

DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING: DRAFT MINUTES

5th February 2018, Steading

Present: Kate Marshall, Gordon Marshall, David Newbould, Grant McPherson, **Stuart Clark**, **Constance Newbould**, **Jo Gillies**, Ailsa Carlisle, **John Marsh**; **Helen McKay**, Natalie Frankland, Duncan McAusland, **Julian Holbrook**, Diane Graham, Stuart Thomson, John Bradford, Alice Ortiga, Councillor Pauline Winchester, Catherine Duns (Midlothian Council), Margaret Littlewood (Bilston and Roslin Community Council)

Apologies: Anna Henly, Robin McBride

1. Ratification of minutes and matters arising. Minutes were proposed by David Newbould and seconded by Stuart Clark so the minutes were agreed. **ACTION:** Minutes to go on the website and new noticeboard.

Matters arising:

- a. We agreed that we will use both bus stops to post notices.
 - b. Visits to other community council initiatives will be organised for a Saturday in May. **ACTION:** Julian will seek views about potential visit options.
 - c. BT continue to say that they cannot provide broadband even though new cabling has been installed.
 - d. Councillor Winchester has not yet checked cost of relief road, and whether this funding is being provided through the City Deal. **ACTION:** Councillor Winchester agreed to do so asap and email us the result.
 - e. Drilling investigations related to the A701 relief road have caused serious damage to land where the heavier machines have been used (purpose of these machines is to allow greater depths to be reached). On land where lighter machines have been used, there has been less damage, but only one hole has reached a depth of 10m.
2. **Police Report.** Lewis Hodkinson, one of our two community policemen, attended and presented the report from the 1st Dec 2017 to 31st Jan 2018 (see Appendix). Kate Marshall queried that no mention of a break in at Flowerfield in January was included in previous report. **ACTION:** LH will follow up.
3. **Planning matters**
 - a. Film Studio. Developers were required to supply more information to the Scottish Government. Following Minister announcement, Section 75 will be signed, then planning permission will be issued, but we understand that development can only proceed once the land has been signed over and has become vacant.
 - b. Clippens. MLC confirmed re waste removal from Clippens that the length of the enforcement order has not been further extended. The Council has asked landowners for details of necessary actions to deal with the waste.
 - c. Corby Craig proposed housing development. The plan has been revised and now has fewer houses (155 dwelling houses plus 36 flats, including 3-storey flats). Deadline for responses is 6th February so DDCC need to put in fresh submissions. Our concerns included the excessive number of houses being built in the general locality (up to 1000) with insufficient upgrade in infrastructure, especially routes for walking and cycling (including for children as Damhead now part of Bilston primary school catchment area).

There was mention that Corby Craig was in a 200-year flood plain. **ACTION:** DDCC to ask for extension and submit a response. If no extension is granted, we should send emails to Councillor Winchester in time for the next planning meeting on 20th February.

- d. Motel at 3-way junction. We noted that a 'For Sale' sign has been erected at the car wash site. The site had been granted planning permission several years ago so it may now have run out. **ACTION:** Constance to check position.

4. **Treasurer's report.** Helen McKay reported that the DDCC bank balance was just over £1200 and we had been granted £682 for 2018-19. HM was concerned about apparent changes to the process of getting insurance for community events. Catherine Duns (from Midlothian Council) explained that there was a system in place to arrange and fund this centrally. **ACTION:** Helen to liaise with Stephen Bermingham at MLC to renew insurance.

5. Community matters

- a. WRI report. Helen McKay passed round photocopies of the 1953 report photos in the hope that some of the community may have the original photos so that they could be scanned to improve the clarity of the images. We agreed to have a community meeting on 24th March at the Steading to review the old report and collect information for an addendum to take it to the present. **ACTION:** Constance to check availability of the Steading/Jo to issue invitation.
- b. Summer gathering Sunday 3rd June at Pentland House was agreed.
- c. The next litter pick would be held on Sunday 15th April, 10-12 am
- d. Julian offered to organise walks (e.g. up Pentland Hills/round the DDCC boundary) or an open-air peddle-powered cinema. **ACTION:** Notes of interest to Julian.

6. **Links between DDCC and Bilston and Roslin CC.** Margaret Littlewood attended for BRCC. Jo identified some of the community councils' common interests, e.g. paths. **ACTION:** Julian to ask Federation to invite Green Space Scotland to address the Federation.

There is little logic in the community council boundaries. Bilston does not have a common view about changing the boundaries except that they'd like to know more about what we're doing so we agreed to exchange (draft) minutes. **ACTION:** Jo and Margaret Littlewood.

Catherine Duns explained that a change of CC boundary is relatively straight forward and that it would be sensible to discuss not just Damhead & District and Roslin & Bilston but also Penicuik. **ACTION:** Catherine to initiate discussion to consider boundaries between Penicuik CC, RBCC, and DDCC.

7. **Federation update.** John provided an update on the Federation's submission to the Scottish Government re their consultation on planning - this can be circulated further if requested. Re current budget discussions, Midlothian Council is getting an extra £2.4m which is likely to be used to top up the reserves. This still leaves a £14m shortfall. **ACTION:** all to email concerns to Councillor Winchester asap e.g. library cuts; recycling becoming to weekly but the interval for waste collections increasing to

3 weeks; charging for brown bins; charge for rental of after school clubs to increase from 5% to 50%; learning assistants cut; school lunches to be reduced to soup and sandwich along with price increase; lollypop people no longer needed at pelican crossings.

8. AOB

- a. Ski slope - Councillor Winchester would be interested in our views. **ACTION:** discuss at next meeting
- b. Councillor Winchester informed us that plans to build a Park and Ride at Lothianburn may be resurrected. There were strong views that this would serve little purpose because the queues into Edinburgh at rush hour regularly stretch almost to Flotterstone. Any park and ride facility would be best placed further out from Edinburgh.
- c. Midlothian Play Forum meeting 1st March, 10.00-12.30 at Dalkeith Arts Centre. If anyone is able to, and wishes to attend/represent DDCC, Jo Gillies can provide further details.
- d. GP and primary care - a workshop is being held to gather views on proposals for the new GP contract. Individuals with an interest can register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/edinburgh-your-gp-and-you-registration-42508073793>
- e. Milestone Society - There had been interest by the Milestone Society in the resetting of a milestone/trig point opposite Constance's roadend. The Society is collating an inventory on this, and other local milestones if anyone is interested in contributing.
- f. The very poor condition of Old Pentland Road is a concern, in particular the potholes at McKenzies, Cement Works and close to the 3-way junction, which are a safety hazard. John Marsh reported that the Council admit that there are problems but no funding is available. Margaret Littlewood suggested that we contact Mark Rankine. Also photographs of potholes should be sent to Councillor Winchester and to Mark Rankine (by Twitter if possible). **ACTION:** Constance to contact Mark Rankine.
- g. Planning application from Secret Herb Garden to convert a barn and install a gin still was noted.

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

- Community meeting to learn more about updating of WRI report, to share old and recent photos of the local area: afternoon of **Saturday 24th March** at the Steading.
- Litter pick **Sunday 15th April**, 10-12 am
- Summer gathering **Sunday 3rd June** at Pentland House.

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

1st December 2017 – 31st January 2018

Crimes & Incidents

On 15/12/17 a 23 year old male was issued with a recorded Police Warning after acting in a threatening and abusive manner to staff at Old Pentland Sawmill.

On 23/12/17 a report was received about a strong smell of drugs from a vehicle parked at Damhead Farm Steading. The vehicle was not traced.

On 06/01/18 a stolen vehicle was recovered from Boghall Farm Cottages.

On 25/01/18 a 24 year old male was found in possession of drugs at Hillend Ski Centre car park. He was cautioned and charged and will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Vehicle Collisions

On 03/12/17 a fence was damaged by a roadworks vehicle on the Seafield Moor Road. No one was injured.

On 23/12/17 on the A703 a dog was fatally struck by a car.

On 05/01/18 a vehicle left the road on Old Pentland Road, owing to a tyre blow out. No persons were injured.

On 16/01/18 during adverse weather conditions two vehicle accidents occurred on Burnside Road, Damhead. The first involved 3 vehicles. The second involved 8 (eight) vehicles and blocked the road. No one was injured but all vehicles were damaged.

On 16/01/18 a two vehicle accident took place on the Seafield Moor Road. Both vehicles were damaged but no one was injured.

Firstly a thank you to all who participated in the “Your view Counts Survey” last year. The Survey is now in its 2nd year. This aids in developing our Policing Priorities across Scotland. It takes a few minutes and can be completed by clicking the link below:www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above or indeed any other issue please contact your Community Policing Officer PC 5589- J Lewis Hodkinson.

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

Hate crime incidents and domestic abuse incidents can now be reported online via the official Police Scotland website, www.scotland.police.uk. or by visiting a third Party Reporting Centre.

Information regarding crime can be passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through an anonymous Online Form - both of these routes are completely anonymous and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

E-mail : LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk