

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Tuesday, 14 May 2019 at 6.45pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: H Barbour, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, S Holland, B Knowles,
R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 9 members of the public,
Apologies: A Anderson, R Beavis, N Macdonald, D Whitelaw, Cllr Frank Ross,
Christine Jardine, MP.

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 1 May 2018

These were approved.

Prop: M Stevens, Sec: R Smart.

The Chairman reported that he had attended the AGM of the Cockburn Association the previous week. The Association's priorities were the proposed redevelopment of the former Royal High School, Princes Street Gardens and Doors Open Day. He wished to record MCC's thanks to the Cockburn Association for their help in dealing with the planning application for redevelopment of the site of the former Tor nursing home at 30 Corstorphine Road.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reported in the following terms:-

During the year MCC bade a final-for-now farewell to past chairman Hamish Ross on his relocation to Amman, and remembered onetime stalwart Bill Amcotts on his passing. MCC welcomed Barbara Knowles as Hamish's successor representing the Friends of Roseburn Park, and recognised Norma Macdonald previously Murrayfield Parish Church representative as a co-opted member in her own right.

MCC sought to raise its visibility by improving the website, renewing the main notice-board and seeking youth representation - the last two of which are works in progress.

Also ongoing has been MCC's involvement in the at times glacial progress towards CCWEL and Rejuvenating Roseburn, where MCC championed the call for a scheme to compensate traders and worked its way through the draft Traffic Regulation Orders, but had doubts about the proposed decking/viewing platform.

MCC supported provision of a log-bench in Roseburn Park to commemorate the trees felled during the flood prevention scheme and welcomed also the arrival of a new play-park.

The Rolling Stones concert passed off without incident and a storm that did not (at least for the moment) break was the Murrayfield Wanderers' aspiration to create a clubhouse in the Park. MCC supported the Donaldson Area Amenity Association's resistance to conversion of ugly Osborne House into an even uglier hotel, led with Westerlea residents the fight against inappropriate development of the former Tor Nursing Home, added weight to a campaign against an oversized proposal for 33 Pinkhill and came under attack for limited support of a trial for a pop-up bar at 37 Corstorphine Road. Patiently MCC flirted with Locality Committees and with participatory budgeting, and awaited so-called "quick wins" at Ellersly Road. MCC was delighted to endorse 12-year-old Ben Yates's call for a pedestrian crossing on Murrayfield Road.

Vice-chair Jim Forbes emerged as MCC's chief campaigner against inappropriate developments, and won widespread plaudits for his presentation on the Tor, where he was ably supported by all three City Councillors. But there was no room for complacency as another drama began to unfold in the arcadian surroundings of 9 Kinellan Road.

The Chairman finished by saying, "I should like to thank everyone on the Community Council for their unfailing support throughout the year. Most of all, we are indebted to you the public, the intelligence of whose input never ceases to inspire."

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported in the following terms:-

Since the AGM last year MCC had received well in excess of 1000 emails.

The bulk of the emails are from the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and include:

Weekly updates on planning applications and decisions made,

Licensing applications plus proposed changes to current licences (but note no notification is given for temporary or pop-up licensing applications),

Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) - these have increased due to the changes in parking in the local area, e.g. new red lines on corners at The Maltings, and

Weekly events newsletters.

The City Centre West to East Cycle Link (CCWEL) had led to an increase in the number of emails on this subject.

Emails reflected the agenda of MCC's meetings and had also mirrored the last year's activities.

By post MCC received 2 notifications of changes to areas covered by medical practices and 1 objection to the CCWEL.

Youth engagement – her approach to the Youth Parliament had not yet elicited a response.

The Secretary had approached Fay Forsythe, the family liaison person at Murrayfield Parish Church, resulting in a young person being identified who is interested in joining MCC. Following a recent meeting with the young person the Secretary was hopeful of her joining MCC for the meeting in June.

The new notice board had been delayed due to problems in sourcing the required size of board - this had recently been resolved and was again work in progress, though there was no date for installation as yet.

New plants would be installed in the planters on the Old Coltbridge in the week commencing 27 May. CEC parks & plants team had agreed to supply the plants and the Secretary would collect them on 28 May. (In the event the SGN works at Roseburn made this timing impossible.)

There was nothing to add on graffiti.

In collaboration with H Whaley the Secretary reported the following social media statistics:

Twitter

517 followers, 338 following

Facebook

81 like MCC on Facebook, on average 73 read MCC's page and 14 engage with it.

The Secretary thanked her colleagues for their continued support to her in her role.

6. Treasurer's Submission of Audited Accounts

The Treasurer submitted the audited Accounts for 2018-2019. A copy is attached. The Treasurer reported that the grant received from West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership in the previous financial year had been spent on two graffiti removal kits, a payment to account for the new noticeboard and plants for the planters on the Old Coltbridge (shown as "Secretary's expenses" in the Accounts). The rent for the hall in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre had been increased to £35 per meeting.

In answer to a question from H Whaley the Treasurer explained that the "Gift for departing webmaster" was a tappit hen presented to Hamish Ross (who had served as Chairman, at one time concurrently as Secretary, and latterly as the representative of the Friends of Roseburn Park) to thank him for his contribution to the work of MCC, in particular his management of MCC's website with which he had continued for some time after his departure from MCC.

7. Items for Discussion

7.1 Website and social media

H Whaley said that he had looked at the 2011 Census and discovered that 17% of the population [of the UK] is under 18 and 23% over 65.

7.2 Widening of involvement of community

The Chairman felt that participation in MCC should be encouraged. J Forbes agreed that the forthcoming Community Council elections would be an opportunity to interest younger people in standing.

The Secretary confirmed that the young person whom she and R Brown had met had read the Minutes of the last ordinary MCC meeting and was still keen to join!

8. Election of Office Bearers

The Chairman pointed out that the election of office bearers was for the period up to the Community Council elections in September/October 2019.

Cllr Gloyer took the Chair and the office bearers stood down. The office bearers were re-elected without a contest as follows:-

Chairman: J Yellowlees

Prop: J Forbes, Sec: H Barbour

Vice Chairman: J Forbes

Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: S Holland

Treasurer: S Holland

Prop: R Smart, Sec: M Stevens

Secretary: H Barbour

Prop: R Smart, Sec: J Yellowlees.

Cllr Gloyer congratulated the newly elected office bearers and wished them luck.

Cllr Douglas declared the election process to be in order and the newly elected Chairman took the Chair.

9. Date of next AGM and Close

It was agreed that the next AGM would take place on a Tuesday in May 2020.

The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting.

Minutes approved at meeting of [] May 2020.