



**Mearns East**  
Community Council

<b>MEETING OF</b>	Meeting of Mearns East Community Council	
<b>HELD ON</b>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 @ 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School	
<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>	The Vice Chairperson, Steve Rutherford welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
	<p>In attendance: William Maxwell (Chairperson), Steve Rutherford (Vice Chairperson), Jane Royston (Treasurer), Janet Olverman (Secretary), Susan Brodie, David Buchanan, Joan Macintosh, Anne Lithgow, Elnara Alderson, Gerald Edwards, Doug Pitt</p> <p>Also Present: James Sandeman, Margaret Hinchliffe</p>	
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Cllr. Bamforth, Cllr. Edlin, John Morrison, Fiona McFarlane and Trish Dunlop	
<b>ITEM DISCUSSED</b>		<b>Action Points</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF MEETINGS</b>	<p><b>Minute of MECC meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b></p> <p>With one small grammatical amendment, the Chairperson proposed the Minute as a true record of the MECC meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, it was seconded by Jane Royston and approved by the Community Council.</p>	
<b>MATTERS ARISING/</b>	There were no matters arising	
<b>POLICE REPORT</b>	<p>The Police were unable to attend but had provided a written report for the period 7<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024.</p> <p>Summary below:</p> <p>“Crime levels in your community council area remain low in the past month.</p> <p>Ongoing issues with youth disorder continue to be a priority for your local community policing team, they are working closely with youth services to tackle this issue.</p> <p>Constituents are encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour they may experience. It is asked that constituents are reminded of the importance of home and property security, and it is urged that any suspicious behaviour is reported to Police.</p> <p>The community’s continued engagement allows us to tailor the best policing response to the community.</p> <p>After one of the recent housebreakings there were numerous reports of suspicious activity in the local area, reported by members of the community, we would like to thank those who called in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three reports of Fraud were received in your area</li> </ul>	



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	<p>in this time, including one of Bogus Workman type fraud.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two reports of theft were received in your area in this time.</li><li>• One instance of Assault was reported during this time.</li><li>• Two instances of Vandalism were reported in your area in this time.</li><li>• One male was charged with various road traffic offences including driving without insurance and his vehicle was seized.</li><li>• One male was arrested for driving under the influence of a controlled substance.</li></ul> <p>Your local police officers have been focused on combatting an ongoing increase in housebreakings in the Greater Glasgow area and, with the help of the public, numerous instances of suspicious vehicles and people were reported to police and allowed for police action.</p> <p>It should be noted there were three reports of housebreakings in your area during this time. A dedicated team of officers within the Greater Glasgow CID department continue to focus on these offences. Additionally pro-active stops on vehicles within the area have continued through the period of this report.”</p> <p>Please remember you can report information to the Police using any of the following:</p> <p>999 – Emergency</p> <p>101 – Non emergency</p> <p>Visit <a href="https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/">https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/</a></p> <p>0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>Could police provide more details about the instances of theft whether personal or from retailers?</p> <p>Three house break-ins were reported – would it be possible for the Police to identify the area in which these crimes occurred, either Maidenhill, Mearnskirk, Broom or Kirkhill.</p> <p>Janet to write to MECC’s Police contact and ask for more detailed information.</p> <p>Janet to forward copy of full Police Report to MECC members.</p>	<p>Janet to forward copy of police report and ask for more detailed information</p>
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<b>CO-OPTION OF GERALD EDWARDS</b>	<p>Following completion of his nomination papers Dr. Gerald Edwards' Co-option was proposed by William Maxwell and Seconded by Janet Olverman and unanimously approved by the MECC members present.</p> <p>Dr. Gerald Edwards was welcomed as a Co-opted member of the MECC representing the Broom area.</p>	
<b>GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS</b>	<p>Andrew Reid, ERC's Community Council Liaison Officer, asked all CC's to include an aspect of Guidance for Community Councils within their meeting Agenda. Andrew will provide a different topic for each monthly meeting.</p> <p>For June, Andrew specifically asked that we note and discuss the guidance for meeting notifications - when to post and advertise the Agenda.</p> <p>The Guidance states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The agenda for each meeting shall be posted in public places such as libraries and notice boards, and online, not later than 5 days in advance of the relevant meeting.</li><li>• The COMMUNITY COUNCIL shall, not later than 5 days before any meeting, circulate the agenda for that meeting and the draft minutes of the previous meeting to community council members, the Council, relevant elected members and other parties having an interest in the matters discussed.</li><li>• The COMMUNITY COUNCIL shall provide the approved minutes of community council and any committee meetings to the Liaison Officer appointed by East Renfrewshire</li></ul> <p>MECC is pleased to report that we currently adhere to all practice and procedures set out above.</p> <p>A meeting notice is placed at various local locations including the Avenue noticeboard and online, at least 7 days prior to our meeting. This meeting notice is not an actual copy of the Agenda, more of a flyer advertising the topics to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting. Andrew Reid has confirmed that this meeting notice complies with ERC's guidance.</p> <p>James commented there are no public notice boards in Newton Mearns. There used to be two, one in the Avenue car park and one at Fairweather Hall.</p> <p>MECC used to be charged for the three notices at the Avenue, but one is now free.</p>	



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	<p>Advertising Suggestions: Place a notice at the Library Ask Maidenhill Parent Council to place a notice on their board at the school pitch</p> <p>Janet to email and ask them to place notice for September meeting.</p> <p>Not many people know about the Community Councils and what they do.</p> <p>Elnara suggested taking a table at the International Family Fun Day at Maidenhill Primary school on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 12 – 3pm, to help promote the MECC.</p> <p>MECC to write to Maidenhill Parent Council asking permission for a free table.</p> <p>Janet to create a handout.</p> <p>David suggested it would be beneficial to hold a combined Community Council meeting to discuss the role of CC's and share ideas.</p> <p>William to write to Chairs of all Community Councils to arrange a joint meeting.</p> <p>It was originally suggested that the Chair and the Vice Chair should attend this, however it was agreed due to the size of the meeting, that only one representative from each CC should attend – nominally the Chair</p>	<p>Janet create handout and email Maidenhill PC</p> <p>William write to all CC's</p>
<p><b>SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p>	<p>David Buchanan, Chair of the Planning sub-committee provided an update:</p> <p><b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b> Planning application 2024/0224/TP – Blackhouse Gardens. An application has been submitted to erect a boundary wall and fence. This is the third application made by the owners of this property. The previous two have been rejected. The deeds for their house say no boundary walls should be erected. MECC and several neighbours objected to the previous application. David to write to Cllr Paul Edlin and ask what his view is on this matter.</p> <p><b>BROOM PARK</b> David has arranged a follow up a visit to Broom Park on 10<sup>th</sup> June with Adrian Baines of ERC to identify some diseased trees which require removal. James Sandeman</p>	



to attend to assist with locating the trees.

**PICNIC BENCHES**

MECC have applied for two Picnic benches to be situated near the play park. We have been promised one and are hopeful that two will be provided. Two locations have been agreed around the play park area. There is no firm date for installation.

**MEARNS CASTLE PITCH**

David wrote to Ian Pye at ERC Culture and Leisure asking for more clarity on access to the running track and football pitches and received a reply today.

“Culture and Leisure have not taken control of this facility because there are no toilets and a closing time of 7pm.”

Residents are concerned about the number of youths accessing this pitch and climbing the high fence. Youths battering balls against the fence late at night is creating a disturbance to nearby residents.

There is a considerable amount of rubbish being left on the pitch including glass and cans.

ERC insist this is a matter for MCHS.  
David to write a letter to MCHS asking what they are doing about unauthorised access.

There are signs erected saying no unauthorised use.

Questions:

- Jane asked about the mention of toilets at the pitch. The Chairperson advised there is no mention of toilets in the planning application.
- Is this a police matter?
- Does the school have a community police campus officer who could provide support?
- Who would be liable if there's a serious accident with kids falling off the fence?

MECC to write to the Head Teacher, Police and Chief of Education and the Planning Department.

A condition of the Planning approval was no access after 7pm. Access, albeit unauthorised, is a breach of the planning approval.  
The Chairperson to compile a letter and cc Cllr Paul Edlin.

David write  
to MCHS

Will to  
compose a  
letter



	<p><b>LITTER PICKING AT MCHS</b> The Chairperson wrote to the Head teacher about litter picking and received a response that they do hold litter picks throughout the year.</p> <p>It is difficult to include children on a Saturday because MECC members do not all have the necessary Disclosure certificates. Parents would also have to attend.</p> <p>It was suggested that MECC hold a litter pick during the week to include the children.</p> <p><b>MEARNS CEMETERY BENCH</b></p> <p>MECC received a response from Adrian Baines saying ERC do not have any funding available to carry out refurbishment works to the two wooden benches.</p> <p>ERC are happy for members of MECC to carry out the works as long we let them know when the works are scheduled.</p> <p>MECC members are willing to carry out the works and ask if ERC could provide brushes and yacht varnish.</p>	<p>David to contact Adrian to ask about materials</p>
<p><b>DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AND LITTER PICKS</b></p>	<p>The Chairperson asked members to approve the following proposed dates of MECC meetings for the 2024/2025 session.</p> <p>To be held on Tuesdays: 7.00 – 9.00 pm in Mearns Castle High School.</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 AGM 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025</p> <p>ERC usually issue the Let booking form in June. The Chairperson will then submit these dates for approval.</p> <p><b>Litter Picks</b></p> <p>Saturday: 11.00 am – 12.00 Noon</p> <p>The litter pick on 1<sup>st</sup> June in the Maidenhill area collected 4 bags. Jane mentioned the pitch at Maidenhill was</p>	<p>Will to complete Let booking form</p>



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	<p>locked although strewn with litter. We were disappointed at the lack of support from Maidenhill residents.</p> <p><b>Suggested dates</b></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025</p> <p>Discussion about holding the litter picks at an alternative time in the afternoon to encourage more participation.</p> <p>It was suggested to contact the scouts again and ask for assistance.</p> <p>Doug asked what can be done about the litter trapped in the strip of land alongside Waterfoot Road which nobody seems to own and there is no access.</p>	
<b>AOCB</b>	<p><b>Junction of Eaglesham Road/Mearns Road.</b></p> <p>A resident has asked what the Roads Department has planned for the piece of ground at the junction of Eaglesham Road/Mearns Road. The Road has been narrowed considerably and would benefit from white lines to highlight the kerb. The centre is a muddy mess.</p> <p>The Chairperson to write to Roads Department.</p> <p><b>Co-ordination of Community Councils meeting to explore any common ground of concerns</b></p> <p>The Vice Chairperson proposed the motion to write to Andrew Reid to set up a meeting of all Community Councils. Prior to Covid Andrew's predecessor, Vincent McCulloch, organised a joint CC meeting held at the Foundry in Barrhead.</p> <p>The motion to write to Andrew Reid was not carried. Rather, James Sandeman suggested that it might be more practical to arrange an informal meeting of Chairs of CCs within ERC at which a freer discussion might pertain.</p> <p>The Chairperson agreed to write to the Chairs of all Community Councils within East Renfrewshire.</p>	<p>Will to contact Roads Dept.</p>



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<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	The next MECC meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September at 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School	
	With there being no further business, the Vice Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting	