



MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE AND TIME	18th February 2025 @ 18:30
LOCATION	Knox Academy, Haddington
PRESENT	Therese Laing (Chair) John Hamilton (Treasurer) Morgwn Davies (Secretary, PLO) Stuart Pe-Win Robert Moran Malcolm Vickers Erica Muirhead Cameron Richie (Journalist - EL Courier) Stuart Baxter (ELC) Tom Trotter (Councillor) George McGuire (Councillor) Robert Flood (Knox Academy) Shamin Akhtar (Councillor) John McMillan Councillor Susan Forgie John Warren
APOLOGIES	Jack Worden (Vice Chair) Betsy Fowler Christoph Crepaz Christine Read Jim Graham Mandy Harrington (VCEL) Ava Marnoch (Knox Academy) Sam Palmer (Knox Academy)

ITEM	TOPIC	ACTION
1.	Welcome & Apologies	
	TL welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special mention to Susan Forgie and John Warren. Apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes: - Of last meeting January 2025	

	<p>Approved Proposed by Rab Moran Seconded by John Hamilton</p>	
3.	Matters Arising	
a.	New Members	
	<p>TL welcomed Susan Forgie (SF) and John Warren (JW) to the meeting. SF and JW would like to join HDCC. Both gave a short presentation on the reasons why they would like to become CC members. Both candidates would have been very suitable for CC but as there was only one space available for Haddington, SF was the successful candidate. JW agreed to be a coopted member and intimated that he would like to join the Town Centre subgroup.</p> <p>TL thanked them both for their input and said that she was delighted that both candidates would be able to bring their expertise to HDCC.</p> <p>There is still a vacant space for Athelstaneford and this will be advertised again through Social Media and East Lothian Courier. If there is no response from the public, then the Constitution states that HDCC may fill the space with another person from Haddington.</p> <p>AP: MV and East Lothian Courier to advertise post</p>	
b.	Vision	
	<p>As MV has been on holiday and has had heating difficulties which resulted in illness, this will be carried forward and put on Agenda for next month. MV will send a draft email to TL outlining the roles and responsibilities of members and these will then be distributed to all HDCC members by MD.</p> <p>AP: MV to send email to TL which will then be distributed</p>	
c.	Waste Management on High Street	
	<p>FB unfortunately wasn't at meeting to update us on the situation.</p> <p>EM said that Cardboard is picked up every second Thursday, but some businesses were still putting it out too early. Businesses had been approached by ELC regarding this and as it was still happening. Councillors highlighted the dangers this poses, particularly fire. GMcG and TT said that they would report it again to Tom Reid.</p>	

	AP: TT and GMcG to contact Tom Reid to revisit offending businesses	
d.	Banner	
	<p>JH had approached Peter Lugton and he has provide 3 vectorised logos. Finding suitable photographs has proved more difficult than first thought. East Lothian Courier, Visit East Lothian, and Blooming Haddington have granted permission to use their photos, provided we credit them. JMCM suggested approaching the Camera Club for photos JMCM will email TL a contact Email.</p> <p>AP: JMCM to email contact for Camera Club to TL</p>	
e.	Update on Chrome Book	
	<p>JH handed the Chrome book to Chair. This will hopefully address problems with Chair email etc. Chrome Book will be for sole use of Chair and will be given to new Chair at AGM in October.</p>	
f.	Social Event	
	<p>EM asked which evenings were best for a Social evening and suggested Mazzolis as a venue. JH requested that it was a Saturday evening and CC members agreed. EM to email prospective dates to MD.</p> <p>AP: EM to email MD some dates</p>	
4.	Community Reports	
a.	Knox Academy	
	<p>RF updated HDCC members on activities which students were involved in. 4 pupils would be attending the Resilience workshop on Saturday 1st March in Corn Exchange.</p> <p>RF invited attendees to join them at their Diversity evening, which would be held on Thursday 6th March from 4pm – 7pm. This would be followed by a concert from 7pm – 9pm. RF said that visitors could sign up to workshops and he'd find out more information on how to do this from Sue Cook</p>	

	<p>(HT) AP: RF to email information to MD Work Placements: RF raised the issue again of work experience placements and how difficult they have been to secure. TL had placed information re placements on business WhatsApp group. BF had placed it on Letham Mains WhatsApp group</p>	
b.	HLAP	
	<p>SB provide the following update, Upcoming Meetings H&LAP Meeting: 24th April at 7pm, Bridge Centre Children and Young People Network Meeting: 27th February, online from 3.30 to 5.00pm Area Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Network Meeting: 3rd April, online from 10 to 11.30am SB encouraged Community Council members to attend these meetings and agreed to send details of the Children and Young People Network to Rab Moran as the HDCC representative. Dementia Friendly Initiatives SB and Diann Govenlock have been connecting with Dementia Friendly East Lothian to explore the needs and possibilities of establishing a meeting center in Haddington for those with early onset dementia and their families. A brain health event is also being planned, with more details to follow. Recent Area Partnership Meeting At the meeting on 6th February, it was agreed to fund 10 projects, fully committing the budget for 2024/25. Work is also progressing on finalizing the second Haddington and Lammermuir Area Plan. Funded Projects Karele: Breathing Spaces Humbie, East & West Saltoun & Bolton Community Council: Toasty Tuesdays The Haddington Bridge Centre: Motorcycle Project The Haddington Bridge Centre: Senior Friday Youth Club Meadowpark: Duke of Edinburgh Choose Play: Pop-Up Play Haddington Knox Academy: Wrap Amisfield Preservation Trust: Tools for Volunteers Support from the Start Network / Carefree Kids: Tea and Tots Haddington Athletic Community Football Club: Update Kitchen</p>	
c.	HCTRA	

As Haddington East no longer has a Tenants and Residents Association, TL has been working with Our Community Kitchen, Tynebank Resource Centre and Nungate Gala Committee to have a Defibrillator placed at Tynebank Centre. Caretaker at Centre identified a spot where it would be undercover and easily accessed by the Public. Planning permission isn't needed as it is not in a Conservation area and is not a historical building. If application to British Heart Foundation is successful, training on the use of the Defibrillator will be offered. Rotary will provide one if this application is unsuccessful.

SF gave the following update,

1. Tenants and Residents Issues

- ASB - We have dealt with complaints from residents about the following issues:-

- ASB on the High Street. Recently, there have been reports of damage in Ross

Close, with black anti-vandal paint handprints all over a wall and damaged roof tiles caused by someone climbing on the roof. We reported it to the ASB team, but nothing has happened, and we have had no feedback.

- Members of the group had a meeting with Kenny Black about ASB and the Community's response.

- Ross's Close

- . We met with Cllr Akhtar, Andrew Gordon and Claire Elvin of the housing department on Friday, 13th December. We discussed the sorry state of the close, and AG agreed to get it cleaned up and repainted. This work has not been carried out as of 04/03/2025, but it has been agreed.

- It concerned us that no one is responsible for cleaning the eggs off the windows in Ross's Close, which were thrown as a part of the antisocial behaviour that takes place there. This is a difficult task, and we do not see why the tenants are responsible for this.

- Speeding and Traffic - Speeding and traffic issues reported reflect the longstanding issues at

- Victoria Road - parents are parking in the road prior to the parking restrictions coming into force, then leaving before it ends. There has been no response from Traffic to our email about the problems on the street.

- Incidents at Peachdales School Crossing -The speed sign at Peachdales is not working. Repeated requests for updates have gone unanswered.

- Hardgate/Sidegate/High Street Junction - The problems at this junction are a concern for both pedestrians and drivers and have been reported to us consistently. The biggest

	<p>concern for pedestrians is that the parked cars and vans on the Hardgate block pedestrians’ view of oncoming traffic when they try to cross the road at Church Street. Drivers also complain that the parking prevents them from staying in lane. Inadequate road markings have also been raised.</p> <p>2. Community Projects and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia Singing Group - the group continues to meet and grow. It continues to attract support from funders. • Community Christmas Event - This event was successful, attracting 70 attendees. <p>The response was very positive, and the attendees asked us to run more events like this. We learned some important production lessons that will be applied at future events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garlton Ward Development Group -The Development and Regeneration team at ELC are keen to organise a meeting to explore the idea. HCTRA to organise a group of interested parties. <p>3. Collaboration with Other Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishing The Closes - Several meetings have taken place, and HCTRA are collaborating with HDCC Town Centre Group, the History Society and ELC to take this forward. An Advisory Group will be set up and a walk around the closes with this group and Colin Gilnourm Jamie Baker, Service Manager for Economic Development and Paul Zochowski, Principal Planner, • Youth Cafe - Several meetings have been held to progress this idea and identify premises. • We are working with residents from Haddington West with the support of the East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel to set up a new TRA. 	
<p>d. CAPP</p>		
	<p>The CAPP report had been circulated before the meeting. As our meeting was a week late, CAPP meeting took place just before tonight’s meeting.</p> <p>SA reported that priorities were: Ross’s Close and anti-social behaviour Speeding - in general. Parking in Neilson Park Road</p> <p>Residents and Tenants asked to be vigilant as there had been recent housebreaking and attempted housebreaking in the Haddington area.</p> <p>The next meeting has been scheduled for April, date to</p>	

	follow.									
e.	Youth Network									
	No new report. First meeting 27/02/2025 on Teams. SB will keep RM posted on joining Teams etc AP: SB to keep in touch with RM re Teams meeting									
f.	Blooming Haddington									
	RM said that Local businesses continue to support the baskets.									
5.	HDCC Subgroups									
a.	Events Group									
	<p>GM reported that group will meet on 24th February and plans were underway for Festival week. He plans to split group into areas of responsibility.</p> <p>GM is meeting Kirsty from Brunton Hall to ask what they can offer group. He is also meeting with Tranent Gala committee to find ways of making costs for Haddington less.</p> <p>JH noted that the Event Group can draw down money from the HDCC account if needed.</p> <p>Dates of future meetings</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>24/02</td> <td>7 pm Knox Academy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17/03</td> <td>7 pm Knox Academy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28/04</td> <td>7 pm Knox Academy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19/05</td> <td>7 pm Knox Academy</td> </tr> </table>	24/02	7 pm Knox Academy	17/03	7 pm Knox Academy	28/04	7 pm Knox Academy	19/05	7 pm Knox Academy	
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b.	Town Centre Group									
	<p>TL reported that Office Bearers had been elected. Chair Christoph Crepaz Vice Chair Therese Laing Depute VC Erica Muirhead Secretary Betsy Fowler</p> <p>Good meeting with reps from Businesses, History Society HECTRA and ELC– all keen to work on Closes project.</p>									

	<p>EM asked why there was no sign to say that JMh could be used by Public. JMCM thought that there was. TL had taken photo of sign which said parking evenings and weekends only. TL will send photo to JMCM</p> <p>A couple of issues eg dog fouling, litter were raised. TL asked for these to be reported to HCTRA.</p> <p>Other suggestions were: Jacobean night /Farmers' Market weekly/Haddington Highland Games</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting will be sent to MD and he will distribute. Date of next meeting: 12th March</p> <p>AP: MD to circulate minutes</p>	
6.	Planning and Licensing	
	<p>MD reported two planning application covering minor changes to buildings in Church Street and High Street. MD felt there was no need for HDCC to comment on them. After short discussion this was agreed.</p> <p>Another application changing the external look of a florist to a grab and go coffee shop was discuss but it was agreed that the application and plan external signage was in keeping with the overall tone of the centre of Haddington, there was no requirement for HDCC to comment on this.</p> <p>MD reported that he, FB, and CC had met with Keth Pringle Head of Planning at ELC to discuss our views on the external look of, and advertisements on the Premier Store on Haddington High Steet.</p> <p>The HDCC view that the changes were not in keeping with the look of the conservation area at the centre of Haddington and how disappointed we were that they were allowed were highlighted.</p> <p>There was reassurance that this would not act as a precedent for any other shop or business changing their external look.</p> <p>Overall, it was a positive and helpful meeting.</p> <p>No licensing matters to discuss.</p>	

7.	Correspondence –	
a.	<p>MD HDCC Secretary reported there was nothing outstanding as everything received had been circulated and incorporated into the agenda.</p> <p>Only thing to highlight was the invite from Stantec to have a pre-consultation meeting with them to discuss our views on parking in central Haddington.</p>	
8.	Councillor’s Corner	
	<p>TT said that he thought this would have been further up agenda as agreed at last meeting. TL said that it was important for CC to hear what Councillors had to say on certain subjects. JMcM agreed that one of the Councillors would stay for full meeting.</p> <p>AP: Move Councillor’s Corner further up agenda</p>	
9.	Treasurer’s Report –	
	<p>JH reported</p> <p>Balance: £ £28,974</p>	
10.	AOCB	
a.	<p>TL asked if we could take a vote on giving donation of £1340 to help Twinning Association meet the costs of their French visitors to the Town. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>AP: JH to inform Twinning Association</p>	
b.	<p>MV – provided an update on Athelstaneford Park.</p> <p>The Athelstaneford Community Group SCIO are delighted that planning permission has been approved for the first phase of the community's vision to transform our village park.</p> <p>This will enable the group to proceed to the next step in delivering the vision - raising funding for the replacement of the life-expired playpark. This is estimated at £75K and the group will be applying for grants to cover most of these costs.</p> <p>We would like to thank those who have funded the work so far, including:</p> <p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in conjunction with East Lothian Council</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Haddington and District Community Council · The Cilla Fund · Our own activities group and all the wonderful people who came along and donated at our St.Andrews fundraising night <p>We would also like to thank</p> <p>East Lothian Council, including their 'Amenities Team', for their ongoing support in the development of this project and Liz Dorrian, the local landscape architect who has worked with the community to create our vision for the park.</p> <p>Karele: Breathing Spaces</p> <p>Humbie, East & West Saltoun & Bolton Community Council: Toasty Tuesdays</p> <p>The Haddington Bridge Centre: Motorcycle Project</p> <p>The Haddington Bridge Centre: Senior Friday Youth Club</p> <p>Meadowpark: Duke of Edinburgh</p> <p>Choose Play: Pop-Up Play Haddington</p> <p>Knox Academy: Wrap</p> <p>Amisfield Preservation Trust: Tools for Volunteers</p> <p>Support from the Start Network / Carefree Kids: Tea and Tots</p> <p>Haddington Athletic Community Football Club: Update Kitchen</p>	
12.	DONM	
	Tuesday 11th March at 6:30 pm in Knox Academy	