

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Tuesday, 1 May 2018 at 6.45pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, P Gregson, S Holland, N Macdonald,
H Ross, R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 2 members of the public,
Apologies: A Anderson, J Forbes, D Whitelaw, Cllr Ross.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 2 May 2017

These were approved.

Prop: S Holland, Sec: M Stevens.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reported as follows:-

MCC's 2017 AGM was on the eve of Council elections, which saw the return of two newcomers, Gillian Gloyer and Scott Douglas, to represent Murrayfield and a change in boundaries which transferred the Donaldson's Area to the West End ward – MCC is grateful for the Donaldson's Area Amenity Association's decision to stay with MCC. The Chairman congratulated Frank Ross on his well-deserved elevation to Lord Provost.

MCC supported hustings for the surprise Westminster election which led to Michelle Thomson being succeeded by Christine Jardine as MP for Edinburgh West.

In the ensuing months MCC saw two landmark events: the completion on time and within budget of Phase 2 of the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme which for many years had topped its list of the things MCC most wanted done ; and continued progress on the residential redevelopment of the former Donaldson's Hospital which was celebrated at New Year when the facade was bathed in lights of many colours.

MCC witnessed the creation of a North West Locality Committee to sit alongside the Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP"), secured funding for graffiti removal, monitored possible developments by other rugby clubs in the vicinity of Murrayfield Stadium and took part in an increasing range of consultations. MCC agreed to part-fund a tree-bench for the Friends of Roseburn Park, and pressed for quick wins to improve conditions on Ellersly Road. Most of all, anticipation as to the implications of the City Centre West-East Link cycle-route, for which draft Traffic Regulation Orders have recently been published, led MCC to engage with the City Council on an associated project to rejuvenate the public realm of Roseburn which picked up from the Roseburn Action Plan.

This was the first full year for membership by Ann Anderson, Helen Barbour, Roy Beavis, Pete Gregson and Henry Whaley. The Chairman thanked them for their contributions. He also expressed his gratitude to the office-bearers Jim Forbes, Stephen Holland, Helen Barbour and Rosanne Brown and to everyone else including Robert Smart, Mike Stevens, Norma Macdonald and Hamish Ross for all their help and to Hamish in particular for MCC's new social media network i.e. Facebook, Twitter and new website which has brought MCC resoundingly into the twenty-first century. The Chairman also thanked the Police representatives for their continued attendance and the members of the public for their constant, good-humoured and patient support without which MCC would be unable to ensure that things get done for the people of Murrayfield.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported as follows:-

Emails continue to be the main method of communication. Although she received approximately 800 in the last year this was slightly less than usual due to a lull in proceedings as the new administration at City of Edinburgh Council ("CEC") got up and running. The emails, again mostly from CEC, break down into planning which includes weekly updates on applications from within MCC's area and updates on decisions, and licensing as and when new or changes to current status are applied for.

From Planning MCC receives invitations to attend workshops to learn how the system works. She was happy to report that MCC had had representation on all planning engagement courses and they had been reported to be successful.

MCC had received invitations to other courses and meetings that impacted not only MCC's area but the wider area of North West Edinburgh through the Local Development Plan ("LDP") and again MCC had had representation at all meetings in the development stage of the Plan. It was worth noting that the LDP is at an early stage and MCC should hear more of this in the future.

MCC had been asked to consult, contribute to surveys and consultations on a variety of subjects from Edinburgh Airport, Making Places, Low Emission Zones and lollipop attendants.

News and events updates are received on a weekly basis.

MCC is represented at the SRU residents meetings held both on a regular basis and more often preceding a major event with a follow up debrief meeting after the event.

MCC's social media platform now boasts 445 followers on Twitter with quotes from the new website automatically transferred to tweets.

MCC received more emails from residents on a number of topical issues namely the CCWEL, known as the cycle track, graffiti, parking and planning.

The Secretary thanked everyone for their continuous support.

6. Treasurer's Submission of Audited Accounts

The Treasurer submitted the audited Accounts. A copy is attached.

The Treasurer reported that in the past year in addition to the annual grant from the CEC MCC received a grant from WENP for two graffiti removal kits, a new noticeboard and plants for the planters on the Old Coltbridge. The grant would be spent in the new financial year. In the last financial year MCC had incurred the usual administrative costs.

The two big items of expenditure had been the new website and a contribution to the cost of a carved bench for Roseburn Park.

The Treasurer confirmed that MCC continued to insure direct with Zurich and the annual grant from CEC was adjusted accordingly.

M Stevens asked whether MCC is still a member of the Cockburn Association and the Treasurer confirmed that it is.

7. Items for Discussion

7.1 Website and social media

H Ross reported that the MCC's new website was completed last year, although there are still things to add, such as a list of MCC members. He understood that since 1 January there had been 979 unique users between them making 3,500 page views, though he was unclear what these numbers referred to. Items appearing on the website are now automatically sent to Twitter and Facebook, helping to generate this traffic, and likely reaching a wider audience. He said that while this was 'reaching out' from the MCC to the community, the process was not necessarily generating significant input from the community to MCC. Eliciting opinion would likely require a more proactive approach.

R Beavis asked if this was perhaps related to the age profile of the users of these technologies and that of the community as a whole. M Stevens asked how 'sticky' the website's users were. H Ross said that again the system provided numbers (65 % were 'new' visitors and 35% 'returning') but he was unsure what they referred to. A member of the public asked whether we responded to those who made enquiries on Social Media. H Ross said we did if it was a direct enquiry, but that this was not the normal pattern. The tendency was to include MCC in a discussion or comment. H Whaley said this was often in the hope of supporting or spreading the point, and City Councillors were also often included in this way. Also the issues often had a shorter lifespan than would be needed for them to be discussed at an MCC meeting. H Barbour said that she was confident that there was sufficient monitoring that issues that should be raised at an MCC meeting would be raised, and that it had previously been agreed that we were, at least for the time being, using social media as a broadcast and listening medium rather than a debating or consulting one. P Gregson asked if there was a Social Media Officer, and H Ross said that H Whaley and H Barbour were the nominated monitors of MCC's social media accounts.

H Ross said that the extent to which these audiences are in fact constituents was not readily knowable but that we were often included in transport and west Edinburgh planning debates on Twitter, such as over the West Edinburgh Garden City, Low Emission Zones, and a Corstorphine-originated petition on air pollution. Our inclusion in these wider discussions suggested that at least someone thinks that our local perspective is relevant in these fields, which was worth considering.

7.2 Saughtonhall Amenity Association

The Chairman suggested that, as the nominated representative of Saughtonhall Community Association had not attended MCC meetings for some time, the Secretary should ask the Association if they are still interested in membership of MCC. **The Secretary undertook to do so.**

8. Election of Office Bearers

Cllr Douglas took the Chair and the office bearers stood down. The office bearers were re-elected without a contest for a period of 12 months as follows:-

Chairman: J Yellowlees
Vice Chairman: J Forbes
Treasurer: S Holland
Secretary: H Barbour

Prop: R Brown, Sec: H Barbour
Prop: R Smart, Sec: H Barbour
Prop: R Smart, Sec: J Yellowlees
Prop: S Holland, Sec: N Macdonald.

9. Date of next AGM and Close

It was agreed that the next AGM would take place on 7 May 2019.
The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting.

Minutes approved at meeting of 7 May 2019.