

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
Tuesday, 14 September 2010 at 8:00 pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: H Ross

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, S Holland, G McLeod, E Robertson, H Ross, R Smart, W Spence, A Weatherston, J Yellowlees  
*Ex officio*: Cllr Wheeler  
In attendance: 7 members of the public  
Apologies: Cllr Edie, Cllr Balfour, M Crockart MP, S Boyack MSP

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above.

The new chairman, Hamish Ross, thanked the outgoing chairman, Walter Spence, for his long service to the Council in that post and for his considerable assistance to the new chairman in the latter's previous role as secretary.

The chairman welcomed George Douglas, as the nominated member of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association, to the Council.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

No report was made. It was noted that the printed Police Newsletter is now received regularly.

4. Councillors' Report

Cllr Wheeler reported that the Council's Budget for next year is in the course of preparation. The Council will have to trim £30m from the annual spend of £1bn. The Council is looking at better ways to deliver services and will consult with the public on the various options under consideration at a number of meetings to be held around the city. One of these meetings is to be held at Davidson's Mains Church in the first week in October.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 27 July 2010

These were approved. Prop: R Smart, Sec: W Spence.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. *Tram works (incl. Russell Road closure)*

The chairman reported that he had been assured by Tie that there would be uninterrupted pedestrian access along Russell Road throughout the duration of the tram works, but the route of that access might vary. In discussion with the members of the public present it became apparent that not all affected local residents had received the recent notice from Tie about the proposed works. R Smart expressed concern that Corstorphine Road is to be affected by a succession of gas, electricity and pavement works at the same time that Russell Road will be closed. Cllr Wheeler

reiterated that assurances have been given by Tie that Russell Road and Balgreen Road will not be closed at the same time, thus preserving access to the south of the city at all times. In response to a question from a member of the public, George Douglas reported that the Police had notified him that when Rangers and Celtic play at Tynecastle the supporters' buses will be parked in Wester Coates instead of Russell Road.

6.2. *Controlled parking meeting*

The chairman and R Smart attended a meeting with the Council convened as a result of the request from Murrayfield Parish Church for a yellow line outside the Church to enable members of the Murrayfield Club to be dropped off. The Traffic Department have the power to install a disabled parking bay, but its use would be restricted to holders of a Blue Badge. This is problematic, as Blue Badges are issued only to individuals who are registered as disabled. The Murrayfield Club are looking into the problems associated with this option. **Cllr Wheeler undertook to investigate whether a white line would be a feasible alternative.** The Council are considering the extension to Murrayfield of a form of controlled parking zone. **Cllr Wheeler undertook to ask the Council officials for the likely timescale for this.**

6.3. *Roseburn Area (various)*

**The chairman** had received a request from Craighleith/Blackhall Community Council that the vegetation on the north side of the Water of Leith viaduct be removed and **is to pursue this request with Murray Black of the Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP")**. A member of the public stated that there is a similar, more serious, problem on the west side of Roseburn Drive.

At the last meeting Cllr Edie had undertaken to check when the Air Monitoring Unit was to be removed and whether the emergency flood defence system had been tested recently, but he was not available to report on these matters.

J Yellowlees reported that Headway Hair had ceased trading after 30 years, the off-licence had closed, but was due to re-open and Tesco had been "sniffing around" the empty Kenny Dunn premises.

E Robertson was waiting to hear from Cllr Balfour about her request that Roseburn be considered for improvements along the lines of those approved for Western Corner. Cllr Wheeler reported that the WENP Manager, Natalie Hoy, had been asked to suggest "value for money" improvements.

G Macleod reported that work had not yet begun on the Western Corner improvements. The location of the bin bays had still to be agreed.

S Holland noted that at Roseburn there was water bubbling up at the pavement outside the delicatessen. A Scottish Water sign was in evidence but no workmen.

R Smart complained that the pavements at Roseburn are partially obstructed in several places by signs set out by various businesses. **Cllr Wheeler undertook to refer this problem to Natalie Hoy.**

6.4. *Ryrie's Bar*

J Yellowlees was pleased to report that the Bar had replaced two very messy bins with one tidy one.

6.5. *Path from Ravelston Dykes Road to Corstorphine Hill*

The chairman reported that an area had been cordoned off for the construction works at the foot of the path leaving sufficient space for access to the Hill.

6.6. *South East Scotland Development Plan workshop*

R Smart and R Brown attended this workshop on 11 August. The Plan, which covers a huge area including the Lothians, Borders and part of Fife, will replace the current Structure Plan and will run for 20 years. It will be revised every 5 years.

6.7. *Queensferry Road railings*

The chairman reported that Murray Black of WENP had told him that repairs have been carried out to the railings. It is not known who is actually responsible for their maintenance. W Spence informed the meeting that the Council's Environment Committee have funds to do this type of work. **The chairman undertook to raise the issue with Natalie Hoy.**

6.8. *Any Other Matters Arising*

R Smart reported that, after a delay due to incapacity, the stone consultant is now preparing a specification for the resiting of the Murrayfield Gardens pillar and **R Smart will draft the necessary applications for funds once this is available.**

R Smart stated that the overgrown hedges mentioned at the last meeting had not yet been tackled. **The chairman** was given the relevant street names and **undertook to write to Murray Black about this.**

A Weatherston reported that the changes proposed by the Boundary Commission to the Scottish Parliament constituency of Edinburgh Central do not appear to affect the Murrayfield area.

It was noted that the woman who had been sleeping on the bench on Roseburn Bridge earlier in the summer had not been seen for some time.

7. Donaldson Area Amenity Association nomination

George Douglas was co-opted on to the Council as the member nominated by Donaldson Area Amenity Association. Prop: R Smart, Sec: S Holland.

8. Local Interest Groups

The chairman reported that he had contacted Saughtonhall Community Association to ask if they wished to follow the example of Donaldson Area Amenity Association and nominate someone to sit on the Council. Saughtonhall are electing a new Committee, to whom this question will be put.

9. Meeting dates/venues etc 2011

The chairman distributed a list of proposed dates and venues for 2011. It is proposed that 3 of the 7 meetings be held on a Wednesday evening instead of a Tuesday evening and in venues other than Murrayfield Parish Church Centre.

S Holland pointed out that, if Roseburn Primary School were to be used, the meeting would have to be held between 7pm and 9pm.

10. Western Corner gas works

These had been referred to in connection with item 6.1.

11. Roseburn Path viaduct over the Water of Leith

The removal of the vegetation overgrowing the viaduct had been dealt with at item 6.3.

12. Planning matters

R Smart reported that he had considered 10 planning applications since the last meeting, most of which were small domestic applications. The application for the proposed phone mast near Saughtonhall Co-op is not yet available. **R Smart will draft objections in due course.**

R Smart had attended a meeting of the Civic Forum earlier in the day. The next 5 year plan will go out to consultation shortly.

Following the rejection by the Planning Department of the proposals from Tiger Developments, new applications are being submitted for buildings at Haymarket.

A planning application has been submitted for the new concourse at Haymarket Station.

W Spence reported that two new houses on Riversdale Crescent have been built so that the walls facing the river encroach on to the public path by 1.5 metres. It was agreed that **the chairman should write to John Bury, Head of Planning, and ask him to refer this matter to his enforcement officers.**

The section of the same path from Roseburn Park to Baird Drive is overgrown on the Chinese Embassy side. **The chairman undertook to add a request that this vegetation be removed to his letter to Murray Black about the Water of Leith viaduct (see item 6.3).**

R Smart reported that the planning application for a car valeting point at 8 Kew Terrace (formerly the BP garage) had been rejected.

13. Traffic and Transport

Cllr Wheeler was asked to explain why the tram tracks have not yet been laid. He confirmed that discussions between Tie and the contractors are continuing and Tie are hoping for “an amicable divorce”. The section of track to the west of Haymarket to the airport is to be completed. The section from Leith to Haymarket may be completed later.

It was agreed that, in response to the request from Mike Connelly of Tie at the last meeting, H Ross, W Spence and S Holland would participate in the Community Engagement Group being set up by Tie. The chairman reminded the meeting that Mike Connelly had undertaken to give the Community Council a progress report at the meeting to be held on 2 November 2010.

14. Reports

The treasurer, S Holland, reported that (1) there had been no transactions since the last meeting and (2) E Robertson had confirmed her willingness to act as the third cheque signatory in addition to the chairman and the treasurer.

W Spence reported that the last scheduled meeting of the WENP had had to be cancelled because none of the City Councillors had been able to attend owing to a Budget meeting.

15. Correspondence

The members had been provided with the attached list of correspondence received since the last meeting. These were discussed as follows:-

5 August - it was pointed out that this item related to Baird Drive and not Baird Road.

2 September - R Smart was not available to deal with this item and **the chairman undertook to do so.**

4 September - the chairman informed the meeting that Laura Cumming of the Evening News contacts the chairman periodically to ask for items of local news.

13 September – Gorgie/Dalry Community Council had canvassed support for their petition to save Dalry Swim Centre from closure. The petition was available for signature at the meeting. Cllr Wheeler stated that, as far as he was aware, no definite decision regarding closure had yet been made by Edinburgh Leisure.

16. Any Other Competent Business

In response to a question from a member of the public the chairman reported that the treasurer of Friends of Roseburn Park had resigned and that he, the MCC chairman, had been elected treasurer. The graffiti artwork project on the building used by the cricket club should go ahead soon. Cllr Wheeler informed the meeting that the City Council are precluded from granting the club a 25 year lease because the land on which the building is situated is part of the “common good” and subject to restrictions which can only be overcome by an application to the court. Legal costs in the region of £10,000 – £15,000 would have to be paid by the club.

**The chairman is to report on developments re Friends of Roseburn Park at the next meeting.**

S Holland notified the meeting that the Cockburn Association’s Doors Open Day will take place on 25 and 26 September.

A Weatherston asked whether the tarmac which had been laid in front of the Usher Hall (as an emergency “Festival” measure) would be replaced with small paving slabs to match the rest of the area and was told by Cllr Wheeler that it would.

It was noted that no progress had been made with getting the lights on Roseburn Bridge reinstated.

17. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

18. Date of Next Meeting: 2 November 2010

Subsequent meeting: 21 December 2010

Minutes approved at meeting of 2 November 2010