden. **ACTION:** Councillor Winchester to ensure this is fixed asap given safety implications.

8. Date of next meeting: 7pm, Monday 4 June at the Steading.

In general, meetings will take place on the 1st Monday in every second month:
 6th August
 1st October
 3rd December

Other useful dates:

Litter Pick Sunday 22 April 2018, 10am-12 noon

Summer Lunch Gathering Sunday 3 June, 12 noon-4pm

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

1st February 2018 – 31st March 2018

Crimes & Incidents

- Previous omission – On the evening of 15/09/17 a house (Flowerfield) at Old Pentland was broken into. A window was smashed, and items (jewellery) taken from within that were within reach of the window.
- On 26/02/18 a fire was reported to a hedge at Damhead. Fire Service attended but no criminality was identified.
- Calls were received in February regarding distress flares on Pentland Hills and nearby – this has been confirmed as army training exercises.

Vehicle Collisions

- About 21:00 hours on 01/02/18 a one vehicle accident took place at Damhead where a vehicle left the roadway. No one was injured.