

HOWGATE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Minutes of meeting of 25 September 2019

Present

Ian Quigley (Chair), Ian King, Jenny Westwood (Secretary), David Wilson, Graeme Young (Treasurer)

In attendance: Councillor Debbi McCall, Paul Johnson (Midlothian Council)

1. No apologies received.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 29 May 2019

Approved by Jenny Westwood. Seconded by Graeme Young

3. Matters arising

It was agreed that HCC should contribute £70 to Howgate Connect.

Ian Q would find out who the cheque should be made out to, and let Graeme know.

4. Last month's Police Report had been circulated. It was noted a number of incidents had taken place in Penicuik. Nothing had been reported in the Howgate area.

Ian Q would check with PC Alannah Juchniewicz as to whether or not she wanted to attend HCC meetings every month.

5. Drummond Moor development proposal.

James Cook (Sirius Planning) and Joe Haigh (FCC) made a presentation on the proposed development of a holiday resort on the southern side of Drummond Moor, on the A6094. The development is planned to begin in 2026. Both the plan and the map can be found on Howgate Village's website. The presentation was part of the pre-application consultation process.

It was noted that the plan was to build 60 bespoke lodges, with a central reception, cafe & gym. The leisure facilities would be open to local residents as well as the tourists. It was suggested that it's envisaged that up to 25 FT jobs could be generated.

Members of HCC identified some issues that they would be asking both the developers and Midlothian Council to take cognisance of in their planning proposals.

- Traffic generation from the proposed holiday resort, including its building phases
- Traffic is at a dangerous part of A6094, with lying water and the tree line
- Would need to be securely and adequately fenced as it surrounded by fields of stock, particularly pedigree sheep
- Water pressure and waste water concerns.

HCC thanked the developers for their presentation. We would be writing to Midlothian Council with our feedback, including the need to use Section 75 contributions to ensure local improvements can be guaranteed.

6. Ian Q reported on an encouraging, positive and constructive meeting he had had with Dr Grace Vickers (CEO) and Alistair Mathers from Midlothian Council. On the agenda were issues that concern HCC: Planning, roads, traffic and the quality & nature of communications between the Council and HCC.

Following an equally positive & constructive meeting with Christine Grahame, MSP with members of HCC, Christine has set up a meeting at her Parliamentary office for chairs of

community councils within her constituency to share common issues. Ian Q would report back at the HCC October meeting.

It was also agreed that the next HCC meeting would include an agenda item to explore what we should be prioritising as actions to improve our community..

7. Paul Johnson introduced himself as the new Midlothian Council Community Liaison Officer with responsibility for the Penicuik Roslin, Bilston & Howgate areas. He had formerly had responsibility for Mayfield, Easthouses, Newtongrange & Tynewater areas. He would be attending as many of HCC meetings as possible.

8. Ian K would be attending a roads and traffic meeting next week. In addition to previously identified issues, he agreed to report on the dangerous state of the pavements. Residents in Leadburn had already raised this issue with Danielle Rowley, MP. Jenny agreed to take a photo of a section of the pavement between Loanstone and Pomathorn crossroads and send to Ian.

9. Federation of Midlothian Community Councils.  
David provide a verbal report. There were many common issues that would need addressing.

#### 10. Standing items

##### 10.1 Planning:

- Drummond Moor presentation (see item 5)
- The Wellington residents group was still active in its consideration of the proposals.
- There was no further news re the Netherton proposals.

##### 10.2 Correspondance:

- An email from Jane Young noted there was a resilient communities meeting on 26 October
- An email from Sheila Redford, Community Waste Officer reported a new recycling facility in Newtongrange.

##### 10.3 HCC Funds

Graeme reported that HCC currently had £1145.09 in its account. The outstanding bill for the village hall had been paid.

#### 11. AOCB

- Debbi reported that Penicuik library, along with other Midlothian libraries, was changing its opening hours to Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10-5, Tuesday & Thursday 10-7, Saturday 10-1, Sunday closed.
- Planning permission had been granted for a new A701- corridor high school to replace Beeslack HS, as a Centre of Scientific Excellence, using Future Trust funding.

#### 12. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 23 October 2019 at 7.30pm