

Minutes of Zoom Meeting on 10th August 2021

Present: Pat Kenny (Chair), David Temple, Norrie Scott, John Thomson, Ruth Stephen, Gina Temple and Peter Frame

1. **Apologies:** Paul Mepham and Pauline Winchester

2. Minutes of June Meeting approved by Norrie Scott, seconded by David Temple.

3. Matters arising

- No response from Roslin CC as to whether Midlothian Council have acted on railway path repair.
- Hunter Avenue now open again after repair outside McTaggart's Engineering works, but a mound of rubble has been left by the contractor. GT to contact Midlothian Council to ask for it to be removed.
- No update on dog fouling.
- No update on procurement of litter pickers
- Norrie Scott reported that the work on the Straiton Pond Path will be carried out within this financial year.
- Pavement at Hawthorn Gardens – as discussed at June meeting there is nothing more the Planning Department can do. However, Norrie had written again to councillors, Colin Beattie, Owen Thompson and Peter Arnsdorf following a report of 2 wheelchair users having difficulties with the narrow path. No substantive responses so far. Pat Kenny to arrange to meet with the contractor to see if a local agreement could be made to widen the path. As a first step costing from Midlothian Council needs to be obtained for removing the hedge and extending the pavement.
- Petition for closure of Dryden Terrace – Pauline Winchester sent in an update, the Council is currently consulting with the emergency services on the possibility of closing this road.
- Gala Day Banner was purchased and displayed for Gala Week.
- Loanhead Medical Practice – Colin Beattie met with the practice yesterday but we have received no further update, other than they plan to upgrade their telephone system. However, staff shortage is a bigger problem.
- Mavisbank House Lottery bid was unsuccessful.

4. Heritage Trail Update

- Paul and Ruth are working on the map, she has received feedback from local residents on the size etc. Ageing Well willing to contribute to the cost of printing if their logo appears on it.
- Ruth had circulated the proposed inscriptions for the 6 new benches for comment on grammar and historical accuracy. So far she has received none so assumes they are ok. The main theme of the trail is to celebrate Loanhead's mining heritage.
- The Coal Authority has given permission to use the picture of Bilston Glen Colliery and Russell would like this to be in the form of a notice board at the entrance to the Industrial Estate.
- Ruth has been in contact with 4 companies for quotes for a blue heritage aluminium sign with white writing: Ward Signs £360 + delivery + VAT; Falcon Signs £460 + delivery + VAT; Leander Architectural £307 + delivery + VAT and a Scottish company called Celtec but they have not given us a quote.
- The suggestion is for the following: 1 plaque for William McTaggart the landscape artist, 1 plaque for the McTaggart Engineering Works, 1 for the Forte Family, 1 for Alec Young (miner/footballer), 1 Fountain Village, 1 Ramsay Colliery, 1 Forrester Arms, 1 Masons Arms, 1 Railway Bridge, 1 Mavisbank Jointure House (oldest house in Loanhead) and 1 at the metal artwork of pit head at the Dandara Estate. John suggested that Adam Smith (former manager of Bilston Glen) should be considered, his family still live in Loanhead.

- Russell is liaising with the Countryside staff about the location of the benches.
- David reported that the Masonic Lodge had received permission to place a bench (commemorating NHS and other workers during the pandemic) at the location of the former telephone box at the bottom of George Drive.

5. Planning

Matters arising:

- **21/00338/DPP** Aldi store for Old Pentland Road, Aldi has applied for an extension till 26 November 2021 in order to carry out a transport assessment and MLC have agreed.
- **21/00333/DPP** Erection of dwelling house at 104 Straiton West – Pat had checked this out and agreed the applicant appears to be taking over additional land. However, this application has been approved.
- **21/00339/DPP** EH20 external seating on pavement – has been rejected by the Council.

Current Planning applications

- **21/00516/SCO** 14 June 2021 Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, 40 - 46 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith EIA Scoping Opinion for road construction at Land between A720 Straiton and Easter Howgate, Penicuik, Ward: Midlothian West, Case Officer:
- **21/00547/ADV30** June 2021 Lidl Great Britain Ltd, 1 Coddington Crescent, Motherwell, ML1 4YF. Display of illuminated signage at Unit 1, Straiton Park Way, Loanhead, EH20 9QY, Ward: Midlothian West, Case Officer: Mhairi-Anne Cowie 0131 271 3308
- **21/00539/DPP7** July 2021 Mr Duncan Halley, 13 Polton Road, Loanhead, EH20 9BU. Extension to dwelling house and formation of dormers at 13 Polton Road, Loanhead, EH20 9BU, Ward: Midlothian West, Case Officer: Ingrid Forteach 0131 271 3316
- **21/00602/DPP** 16 July 2021 Mr Chris Nicholls, 13 Hunter Terrace, Loanhead, EH20 9SJ. Extension of roof to allow for attic conversion to bedroom at 13 Hunter Terrace, Loanhead, EH20 9SJ, Ward: Midlothian West, Case Officer:
- **21/00628/DPP** 27 July 2021 Mr Craig Dawson, Craig Dawson, 5 Dryden Terrace, Edinburgh, EH20 9JN. Erection of outbuilding (in rear garden) at 5 Dryden Terrace, Loanhead, EH20 9JN, Ward: Midlothian West, Case Officer:
- **21/00636/DPP** 29 July 2021 Mrs Suzanne Robinson, 3 Hawthorn Gardens, Loanhead, EH20 9ED. Erection of two storey extension (rear of building) at 3 Hawthorn Gardens, Loanhead, EH20 9ED, Ward: Midlothian West, Case Officer:

6. Any other competent business

- Blue Badge parking space proposal for Engine Road – no objections.
- John reported on the number of vehicles speeding on The Loan and Clerk Street, Midlothian Council are proposing a consultation on a 20mph speed limit in all towns and built-up areas. It was noted that Bonnyrigg and Lasswade already have this in place.
- Proposed new high school – it would appear that the original location (off Gowkley Moss Roundabout) was not suitable as the main water supply pipe from the reservoir to Edinburgh runs through this field. The new proposed location is within the Bush Estate along the A703.
- Proposed Edinburgh International Arena at Straiton West. The development of this 30 acre site will cause huge traffic congestion, along with the 400 houses proposed. It is very unfortunate that we are not able to discuss this with our councillors due to conflict of interests.
- Annual General Meeting – it was agreed to source a venue that will be suitable for a public meeting for 20-30 people.