**Howgate Community Council - Draft Minutes 28 November 2018.**

**Present**

Bruce Hobbs (chair), Graeme Young (treasurer), Ian Quigley (Secretary), David Wilson, Ian King, Jenny Westwood.

**In attendance**

Councillor Debbie McCall, Tommy Goldie. (Midlothian District Council Liaison Officer).

1. **Apologies**

Colin Bennet, Alannah Juchniewicz.

**Approval of previous minutes**

**2.1** Approval of Minutes of meeting 19 September 2018. Proposed by Graeme Young, seconded by Ian King.

**2.2** Approval of Minutes of meeting 24 October 2018. Proposed by David Wilson, seconded by Graeme Young.

**3. Community Policing Report.**

The police report had been circulated in advance. There were no specific references to Howgate.

An update is anticipated from the police on progress in relation to enforcement of speed limits.

**4 Consequences of Closure of Howgate Church.**

**4.1** Ian Quigley brought the meeting up to date after his attendance at the HVHA meeting. He had been told that the intention of the Church is that the hall could be used until a sale is completed.

It had also been said that the Church intended to complete registration of its title in the Land Register before marketing the church property, i.e. the church building, the hall and the glebe.

If that is correct that gives some time , but it was agreed that we should proceed with the questionnaire as soon as possible, the intention being that it would go out with the January edition of the Town Crier.

**4.2**. The draft questionnaire prepared by Ian Quigley had been circulated and was discussed.

It was agreed to delete reference to the potential footpath because it was premature because of the uncertainty in relation to the glebe.

It was also agreed that the format should be changed so as to retain the detail of the draft but that that would be an annexure to a much simpler, shorter and more user friendly front sheet. Ian was authorised to work with Ian King and with HVHA to make progress.

It was confirmed that HCC would share the costs with HVHA, ( note: See item 10.2).

**5. Proposed footpath.**

For the reasons referred to in 4.2 this was deferred,

Bruce will explain the position to Donald Cameron.

**6. Roads, traffic and update report from Tommy Goldie.**

**6.1** Tommy tabled an update of the roads issues.

A number of issues which have been raised some considerable time ago are still outstanding, including failure to complete lining on Pomathorn Road or to resolve the drainage issues, and the failure to deal with the terrible state of the road between Howgate and Loanstone. Mr Glynn had been asked whether there were plans to resurface, as has recently happened on the road between Leadburn and Howgate, but all he has said is that patching work has still to be undertaken, so not only are there no signs of resurfacing but also the dreadful potholes are not being addressed. Dissatisfaction was expressed about the responses from Mr Glynn and the performance of the section of the roads department.

*(It was subsequently reported (3 December 2018 by Ian Lennock, Operations and Asset Manager (Roads) via Debbi McCall) that the potholes had been filled at the end of November 2018 and that plans were being made for resurfacing.*

Jenny suggested that blind summit signs should be considered for the road between Howgate and Leadburn.

**6.2**. In response to the ongoing issue of speeding traffic, it was noted that thanks to the efforts of David Sharp we now have electronic speed signs to the north and the south of Howgate Village, but it appears that road humps would not be considered to be appropriate unless the road safety record was much worse, and that additional speed reducing measures would have to accompany them, all of which would be too expensive.

Mr Sharp also said that the Scottish Government would only provide funds for fixed cameras on Council roads if there were several reported injury accidents in recent years.

The members of HCC expressed considerable surprise and disappointment at this attitude, which in summary is that until deaths and injuries occur nothing will be done. If this does happen no doubt some Midlothian Official will give out the usual platitudes about lessons being learned , but the HCC would prefer that such tragedies be avoided as far as possible.

It was agreed that HCC would make a concerted effort to collate and report incidents, including close shaves, and report this.

We also need an update from the police on measures which have been and will be taken.

**7 Planning matters**

**7.1**. There is no further update on The Midlothian Development Plan, but it was noted that at the meeting of the Federation of Community Councils there was a problem all over Midlothian of planning consents being given for housing without adequate provision for infrastructure such as schools, medical centres and transport.

**7.2** Elizabeth reported an application, 18/00741, for the erection of a dwelling house and cafe and amenity building, the siting of five yurts and the creation of a pond at Netherton..

**8. Correspondence**

None received

**9. HCC Funds**

No change from last report.

**10. AOCB**

**10.1** Bruce asked Tommy when we might expect to receive the annual grant for the running of the community council. Tommy said that all such matters should be dealt on 18 December 2018.

**10.2** As an addition Tommy was asked whether the HCC share of expenditure for preparation and processing of the questionnaire referred to in item 4.2 could be requested from Midlothian Council and he thought that it would be reasonable to request additional funds since it was a novel and unanticipated expenditure.

**11. Date of next meeting.**

There will be no December meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 23rd January 2019.