



Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 12th January, 2021,

		Action
1	<p>Present Ann Stewart-Kmicha, Chair, Kate Robertson, Andrew Watt, Cllr. Margot Russell, Cllr Colin Cassidy.</p> <p>Apologies: Daniel Baigrie; Brian McGuff</p>	
2	<p>Approval of note of last meeting. The note of the previous meeting was approved. Prop. ASK, Sec. KR</p>	
3	<p>Matters arising, not on agenda elsewhere/action points from last meeting</p> <p>a) <i>Defibrillators.</i> A further email from V. MacDonald had been received requesting more information. It was agreed AW would write to her confirming DDCC's acceptance of the quote BM had received and ASK would send her copies of the financial documents she had requested.</p> <p>b) <i>Police posters.</i> These had been received, modified, and were on the notice boards.</p> <p>c) <i>Fitness club planning application.</i> This would be covered under item 4.</p>	AW ASK
4	<p>Correspondence (e.g. planning applications, traffic orders and licences)</p> <p>a) <i>Planning applications.</i> Two previous applications had been decided, the new building in Buccleuch St. and the Go Ape development in the Country Park. Both had been approved subject to conditions.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">I. The application for change of use of the premises in Eskdail St. from offices into a fitness club was ongoing. Further documents had been submitted. Environmental Health had expressed concerns regarding the noise impact on flats above and were recommending an independent assessment should be carried out. Neighbour Notifications had been sent out but no responses had yet appeared on the planning portal. Concerns were expressed with regard to noise and also accessing the premises by car along the one way street from the High St., plus the temptation to illegally take a short cut from Buccleuch St. It was agreed to submit a response. KR would draw up a draft and circulate it among members.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">II. A new application had just been submitted for a Business Park development at the site known as Sherrifhall South. Concern was expressed at the nature of this proposed development on a Green Belt site. It lies just outside the boundary of the DDCC area so it was agreed to confer with ENCC and BLCC before submitting a response. KR agreed to take this on.</p> <p>b) <i>TTRO</i> Various orders had been received.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">I. <i>Abbey Rd.</i> This was being closed for limited periods to enable work to take place. Newbattle Golf Club should be notified.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">II. <i>Bus Stops.</i> The necessary orders relating to the bus stop moves previously notified had been received.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">III. <i>One way systems.</i> Various orders to rationalise various one way systems had been received.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">IV. <i>Disabled parking bays.</i> An order creating new DPBs and removing some no longer required had been received.</p>	KR KR KR
5	<p>Police Report</p> <p>None had been received for this month. It was noted from reports in the Advertiser that various parties had been held contrary to the current restrictions. There had been a spate of robberies in Glebe St. and Mitchell St. Indications were that the thieves were looking for</p>	

	car keys to steal a car rather than household possessions.	
6	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>Cllr. Russell gave her report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <i>New store.</i> Aldi had begun engaging with local art groups with a view to creating an appropriate art installation for their new store. ii) <i>Dalkeith Medical Centre.</i> Following on from Cllr Russell's meeting at Dalkeith Medical Centre, at the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee a report from Alison White had referred to Health Practices in general. One phrase, "self-management", had stood out and meant that people should contact the appropriate health professional. Following discussion, MR had been advised to speak to Cath Johnstone who is the chair of the Joint Health and Social Care Partnership and this conversation had taken place. The outcome was that a meeting is to be held between MR and Dr. Conlon, the Practice Manager, Morag Barrow (Joint Director, Health and Social Care) and James McGough, the Strategic Programme Manager for Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership, but the current situation meant this would have to be put on hold for a while. iii) <i>Timescale for vaccines.</i> Over 80s were currently being vaccinated at Dalkeith Medical Centre and Health Workers at Midlothian Community Hospital. iv) <i>Gritting.</i> Kevin Anderson had said that members could request an empty grit bin to be refilled. In areas without coverage, a bulk load of grit could be dumped in a suitable location e.g. a car park, from where residents could collect it. She had suggested that the Miners' Club car park might be a possibility for this. It was hoped that car owners would help distribute the grit. There were reports that some grit bins were not being refilled, but sometimes this was a near impossible task; e.g. after the "Perfect Storm" on January 4th there had been over 800 requests to refill grit bins and it was just not possible to cover all contingencies. It was suggested the Winter Weather Service Plan should be re-considered and updated as necessary. It was reported that there was a need for a grit bin on Old Edinburgh Road. v) <i>Dog fouling.</i> KR said that on a recent walk to check grit bins in the Woodburn area, she had noted that that this was a major problem in some places. <p>Cllr Cassidy gave his report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <i>Award.</i> The Dalkeith Guerrilla Gardeners had received an award from the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society in recognition of their efforts to improve the town centre. DDCC congratulated the Guerrilla Gardeners on this achievement which was well deserved. CC went on to say that the area outside the Harrow Hotel currently planted with shrubs was being cleared with a view to eventually installing an art feature with agricultural themes. ii) <i>Dog fouling.</i> There were known areas where this was a problem and teams were working there to keep it clean. It had appeared that it was mainly caused by a few dog owners and the possibility of asking the dog wardens to concentrate on this area was being considered. It was suggested that the posters Cllr. Curran had had made might be used. iii) <i>Drains.</i> It was reported that the drain on Old Edinburgh Road just above North Wynd had not been cleaned in the recent clearing of drains that had been carried out. CC said he would get it looked at. iv) <i>Burns monument.</i> MR said the lantern on the Burns monument was not currently working because of water damage but it was being repaired and would be working again shortly. v) <i>Railings.</i> KR wished to record her thanks to Cllr. Cassidy because the railings on Lauder Road that she had previously reported as being in a poor condition have now been repaired. 	CC

7	<p>Reports from meetings</p> <p>a) <u>Summary report on Midlothian Council meeting.</u> The last meeting had gone on for 3.5 hours! Since the press could now attend, it was suggested that members of the public with a genuine interest in the matters being discussed should also be allowed to be present. The February meeting was being put back slightly to allow consideration of the annual budget.</p> <p>b) <u>Midlothian Federation of Community Councils</u> An issue had arisen with several CCs when payment had been requested by bank transfer but their constitution only allowed for payment by cheque. ASK said she was trying to identify a suitable amendment clause for the DDCC constitution that would enable payments to be made by BACS which hopefully could be adopted at the AGM. An emergency meeting had been held in response to the new lockdown. The Midlothian Food Fund was assisting residents with vouchers and had been receiving a very large number of requests. The CLL team and the Red Cross were operating the first line of response with Midlothian Council staff and third sector volunteers providing back up if necessary. If it got to the stage when further help was required then CCs would be asked to assist. All schools were open for children of key workers and vulnerable children and were seeing a significant increase in numbers attending compared with the first lockdown. There was a MTRaP meeting on the 25th.</p> <p>c) <u>One Dalkeith.</u> Jillian Symon has been appointed as the Business Manager to work on opening the building. The projects started during the first lockdown were coming to an end. They were looking for people/organisations to take on looking after the bicycles.</p>	ASK
8	<p>Community Council Priorities for 2019/20</p> <p>a) <i>Traffic management/parking.</i> Nothing further.</p> <p>b) <i>Engaging the community.</i> There was some discussion on how to inform the community of the opportunity to be a Community Councillor. Various suggestions were made which would be followed up.</p> <p>c) <i>Communications.</i> Nothing further.</p>	ASK
9	Consultations No current relevant consultations.	
10	<p>Any other competent business.</p> <p>a) It was agreed to renew the subscription to Microsoft365 which was due on Jan 15th.</p> <p>b) There was to be a CPD meeting the following day and a Transport meeting the day after. On Monday 18th there was to be an ERIG meeting. MR reported that work was continuing regarding minerals in the outflow from the former Bilston Colliery workings.</p>	
11	Date of next meeting. Tuesday 9 th February which was to be the AGM.	