

DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6th December 2017, Steading

Present: Jo Gillies, John Marsh, Helen McKay, Alasdair Ferguson, Constance Newbould, Julian Holbrook, David Newbould, Stuart Clark, Jim Telfer, Diane Graham, Robin McBride, Nicolle Begbie, Victor and Jenny de Lima, PC Lewis Hodkinson, Councillor Pauline Winchester.

Apologies: Ian and Janice Milne, Ailsa Carlisle

1. Police report for Sept - November

The full report is given as an appendix. PC Hopkinson listed the following: a low flying drone over Damhead had been reported but no offence had taken place, car with no insurance, petrol station fuel stolen as well as funding from air machine, drug use (cannabis) at Boghall Farm car park, horse removed from the drainage ditches, and a number of vehicle collisions at the petrol station at Hillend; Damhead; and on Old Pentland Road. PC Hopkinson noted that the locations may not be accurate.

Julian suggested that drone operators notify community council. Robin McBride offered that Anna Henly could assist with raising awareness of regulations and pilot skills. Concern expressed about road safety at bottom of Burnside Road, and that the list under-represents the number of actual accidents within the Community Council area.

Action: anyone with interest in drone training etc to contact Jo Gillies ddcc@mfcc.info

2. Ratification of minutes.

Minutes from the last meeting on 12 September were proposed by Stuart Clark and seconded by Constance Newbould. The agreed minutes will be posted on our website and our new noticeboard.

Matters arising:

- Julian Holbrook had an action to organise a minibus to visit community efforts and asked for an indication of the kind of place we'd like to visit. Notes of interest and further suggestions to Julian at ddcc@mfcc.info
- John Marsh reported that Peter Arnsdorf attended the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils meeting but with a prepared speech and only responded to a limited number of the submitted questions. Eventually written answers were supplied to JM. Following close questions from JM, Peter Arnsdorf agreed that there is £1.4m available to do the test drillings for the new realignment of the A701. Conversation reverted to discussion of A720 - Councillor Winchester agreed that the current funding is for upgrade of 701 and 702 and has to be spent within the 2017/18 financial year. Relief road is to cost £20M; so far MLC have £4M with the hope of additional funding from the City Deal. Councillor Winchester will check and provide confirmation.
- Noticeboard has been erected in entrance to Old Pentland Cemetery.

3. Superfast Broadband

Although BT say that DDCC area not due to get an upgrade, cable and pipework for broadband has been laid and connected to poles. It was queried whether there is any plan to upgrade along the A702. **Action:** All residents to continue to press BT for early upgrade of service.

4. Planning Matters

- a. JM noted nothing new recently of concern.

- b. Landfill. Midlothian responded to JM's inquiry about the landfill and will get back once they have reviewed the additional material supplied. There has been no response to Constance's request about reduced duration of the landfill on account of the more frequent lorry trips. Road has been patched to a reasonably good standard. JM's point about a wash further from the boundary has so far been ignored.
- c. Clippens. MLC responded that there would be no decision until it was clear what was going to be done at the film studio. Ministers gave the council six months to collect and review issues. **Action:** JG to chivvy about enforcement.

5. **Councillor Pauline Winchester** reported that budget discussions are still ongoing - MLC budget must be set by March. Likely continuation of budget cuts over future years. Strong feelings about library cuts, and other cuts that impact directly on communities, which are likely to make only small savings - suggested a longer term view is required.

6. Community Matters

- a. **Winter gathering**. Approx 7-8 responses expressed interest, which was mainly for the following: cuppa and cake at Glencorse Centre, tour of bing, visit to graveyard, sharing/viewing of old local photos. After discussion it was agreed to organise the tour of the bing and graveyard in the summer and also a March indoor event at the Steading, e.g. nibbles centred on update of the Womens Rural Institute report celebrating 50 years; and identifying additional photos to include in the new edition.
- b. **Noticeboard**. MLC team have installed the Board, but no plaque yet. Some design issues, e.g. cork backing board has not been sealed adequately and there were no securing screws, stays needed to secure doors. Stuart and Jo will hold keys. Agreed to use the bus stop as a second noticeboard. **Action:** Stuart to organise plaque.
- c. **Links with Bilston and Roslin CC**. Cameron Gardens might have issues more suited for Roslin and Bilston rather than Damhead. Agreed DDCC to attend RBCC meeting and vice versa to discuss issues of interest, alongside option to consider realignment of CC boundaries (acknowledging risks if we reduce the numbers within DDCC). **Action:** Jo to notify RBCC of dates of our meetings.

7. Midlothian meeting of Community Councils

- a. JG and JM attended the MLC meeting of Midlothian community councils. Noted that Council obliged to consider community asset transfer proposals with presumption to agreement, especially if the land is being neglected. This might be relevant for the bing.
- b. Participation requests enable community engagement around development and delivery, e.g. A701 relief road. Agreed that we should consider. **Action:** Jo will provide a link.

8. AOB

- a. **Litter pick**. 40-45 bags had been collected, including a microwave, Hoover, etc. Road safety on A703 (on side without pavement) was a concern, even with additional road signage. Jo suggested getting Council to assist cleaning busiest and most dangerous sections. JH suggested that we should notify Keep Scotland Tidy. New hoops very useful.

- b. **Bus shelter** Proposed plaque should reflect the fact that DDCC part funded bus shelter. **Action:** Stuart to action.
- c. **Reinstatement of white lines.** From safety point of view, these should be reinstated. **ACTION:** John to ask for new lines
- d. **Demonstration outside Parliament arranged by Planning Democracy.** On loss of Green Belt, ca. 30 people turned up, including a number of MSPs.
- e. **Community and climate change event.** Julian to let us know of possible equivalent event in Midlothian next spring.
- f. **Deer.** Edinburgh and East Lothian Deer Control Groups expressing concern about safety on roads.

9. **Date of next meeting: Monday 5 February.** In general, meetings will take place on the 1st Monday in every second month: 5th Feb, 2nd April (also AGM), 4th June, 6th Aug, 1st Oct and 3rd Dec.

Appendix

**Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report
1st September 2017 – 30th November 2017**

Crimes & Incidents

On 19/09/17 & 22/09/17, reports were received of a drone flying low over a property at Damhead. Police attended and spoke to the operator. No offences were detected.

On 22/09/17 a Silver Renault Scenic was seized by Police from the A702 after it was found to have been driven with no insurance.

About 5:30pm on 29/10/17 the compressed air machine at The Esso Petrol station was broken into and a quantity of cash stolen from within.

Over the period there were several reports of thefts of fuel from the Esso Petrol station at Biggar Road, in addition to a report of males attempting to sell TVs to members of the public.

About 5:30pm on 11/11/17 a report was received regarding drug use at Boghall Farm carpark. Police traced three vehicles there. Four males were found in possession of cannabis and issued with Recorded Police Warnings.

About 10am on 18/11/17 a report was received of a horse stuck in an irrigation ditch at Pentland Road. The fire service attended to assist in extraction, which was successful.

Vehicle Collisions

On 08/09/17 a two vehicle collision took place on the A702 near to Hillend. There were no injuries or requirement for ambulance.

About 7pm on 19/10/17 a two vehicle collision took place on Pentland Road near to the A702. One female attended the ERI for minor injuries.

About 7:45 am on 24/10/17 a van left the roadway on Pentland Road and struck a fence post, after swerving to avoid another vehicle. No persons were injured.

About 11:50am on 04/11/17 a two vehicle damage only collision took place at the Esso Petrol Station at Biggar Road.

About 12:30 pm on 07/11/17 a two vehicle collision took place at Damhead. No persons were injured and the drivers exchanged details.