

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Tuesday, 2 May 2023 at 7pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: John Yellowlees and Cllr Alan Beal

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, D Dawson, J Forbes, B Knowles, Norma Macdonald, J McDonaugh, D MacLennan, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Fiona Bennett, Cllr Euan Davidson,
In attendance: 4 members of the public,
Apologies: P Gregson, S Macpherson, E Robertson, Cllr Margaret Graham, Cllr Finlay MacFarlane, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Foysol Choudhury, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Angus Robertson, MSP, Lorna Slater, MSP, Sue Webber, MSP, Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above.

The Chair congratulated Cllr Fiona Bennett on her election and welcomed her and the other attendees.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 4 October 2022

The Chair referred to Items 10.1 and 10.2 of the Minutes:-

3.1 At the previous AGM Cllr Frank Ross had highlighted a licensing application for an extension to the Murrayfield Hotel which would increase its capacity by 690. J Forbes confirmed that nothing more had been heard about this.

3.2 The Chair reported that P Gregson had been successful in raising the profile of the plaques which MCC had installed at various locations.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: J Mc Donaugh.

4. Chair's and Secretary's Report

The Chair, who confirmed that he also monitors the Secretary's mailbox, had circulated his report by email prior to the meeting. A copy is attached.

5. Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair had circulated his Report on planning and licensing issues by email prior to the meeting. A copy is attached.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had submitted the audited Accounts for 2022-2023 by email prior to the meeting. A copy is attached.

R Brown mentioned that she no longer had access to a Zoom account and, if MCC wished to hold meetings on Zoom over the winter, it would need to set up its own account. This would cost about £11 per month.

D Dawson asked whether any progress had been made in finding funds for a noticeboard at Saughtonhall. The Treasurer replied that an application to the North West Partnership would be submitted in May. J Forbes reminded the Treasurer about the plan to upgrade the noticeboard at Western Corner.

7. Social Engagement Report

D Dawson reported that a database of local organisations has been added to MCC's website. He had hoped that some of these organisations would add MCC's details to their own websites but the level of reciprocity had been disappointing. He thanked Hamish Ross for his continued support in maintaining MCC's website.

D Dawson felt he could not devote enough time to the role of Social Engagement Officer and wished to resign.

8. Election of Office Bearers

The Chairman reported that the current incumbents of the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer had indicated their willingness to serve again. R Brown confirmed that no new nominations had been received. The Chairman and the office bearers stood down and Cllr Beal took the Chair.

In the absence of any further nominations the office bearers were re-elected without a contest as follows:-

Chair: J Yellowlees

Prop: R Brown, Sec: J Forbes

Vice Chair: J Forbes

Prop: N Macdonald, Sec: A Anderson

Treasurer: J McDonagh

Prop: M Stevens, Sec: D Dawson

Secretary: J Yellowlees

Prop: J McDonagh, Sec: M Stevens

D Dawson had intimated before the AGM that he wished to resign as Social Engagement Officer. In the absence of a new candidate for the office, he offered to continue informally meantime and this offer was accepted unanimously.

Cllr Beal vacated and J Yellowlees took the Chair.

9. Community Council elections in 2024

The Chair confirmed that the Community Council elections, originally scheduled for September/October 2023, are now expected to be held in 2024. The date has yet to be confirmed by the Community Councils team at the City Council.

10. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

11. Date of next AGM

The Chair intimated that the next AGM will be held after the Community Council elections in 2024.

The Chair closed the Annual General Meeting.

Minutes approved at AGM of [] 2024

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM 2023

CHAIR'S REPORT

In the six months since our last AGM, we said goodbye to Frank Ross, who served us well during his dozen years as a City Councillor (including five as Lord Provost) but had understandably had enough when the SNP Group decided not to support the Lib Dems and Conservatives on compensation to Roseburn traders. We welcomed a new Community Councillor David MacLennan who brings vigour, especially to matters that affect Wester Coates, and look forward to tonight's debut of Cllr Fiona Bennett. We are pleased that Norma Macdonald who in the past represented Murrayfield Parish Church will now speak for Murrayfield Churches Together.

Jim Forbes' report recalls successes on planning - particularly over 9 Kinellan Road and the 5g mast at 11 Succoth Gardens, the rejection of both being surely our greatest achievements of 2022 - and Jim McDonough's shows how we have continued to live within our means. Dave Dawson has made progress by drawing up a database of all our contacts, and he has led hands-on involvement in planting replacement trees along the Water of Leith floodplain. Dave also proved a steadying influence in the aftermath of heavy rain in December following which the City Council has included him in automated distribution of flood-warning emails from its telemetry system.

I wish that on other fronts things had been as good. We came through the CityFibre experience but long after the originally anticipated November completion are still seeing the final throes of CCWEL which hit Murrayfield Place particularly hard during this period. Traders celebrated Roseburn Terrace reopening for business in December, but since then they have had to endure a burst water-main, lengthy resurfacing and delay to the keenly-awaited installation of additional pedestrian crossings. It is little wonder that two of them have called it a day. Poor communication bedevilled the project's eastward progress, and reinstatement of the right-hand turn into Roseburn Street has been exceptionally protracted.

Other traffic and transport news is little better. Diversion of Lothian Buses No 12 route gave us improved connectivity, but there was no publicity: and users of the westbound no 31 have had to endure extended diversion from North Bridge which is thankfully just ended. Now that it's the turn of Haymarket Terrace to feel the pain of CCWEL, all our buses are again taking the scenic route round Eglinton Crescent. We had a site-meeting with officials and local residents at Ellersly Road to urge the need for measures to reduce speeds and improve safety which felt positive at the time but has been followed by shameless buck-passing.

We enjoyed an enhanced Christmas programme of events around our tree on the Old Colt Bridge, and are most grateful to all concerned. I was pleased that Community funding has been granted to the Ravelston House neighbourhood watch for a Coronation street-party, and have supported a bid from Tummies Not Trash for development of the important services that they offer. Clare Marshall had previously addressed our March meeting, when we heard also from Heather Bryson, holder of a British Citizen Award who at the age of just ten is

undoubtedly our youngest-even participant. Now we look forward to the imminent opening of the Rosebean Café, and I believe that particular congratulations are due to Pete Gregson without whose keeping faith over many years this project would never have happened.

Thanks to everyone – especially Rosanne without whose minutes we simply could not function - for your continued support as we head into what may be our final year before the next Community Council elections.

J Yellowlees

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT on Planning and Licensing Issues

This summarises matters considered by MCC since our last AGM on 4 October 2022.

MCC adopted a formal procedure on 24 January 2023 for objecting to planning applications and appeals. The procedure document can be accessed on the MCC website.

By a decision on 1 December 2022, planning permission was refused for a 14-home development on an ecologically sensitive site at **9 Kinellan Road**, within the West Murrayfield Conservation Area (WMCA). Reasons cited (all of which were raised by MCC) included excessive density and scale for the WMCA, damage to the wider townscape, loss of trees contrary to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), unacceptable flood risk, and failure to make provision for affordable housing. Media reports suggested the applicants might appeal or file a revised application. We will maintain a watch.

Following the June 2022 “minded to grant” decision by the Scottish Ministers on a 20-flat development at **37 Corstorphine Road**, formal planning approval is still pending. It is understood that negotiations are continuing on the necessary agreement for a commuted sum to fund affordable housing. Meanwhile, MCC responded to an opinion survey from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), expressing our concern that an IT vulnerability at SEPA resulted in a significant planning decision being taken without the benefit of a flood risk report commissioned from Arup.

Work has begun on alterations to **Osborne House** (1–5 Osborne Terrace) for its repurposing as a hotel. Formal change of use to Class 7 (hotel) was approved on 13 January 2023.

Immediately outside MCC's area, no construction work is yet evident on the site behind **22 Haymarket Yards**, where planning permission was granted for student accommodation. A recent change of ownership has been noted. Planning approval has recently been granted for demolition of **Elgin House** (20 Haymarket Yards) and development of a major hotel and office complex on the site.

On 1 February 2023, planning permission was refused for a 5G telecom mast by **11 Succoth Gardens**, within the Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Area (CWCCA), for reasons stated in MCC's objection.

In a committee decision on 21 March 2023, planning permission was granted for a proposed two-storey extension to the villa at **13 Ravelston Park** within the Dean Conservation Area (DCA), which had attracted many local objections. MCC did not comment, in line with normal practice for householder (domestic) applications.

Despite what MCC considered insufficient documentation, Listed Building Consent (LBC) was granted on 1 February 2023 for new signage and fascia at the **Tesco Express** in Roseburn. This has now been installed.

No licensing applications of significant concern have arisen since our last AGM.

Jim Forbes

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

REPORT ON ACCOUNTS 2022 - 2023

1 Income

Our income in the year 2022 - 2023 comprised of our annual administrative grant from the City of Edinburgh Council and a grant funding award from The Lord Provost's Platinum Jubilee Fund to support local constituted groups running community events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Our annual administrative grant includes a subsidy amount based on our accommodation costs for the previous year. As all our meetings in 2021/22 were conducted online via the Zoom platform we incurred no accommodation/hall hire charges and as such this subsidy was removed and our annual grant reduced by £150.00

2 Disbursements

£500 from The Lord Provost's Jubilee Fund was awarded to Friends of Roseburn Park (SCIO) to support their Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the park.

3 Operational Expenditure

With Covid 19 restrictions lifted, some Murrayfield Community Council meetings in the period April 2022 - March 2023 were run in person at Murrayfield Parish Church with others, during the winter months, remaining online using the Zoom platform. This resulted in an increase on the previous year for hall hire charges. Other operational expense items included insurance premiums, webhosting & support and photocopying & printing.

4 Discretionary Expenditure

During the period, MCC continued to fund its programme of micro projects (local projects costing less than £150). The programme successfully completed 2 micro projects including:

Supply & installation of horse drawn-tram plaque (£110.00)

Supply of art materials for the Xmas display on The Old Coltbridge (£29.50)

- 5 Murrayfield Community Council has no paid employees or fixed assets. Council members do not receive remuneration for work carried out. The balance sheet consists, therefore, solely of the money we hold in our bank account.

- 6 Murrayfield Community Council produced £107.20 surplus of income over expenditure during the period April 2022 to March 2023.



Jim McDonough

Treasurer

20th March 2023

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

REPORT ON ACCOUNTS 2022 - 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME		
City of Edinburgh Community Council Grant ¹	692.70	842.70
City of Edinburgh Council Jubilee Events Grant Funding ¹	<u>500.00</u>	----
	<u>1,192.70</u>	842.70
EXPENDITURE		
Jubilee Grant Funding to Friends of Roseburn Park ²		
Website Hosting & Support ³	500.00	----
Hall Rental (Meetings & Hustings) ³	175.00	175.00
Photocopying & Printing ³	150.00	----
	37.00	----
Insurance Premium (Public Liability) ³	84.00	84.00
Treasurer's Expenses	----	----
Micro Projects ⁴	139.50	761.10
	<u>1,085.50</u>	<u>1,020.10</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year to 31st March 2023⁶	<u>107.20</u>	<u>(177.40)</u>

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
REPORT ON ACCOUNTS 2022 - 2023
STATEMENT OF BALANCE at 31 MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening Balance	1,715.73	1,893.13
less uncleared cheques	----	----
	1,715.73	1,893.13
 Surplus / (Deficit) for year	 107.20	 (177.40)
	<u>1,822.93</u>	1,715.73
 Closing Balance	 1,822.93	 1,715.73
less uncleared cheques	----	----
	<u>1,822.93</u>	<u>1,715.73</u>
 Represented by:		
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account	<u>1,822.93</u>	<u>1,715.73</u>

I have examined the Records of the Treasurer in respect of the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 and found them to be correct.



Independent Examiner

Neil M. Davidson M.C.I.B.S

Date 1/5/23