



MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE AND TIME	13 th May 2025 @ 18:30
LOCATION	Knox Academy, Haddington
PRESENT	Therese Laing (Chair) (TL) Jack Worden (Vice Chair) (JW) John Hamilton (Treasurer) (JH) Morgwn Davies (Secretary, PLO) (MD) Christine Read (CR) Falko Burkert (FB) Stuart Pe-Win (SPW) Robert Moran (RM) Cameron Richie (Journalist - EL Courier) (CR) Stuart Baxter (ELC) (SB) Tom Trotter (Councillor) (TT) Robert Flood (Knox Academy) (RF) Shamin Akhtar (Councillor) (SA) John McMillan Councillor (JM) Susan Forgie (SF) John Warren (JW) David Sissons (DS) Jim Graham (JG) Malcolm Vickers (MV) Dr Brian Ellis (Member of the public) arrived at 7 pm (BE)
APOLOGIES	Erica Muirhead (EM) Christoph Crepaz (CC) Mandy Harrington (VCEL) George McGuire (Councillor) (GM)

ITEM	TOPIC	ACTION
1.	Welcome & Apologies	
	Thanks to Jack W for chairing the last meeting. Apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes: - of last meeting the 22 nd of April 2025	
	Approved Proposed by JG, seconded by RM	
3.	Matters Arising	
a.	<i>enjoyleisure</i> Café Closure	
	<p>BE and Councillor JM met for 90 minutes (in his office) to discuss the <i>enjoyleisure</i> cafe closures. JM responded to his questions, and further discussion was held when BE joined the HDCC meeting at 7 p.m. Cafes in our Leisure Centres are operated by <i>enjoyleisure</i> and are separate from ELC. BE felt there was a lack of consultation with staff and the public regarding the closure of the cafes.</p> <p>Action: JM to report to <i>enjoyleisure</i> that it was perceived that there was a lack of consultation and engagement, and this should be improved going forward</p>	JMcM
b.	Roles and Responsibilities	
	<p>Thanks to MV for producing this comprehensive report. Malcolm suggests that HDCC should set objectives and spend time on that rather than on the roles themselves.</p> <p>Therese emphasised the need to report back to HDCC if you are a rep for any of the groups, eg Youth Network, CAPP, Area Partnership, Resilience</p>	
c.	Stephenson Bridge	
	The timescale for reopening is not yet known. It is closed while there is an assessment and repair. SA will update	

	HDCC when it reopens. A contractor was on site last Thursday (8th May). Nick Morgan (Ranger) will be asked to improve signposting so people are not directed to the bridge and must retrace their walk.	MV
d.	AELCC	
	On June 18th, at 7 pm, North Berwick Community Centre will host a meeting for East Lothian community councils. The new Chief Executive of ELC will attend, demonstrating the importance of CCs within ELC. This meeting can also be attended via Zoom. If anyone would like to attend, please email Morgwn or Therese.	
e.	VE Day Event	
	<p>This was a very successful afternoon. JH thanked all who had been involved. For the first time, a bugler played at the ceremony.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to Luke and Finlay, who placed crosses at each war grave • Thanks to Alistair Knowles, who was the bugler at the event • Thanks to Compass School, which came with flowers • Thanks to the Nursery School from Athelstaneford who came to lay flowers • Thanks to Rev. Charles Thody (former RAF Chaplain), who laid a wreath <p>Action: TL and JH to liaise regarding thank you cards</p>	TL/JH
4.	Community Reports	
a	Knox Academy	
	<p>RF updated HDCC members on activities in which students were involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are engaged with exams at the moment • A successful outdoor activities week was held. • Luke and Finlay – Hockey Scotland • P7 pupils will have their 2-day visit to Knox in June • Festival Week - TL asked if pupils could help judge the shop window competition and have a Face Painting stall. • Fundraising for Cancer Trust will take place via a 10k run on Saturday, 24th May, when some pupils/teachers will participate. RF will send the just giving link to HDCC. 	

	<p>Action: RF will email TL the pupils who can support the Festival.</p> <p>RF will email the link for the Just Giving page.</p>	RF
b.	Councillor's Corner	
	<p>SF brought questions about the post office. SA said she would share the information as soon as she gets it.</p> <p>Action: SA to share info</p> <p>There has been a request about the council recycling dumps. What are the rules around people carriers dropping recycling off? They are being treated as vans and cannot go to the recycling centre more than once per month.</p> <p>Action: JM to follow up with Tom Reid</p> <p>FB: In Cross Lane, bins have been reduced from 12 to 3. Now, it seems fly-tipping is happening. SA will try to get a site visit. It was suggested that HETRA be approached to try to get a skip and have an amnesty for people to dump rubbish to stop fly-tipping.</p> <p>Action: SA to visit the site SA to inform SF (HCTRA) of whom she can write to for more information on this. HCTRA to look into organising skips, as was recently done in Dunbar</p> <p>Camping/caravan park at Ammisfield. JM will discuss with Tom Reid and email JW</p> <p>Action: JMCM to email JW</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>JM</p> <p>SA</p> <p>JM</p>
c.	HLAP	
	<p>SB provided the following update,</p> <p>Upcoming Meetings</p> <p>Community Groups meeting for East Lothian to be held in the Bridge Centre at 7 pm on May 15th</p> <p>There will be an update on the local outcome implementation plan. An ALA Plan update and details of the annual public meeting on 15th May.</p> <p>Next meeting, 12th June.</p> <p>Children and Young People Network Meeting: 19th June</p>	SB

	<p>online between 3.30 and 5.00 pm.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Network – 26 June 10.00 – 11.30 EL Plan – Discussion on the policing review and asset review.</p>	
d.	HCTRA	
	<p>New TRA – Haddington West</p> <p>A new TRA has been set up in Haddington West, and their inaugural meeting was held on Wednesday, 7th May. SF and GM attended. TL asked JW if he could be the group's rep from HDCC.. The meeting was at Letham Mains Primary School. The date of the next meeting will be emailed to the group.</p> <p>Haddington Central</p> <p>Garleton Building</p> <p>Feasibility study submitted for Garleton Building. Equal split between tenants' association and the council. SF looking for people to help.</p> <p>ELC has agreed to plot the feasibility budget for developing the site, allowing the community to conduct its own feasibility study. The council will focus on a feasibility study of the building.</p> <p>HCTRA is preparing a draft proposal for the study and will share it with the council by the end of the month.</p> <p>Closes Project</p> <p>A meeting / walk around of the closes was held between ELC (Jamie Baker and Paul Zochowski), the Historical Society and community members.</p> <p>3 closes were identified as suitable for the pilot project: Ross's Close, Mitchell's Close and the close and open area behind Tesco.</p> <p>First Advisory Group meeting on Tuesday, 29th April</p>	<p>SF</p> <p>Councillors</p>

	Youth Project Advice from Justine Bradd at Connected Communities led us to alter our questionnaire development plan. We are now working with Elizabeth Currie at Heavy Sound to take it forward as part of a wider feasibility study. Finding suitable premises is an ongoing headache. HDCC is working closely with HCTRA on Youth and Closes projects.	
e.	Police, CAPP	
	Speeding – Pencaitland Road. Parking around schools The next meeting has been scheduled for 20 th May, 5.30 – 6 pm The anti-social App is going well. The council has approved its use. It is not yet in the app store because there must be three pages in the app for that to happen. Anti-social behaviour is in the app, but two more items are required (eg fly tipping or the need for a dog warden, or dealing on the High Street) Action: Email SF if you have ideas on what should be on the other two pages.	
f.	Youth Network	
	RM will attend the meeting on 19 th June at 3.30 in Teams. Action: SB to keep RM updated	RM SB
g.	Blooming Haddington	
	There will be a wheelbarrow and planter trail in 2025. Leaflets have been produced, and copies were distributed at the meeting. The theme for the wheelbarrow trail will be nature and biodiversity.	
5.	HDCC Subgroups	
a.	Events Group	

	<p>This year's Haddington Festival features more than 35 events from Sunday, May 25th, to Saturday, May 31st. TL hopes that it will be a great success and thanked the volunteers.</p>	
b.	Town Centre Group	
	<p>CC is not here to report on the group's activity, but this group is working closely with HCTRA on the Closes and Youth project.</p>	
c.	<p>Resilience Group SPW sent in Minutes from the meeting held on April 28th. TL hoped that everyone had had an opportunity to read these and asked the floor for questions. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 17th, from 7 pm to 9 pm in Knox Academy. Scott Kennedy and Ian Chalmers will discuss their roles within ELC, and there will be an opportunity for questions.</p> <p>Friends of the River Tyne have had trees stolen again from its banks. These trees were planted for flood protection.</p> <p>Action: TL to email the group from HDCC re the disappointment and thanking the group for their work</p>	TL
6.	Parking	
	<p>This should be passed to the Town Centre Group too. The Councillors were asked if they could send us any research that proves that introducing parking charges to Town Centres increases footfall. Everything we have been reading suggests that it has the opposite effect. The consultation for Haddington will start in two weeks. The period is from 19 May to 30 June. Therese will set up a parking subgroup to include: MD, JJW JW, JG, FB, SF and HETRA</p> <p>Action: TL to create Parking subgroup</p>	TL
7.	Planning and Licensing	
	<p>Lamp House Music is changing the usage of the Golf Tavern—they hope to move from Station Yard. HDCC was to inform the Planning Department that they viewed this</p>	

	<p>planning application favourably.</p> <p>Action: MD to email our agreement to this as present owners have tried to sell it as a going concern for 5 years.</p> <p>The Premier Shop has installed steel doors. The historic facade has been lost in our conservation area.</p> <p>Action: MD will write to Keith Dingwall's Chief Planning Officer, requesting where the planning permission was and asking why the lighting on the front of the shop has not yet been removed.</p> <p>No licensing matters to discuss.</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>MD</p>
8.	Correspondence –	
9.	<p>Treasurer's Report –</p> <p>JH reported</p> <p>Balance: £ £25,000 as of 5/25</p> <p>John will hand over as the new treasurer takes over.</p> <p>A funding request for Chromebooks for St Mary's School has been made. This will be considered in light of every school possibly requesting them—is it the place of HDCC to fund them?</p> <p>Athelstaneford Play park</p> <p>An agreement to fund £4000 was considered and approved in principle on the basis that matched funding was in place. on the grounds that the money will generate possibly £40000. A vote was taken and it was agreed to grant the funding (there was a tight deadline of that evening to get further funding on the basis that there would already be £4k funding agreed)</p>	
10.	AOCB	
	<p>a. Haddington History Society has produced a Historic Tour walking brochure for £4. These can be purchased in the Library, at Celebrations, and at other locations.</p> <p>b. SF has agreed to take over the day-to-day tasks of running both the Haddington and the HaddingtonCC websites.</p>	

	<p>Development can stay with Amanda Sumner if there is a way to pay her, or it can be contracted to a developer provided by SF</p> <p>Action: SF to look into this further</p>	SF
11.	DONM	
	<p>Tuesday, June 10th at 7.30 pm in Athelstaneford Village Hall</p> <p>Tuesday, September 9th at 6.30 pm in Knox Academy</p>	