



MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE AND TIME	11 th March 2025 @ 18:30
LOCATION	Knox Academy, Haddington
PRESENT	Therese Laing (Chair) John Hamilton (Treasurer) Morgwn Davies (Secretary, PLO) Stuart Pe-Win Robert Moran 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 Ava San David Sissons Bruce Johnstone (public) Mandy Harrington (VCEL)
APOLOGIES	Jack Worden (Vice Chair) Betsy Fowler Christoph Crepaz Christine Read Jim Graham Ava Marnoch (Knox Academy) Sam Palmer (Knox Academy) Malcolm Vickers Falko Burkert

ITEM	TOPIC	ACTION
1.	Welcome & Apologies	
	TL welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special mention to David Sissons and Bruce Johnstone. Apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes: - of last meeting the 11 th of March 2025	
	Approved Accepted with amendments to section 5 to be made.	
3.	Matters Arising	
a.	New Members	
	<p>TL welcomed David Sissons (DS) to the meeting. DS would like to join HDCC to occupy the vacant space for Athelstaneford. He gave a short presentation on his skills which included electronic engineering, Union rep and IT.</p> <p>TL thanked him for his input. A vote was held and David was elected onto HDCC. MD recommended and RM seconded.</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> <p>The above point is carried over to the next meeting as MV was not present at the meeting.</p>	MV
?.	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> <p>AP: TT and GMcG to contact Tom Reid to revisit offending businesses</p>	
c.	Banner	
	AP: JH, SF, EM to contact Camera Club	JH, SF, EM
d.	Social Event	
	<p>EM suggested Saturday the 10th May at Mazzolis (Tyneside).</p> <p>AP: EM to book a table for 15</p>	EM
4.	Community Report from Knox Academy	
	<p>RF updated HDCC members on activities which students were involved in.</p> <p>5 pupils attended the Resilience workshop on Saturday 1st March in Corn Exchange and they all found it very informative.</p> <p>RF noted attendance was down on previous years for the diversity event.</p> <p>RF was asked if Knox could put some pupils forward for a face painting stall to paint children's faces at the Fun day on 25/5 held by the Events Group.</p> <p>AP: RF to email information to George MCGuire</p> <p>SF requested to know what questions to ask youths, for a survey to be carried out for the youth cafe. RF will put</p>	<p>RF</p> <p>RF, SF</p>

	together a group of pupils per year group to work on this.	
5.	Councillor's Corner	
	<p>George – A bit more money will be going into the roads budget for potholes etc. There are parking pre-consultation discussions being held.</p> <p>John – The new gym will be officially opened on 17th April. There are hopes that the mayor from Aubigny will attend. A litter pick by Friends of the River Tyne was held around the vicinity of the gym.</p> <p>The Rotary Club has planted 210 trees, restoring the pond and wildflowers in the Curling Pond area.</p> <p>A question was raised by SF regarding the timeline for LD Plan 2. John responded that he would get back to the committee with when.</p> <p>AP: JM to report to HDCC re LDP</p>	JM
6.	What counts as party political Matters?	
	<p>SF has created the following definition for community councillors to follow: Party Politics and the HDCC</p> <p>This discussion seems to have arisen because of confusion about the term party political.</p> <p>The party-political rule does exist to ensure the CCs DO NOT oppose or promote political parties/candidates/ election campaigns. This means that the CC CANNOT campaign/endorse/ promote party manifestos.</p> <p>A policy decision by ELC does not become off limits to the CC because elected members are involved. If that were the case CCs could not discuss anything because nearly everything at a local level involves decisions taken by elected members.</p> <p>The key test for community councillors is:</p>	

	<p>Are we discussing this issue because it affects local people?</p> <p>The issues that affect local people include but are not limited to -</p> <p>Rent/council tax rises</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Local services</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>Crime</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Public Health</p> <p>Environmental concerns</p> <p>CCs can add to this list perhaps and discuss priorities but none of these are 'political topics'.</p> <p>The CC can hold elected members accountable, and they are expected to answer questions regardless of their political party.</p> <p>The scrutiny of council policies is valid if there is a community concern, and in these cases, the CC should -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Focus on representing community interests without political bias. •Ascertain/coordinate and express to the local authority and other agencies the community's views •Further the interests of their community in relation to all matters for which the local authority is responsible. 	
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7.	Parking – Pre-Consultation Meeting	
	<p>A pre-consultation meeting was held. Businesses were asked to attend. MD, SF and JW attended. TL and Jack sent a letter to ELC 2 years ago with the concerns for HDCC. No timescales or details are available yet for parking.</p> <p>A seminar on parking in Haddington is to be held by Stantec on 18/3/25. It appears invitations to this have not been received by TL or SF. Stuart to chase up. John Warren to be added to the list to attend.</p> <p>Wider consultation will be held.</p>	
8.	Community Reports	
	A brief description of the purpose of each subgroup and a description should be sent to MD by 14 th April.	
a.	HLAP	
	<p>SB provided the following update, Upcoming Meetings</p> <p>Area Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Network Meeting: 3rd April, online from 10 to 11.30am H&LAP Meeting: 24th April at 7pm, Bridge Centre Children and Young People Network Meeting: 8th May on line between 3.30 and 5.00PM AP: SB to ensure that RM can gain access</p>	SB
b.	HCTRA	
	<p>As Haddington East no longer has an association, HDCC, OCK, and Nungate CC has applied for a Defibrillator to the British Heart Foundation. The Rotary Club will hopefully provide one if this application is unsuccessful.</p> <p>SF gave the following update,</p> <p>1. Tenants and Residents Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ross's Close has been painted ● Speeding and Traffic - Speeding and traffic issues reported reflect the longstanding issues at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Victoria Road - parents are parking in the road prior to the parking restrictions coming into force, then leaving before it 	

	<p>ends. There has been no response from Traffic to our email about the problems on the street.</p> <p>TL asked councillors to ask traffic wardens to police the area around the schools as their first port of call on days when in Haddington and issue fines if necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 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. 	Councillors
c.	Police, CAPP	
	<p>At the last CAPP meeting, SA reported that priorities were:</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour on the High Street</p> <p>Speeding - in general.</p> <p>Parking around schools</p> <p>The next meeting has been scheduled for April, date to follow.</p>	
d.	Youth Network	
	<p>No new report. RM had issues joining Teams meeting</p> <p>AP: SB will help RM re Teams meeting issues</p>	SB
f.	Blooming Haddington	
	<p>Email to Courier was read to HDCC by RM.</p> <p>Tree for Joe Forte on Friday 11th March</p> <p>RM commended Angus Campbell from ELC about the speed and quality of the planter outside the George hotel.</p>	

9.	HDCC Subgroups							
a.	Events Group							
	<p>Work is underway to remove the Christmas lights from the town centre.</p> <p>The Family Festival Fun Day will be 25/5/25 to be held at Haddington Rugby Club. The Corn Exchange are also on board with this day.</p> <p>Dates of future meetings</p> <table><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>	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>Minutes of the meeting will be sent to MD and he will distribute.</p> <p>The meeting to be held on 12th March has been rescheduled to 26th March</p> <p>AP: MD to circulate minutes</p>	MD						
c.	Resilience Group							
	<p>Stuart Pe-Win to distribute an email about the resilience group this week.</p>	Stuart Pe-Win						
10.	Planning and Licensing							
	<p>MD reported eight planning application covering minor changes including one to replace the wall by Lady Kitts Garden/Pleasence/Doocot.</p> <p>MD felt there was no need for HDCC to comment on them. After short discussion this was agreed.</p> <p>No licensing matters to discuss.</p>							
11.	Correspondence –							
	<p>MD HDCC Secretary reported correspondence around the Riverside Footbridge. East Lothian Council have engaged Stantec to create plans to replace the footbridge with a 4-metre-wide steel footbridge.</p> <p>Only thing to highlight was the invite from Stantec to have a pre-consultation meeting with them to discuss our views on</p>							

	parking in central Haddington. Morgwn is to sign up to receive Scottish Executive emails.	MD
12.	Treasurer's Report – JH reported Zurich Insurance has been paid Wreaths have been paid for Twinning Association paid Balance: £ £27,260 , as of 4/3/25 (£26,990 net of the ring fenced monies)	
13.	AOCB	
a.	MD circulated an email about Community Wealth Building. A meeting will be arranged for all interested parties with ELC for this to be further explained.	
14.	DONM	
	Tuesday April 22nd at 6:30 pm in Knox Academy	