

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Tuesday, 2 May 2017 at 6.45pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

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

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 31 May 2016

These were approved.

Prop: J Forbes, Sec: S Holland.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reported as follows:-

In the past year Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") had stood firm with the Roseburn traders in their reservations about the Council's cycle-track proposal. After consultations in which Robert Smart led for MCC, the Council decided in principle to proceed with Option A, and MCC's aim in monitoring the forthcoming Traffic Regulation Orders must be to secure the best possible deal for the whole community.

The pre-eminence of the cycle-track issue was reflected in the outcome of the Community Council elections and in efforts to establish new local interest groups. The Chairman welcomed H Whaley, the newly appointed representative of the Roseburn Cycle Group, to MCC and looked forward to bringing on board the Roseburn Traders when they had completed the necessary processes with the Council. The Community Council elections meant that MCC bade farewell to Liz Robertson, Bill Amcotts and Derek Huckle and welcomed new members Helen Barbour (now MCC's secretary), Pete Gregson, Ann Anderson and Roy Beavis. Jim Forbes became vice-chair. MCC welcomed back Hamish Ross as the nominated representative of the Friends of Roseburn Park and welcomed Mike Stevens and David Whitelaw as representatives of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA") and Saughtonhall Community Association ("SCA") in succession to George Douglas and Paul Sizeland respectively.

It was otherwise a year of continuity, with work proceeding on the flood prevention scheme in Roseburn Park and on new homes at Donaldson's. MCC heard about the possibility of Edinburgh Wanderers moving to Roseburn Park and about the possible redevelopment of Murrayfield Ice Rink. A bathroom shop was due to open at Kew Terrace. The Conservative Group in the Scottish

Parliament established their regional office in the former Spar at Roseburn Terrace.

The Chairman intimated that Cllrs Jeremy Balfour and Paul Edie would stand down as City Councillors ahead of the forthcoming Council elections. The Chairman thanked them both for their doughty service to MCC over many years, and expressed his gratitude to Cllr Frank Ross for taking time out of his electioneering schedule to attend MCC's AGM. The Chairman thanked his fellow Community Councillors for all their support, kindness and good humour, the Police Scotland representatives, MCC's friends elsewhere, including the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership and Corstorphine Community Council, and the public for seeing MCC through another year.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported as follows:-

She had taken on the role of Secretary in November 2016. Since then she had dealt with 500 emails, mostly from the Council, with information on planning, planning applications and decisions, Traffic Regulation Orders and consultations and surveys on the Council's policies and services.

She had been sent two hard copies of the finalised Edinburgh Local Development Plan. An electronic version is also available. The Secretary undertook to email the link to the electronic version to her MCC colleagues.

In reply to a question from S Holland the Secretary agreed that the initial three month trial period which she had requested had expired and confirmed that she was happy to continue in the role. She wished to record her thanks to R Brown for help in settling into the role.

In response to a question from H Whaley about public engagement the Secretary confirmed that she had received only one email from a member of the public, she receives automatic updates regarding MCC's Twitter account, that some correspondence goes direct to the Chairman and that she replies to emails addressed to the Secretary from her personal email address.

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 MCC had spent money only on administrative costs – the renting of the meeting room, photocopying and the purchase of replacement keys for the noticeboard– and the Balance Sheet showed more than £3,500 held in MCC's bank account.

The Treasurer reported that MCC now insures direct with Zurich, which has a Parish and Council section, and he had paid the insurance premium of £82 for the current year. He wondered whether the annual grant from the City of Edinburgh Council would be increased by this amount.

In answer to a question from P Gregson about who pays for MCC's website the Treasurer and H Ross confirmed that no demand for payment has been made for the past three years.

7. Items for Discussion

7.1 *Website*

H Ross reported that MCC's website no longer works well and needs replacing. The developer of the website cannot be contacted. As mentioned above, no hosting fees have been paid for some time and there is a danger that the website will cease to

function without warning. Currently the website stores MCC's Minutes and Agenda and highlights news items chosen from the Minutes by H Ross or contributed by the Chairman. There is an automatic feed of the news items to Twitter. H Ross mentioned that recent events such as the hustings and the cycle track debate had generated responses from the public on Twitter and he felt that Facebook would do the same. He expressed the view that these media reach not only more people than the website and the noticeboards can but, arguably, a different group of people.

H Ross considered that MCC had to discuss and decide upon (1) its editorial policy, (2) a process for dealing with views expressed via social media and (3) a process for responding to direct communications via social media.

R Beavis expressed the view that Facebook and Twitter are more effective than a website at reaching the community and require less upkeep. H Ross pointed out that in one sense the first two media need more upkeep than a website.

The Chairman linked this discussion on a more dynamic engagement with the community to the requirement to respond to an ever increasing number of surveys and consultations and the impracticality of expecting one person, hitherto R Smart, to deal with all such responses.

R Beavis considered that in planning matters MCC needs to be briefed properly before major planning issues are discussed at an ordinary MCC meeting and that MCC could use social media to find out how the community feels about such matters.

H Barbour introduced the idea of forming a sub-group of MCC to deal with planning matters in order to capitalise on R Smart's expertise, accurately reflect MCC policy decisions and respond timeously on matters which require MCC's attention.

J Forbes supported the idea of a more collegiate approach. He pointed out that decisions on planning matters often have to be taken at times when MCC is not due to meet. He considered that information on planning issues which is received by the Secretary, Chairman or himself should be shared with the rest of MCC in real time.

M Stevens expressed the reservation that the sub-group's activities might exclude others with an interest in a particular matter, such as DAAA and SCA.

J Forbes replied that the sub-group would operate transparently, ensure that everyone was informed of issues and report to each MCC meeting. If a decision were required on a particular matter before an MCC meeting, the sub-group would consult the rest of MCC.

H Barbour reiterated that more than one person is required to deal with the many detailed issues which arise and require MCC's attention. On the issue of wider public consultation she included social media as a useful tool and also pointed out that being out and about in the community often led to local residents expressing their views.

H Whaley agreed that MCC should consult more widely and considered Twitter and Facebook to be effective platforms.

H Ross recommended that MCC invest in a new website at an estimated cost of £500. He intimated that H Whaley had contacted a web developer who had offered an initial informal discussion on MCC's requirements and who would be willing to quote for the work of setting up a new website, if MCC wished to proceed. It was agreed that H Ross and H Whaley would liaise to take this forward.

8. Election of Office Bearers

Cllr Ross took the Chair and the office bearers stood down. The office bearers were re-elected for a period of 12 months as follows:-

Chairman: J Yellowlees	Prop: R Brown, Sec: H Barbour
Vice Chairman: J Forbes	Prop: N Macdonald, Sec: H Barbour
Treasurer: S Holland	Prop: R Smart, Sec: R Brown
Secretary: H Barbour	Prop: R Brown, Sec: R Smart.

9. Date of next AGM and Close

It was agreed that the next AGM would take place in May 2018.
The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting.

Minutes approved at meeting of 1 May 2018.