



**Dalkeith and District Community Council
Meeting, Tuesday 14th April, 2020,
7.00pm online via Zoom**

Note of meeting

		Action
1	<p>Present Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Kate Robertson, Cllr Margot Russell, Cllr Stephen Curran</p>	
2	<p>Approval of note of last meeting With the amendment of the title of the event in 3(a) to 'Civic Event' the note of the March meeting was approved.</p>	
3	<p>Matters arising/action points from last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10(a) – Kings Gates – AW The Community Council's objections had been submitted to the Planning Dept. • 10(b) – One Dalkeith – KR AS-K indicated her agreement to the letter of support so KR said she would now send it but thought the application might now have been passed. (Later in the meeting this was found to be correct.) • 10 – Licensing Board AS-K This hadn't met. 	
4	<p>Update on Covid-19 response. AS-K gave an update on progress in putting in place support mechanisms during the Covid-19 emergency. Brian McGuff had been working with her as Rona Duncan's replacement, and had been doing a great deal, but unfortunately had been recalled by Police Scotland. DDCC's link people were now Sharon Dalglish and Janet Smith. A framework was now established with a central contact point for anyone requesting help. The Central Contact Point would then pass the request to the Community Council to allocate to one of the volunteers. A good team of volunteers was now in place, coming mainly from St. John's and King's Park church, Dalkeith Rugby Club and Dalkeith Football Club. Many of the volunteers already had PVG certificates and a range of other useful qualifications. When a request to collect a Prescription had been received, AS-K said she had done that herself to try and maintain a degree of confidentiality. So far no requests to collect Classified Drugs had been received. In fact there had only been a slow trickle of requests so far. £10,000 had been received from the Council to fund activities and purchases where necessary. Clan Caterers at the Woodburn Miners Club were happy to help by providing hot meals but various Environmental health checks had to be made before this became fully operational. She finished her</p>	

	<p>report by saying that as a teacher she would be returning to work in a week's time and so would not be as available as she had been up to now and other arrangements would have to be made.</p> <p>AW congratulated AS-K on the huge amount she had achieved virtually single handed as other Community Councillors were having to stay at home. He said he had received a card giving details of the Central Contact Point and felt that might well result in an increase in requests for help.</p> <p>KR spoke about those who had received a "Shielding letter" and had to remain at home for 12 weeks and not go out at all. They were entitled to receive a food parcel if they required it. It was clear that someone in the Council was co-ordinating this as they had been phoning people who had received the Shielding letter.</p> <p>SC spoke about the kindnessmidlothian.co.uk website that he had set up to act as a channel for all those wishing to help or requesting help. This enabled residents to contact their Community Council when requesting help by means of a simple online form. It was agreed that this was a very helpful development.</p> <p>AS-K emphasised the importance of keeping accurate records of what had been requested, who had been allocated to deal with it, and afterwards for the volunteer to report back on the outcome, especially if they had detected ongoing issues.</p> <p>Brian McGuff had been issuing identifying letters for volunteers. This had been useful to avoid the queues at pharmacies, which were a major source of complaint at present, but when they had been used, occasionally there had been a negative reaction from those already waiting in the queue.</p> <p>The question of who was eligible for hot meals was discussed. Groups such as those attending Grassy Riggs and the Welfare Hall were fairly easy to identify, but how can those without such connections be located.</p>	
5	<p>Police Report – if supplied None was supplied. It was noted that there had been a prompt Police response when there had been an attempted robbery at a shop in the town centre.</p>	
6	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>MR reported that regular meetings were being held with the Chief Exec twice a week. The focus was on maintaining the Council's core services and providing the assistance to those who needed it at this time. She said the Chief Exec was doing an excellent job of maintaining everyone's morale and valuing everyone's efforts. Other Council services would be attended to as and when they could. Issues surrounding fly tipping and waste disposal were also under discussion as there had been an increase of instances of this occurring.</p>	
7	<p>Community Council Priorities for 2018/19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jarnac Court/Town Centre regeneration Nothing to report because of the current situation. • Traffic management/parking Nothing to report because of the 	

	<p>current situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging the community Nothing to report because of the current situation. • Communications - the notice boards are now functioning again. A key for the one with the new lock has been provided. 	
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Good Fund Nothing to report because of the current situation. 	
9	<p>Reports from meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board The Airport has now been virtually closed. Most staff have been 'furloughed' meaning they cannot do any work for the Airport. What implications the Covid-19 pandemic will have on their ACP remains to be seen. • Midlothian Federation of Community Councils MFCC has now been having weekly Zoom meetings on Friday afternoons to keep everyone abreast of how each council has been dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. From the regular monthly meeting, concerns had been raised over planning procedures. • One Dalkeith - The Chair had been in contact with One Dalkeith, and they were at present considering how they could best assist the effort to aid residents during the lockdown. 	
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations - There was nothing to report because of the current situation. 	
11	<p>Correspondence (e.g. planning applications, traffic orders and licences)</p> <p>The application for the new Aldi store has been lodged. Concerns remain over the traffic on Cousland Road and the provision of a walkway from the store to the existing housing in Easter Langside and the surrounding area.</p> <p>It was noted that Melville Road and Lugton Brae were to be closed again to allow installation of electric power cables. This is apparently the second phase of the work started about a year ago when they were closed to allow the ducting to be laid.</p>	
12	<p>Any other competent business</p> <p>Finance. The annual grant of £1400 had been received. The process of adding alternative ways of accessing the Community Council funds, in particular Internet Banking, was continuing.</p>	
13	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed the next full meeting would be Tuesday May 12th at 7pm, probably online again.</p> <p>A further meeting of Community Councillors was arranged for Monday April 20th at 7pm</p>	