

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 15 January 2013 at 8pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: H Ross

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland,  
N Macdonald, G McLeod, E Robertson, H Ross, R Smart,  
J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllrs Balfour, Edie and Ross  
In attendance: PC Prince Durant, 7 members of the public,  
Apologies: W Spence, M Crockart MP, M Biagi MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and informed the meeting that W Spence had just celebrated his eightieth birthday. Cllr Edie proposed that the Community Council's congratulations be sent to W Spence and **the Chairman undertook to do so.**

2. Order of Business

This was approved. The Chairman intimated that the list of correspondence to be dealt with as Item 10 was not yet available.

3. Community Policing Report

P C Prince Durant reported as follows:-

3.1 There had been no problems with anti-social behaviour in the Murrayfield area since the last meeting;

3.2 In December a garage in Abinger Gardens had been broken into but nothing had been stolen. The roof box of a car parked in Ravelston Dykes had been emptied overnight;

3.3 There had been complaints about noisy parties, bad parking to make deliveries and pick up takeaways and domestic incidents throughout the area;

3.4 A number of cars had been damaged at the time of the Hearts v Hibs match; and

3.5 A number of Christmas wreaths had been stolen from front doors.

In response to a report from a member of the public that the lead had been stripped from the roof of the electricity sub-station opposite Roseburn House three or four times recently, PC Durant undertook to visit this location and obtain further details from the warden of Roseburn House.

4. Councillors' Report

4.1 Cllr Edie reported as follows:-

4.1.1 The City Council had approved the new Community Council Scheme which, *inter alia*, provides for the alteration of boundaries to include the Donaldson Area within the Murrayfield Community Council area and which will be effective at the time of the next Community Council elections;

4.1.2 Natalie Hoy's West Edinburgh street cleaning team had been judged so effective that it was to be reduced in numbers early in 2013. Cllr Balfour reported that he had asked for a report on this decision to be given to the

next meeting of the West Edinburgh Partnership at the end of January and he hoped to have the decision reversed.

4.1.3 Cllr Edie had put down a motion before Christmas to bid for some of the additional capital, which had been made available by the Westminster government, for flood prevention. He did not yet know whether the bid had been successful.

4.2 Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.2.1 At the last minute the owner of the shop displaying the disputed advertising signs at Western Corner had appealed against the refusal of retrospective planning permission. The City Council has 28 days to lodge counter-submissions and the appeal will be heard by a Scottish Government Minister;

4.2.2 The joint application by the City Council and the Friends of Roseburn Park for Lottery funding for a new flowerbed and outdoor chess set and table tennis table in the Park had been successful;

4.2.3 The Evening News is running a campaign to ensure that pensioners' bus passes will be accepted for travel on the trams and S Holland's photograph appears in the current issue of the paper in this connection;

4.2.4 The West Edinburgh Partnership is holding a one day event on older people's issues at the end of April;

4.2.5 The Transport Committee has agreed to carry out a consultation on traffic and transport in the City over the next 5-6 years. The consultation paper is available on the City Council's website. The consultation will consider matters such as bus routes and times and the introduction of parking charges on Sundays in some areas. He suggested that the Community Council invite a Transport Officer to the next meeting. In the course of a brief discussion Cllr Ross expressed the view that the introduction of the tram service would result in no change to the vast majority of bus services. Cllr Balfour anticipated that the frequency of the airport bus service would be reduced.

4.3 Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

4.3.1 He has a meeting with the Transport Minister on 17 January to discuss concessionary fares on the trams;

4.3.2 Conflicting information has been given about the repair of the pavement outside the Murrayfield Bar – he has been told that a repair team will be on site in mid February; Cllr Balfour has been told that there is no budget for this work;

4.3.3 The trade waste bins, which are currently parked round the corner from the Murrayfield Bar, are to be moved to an official storage area further down the street and the businesses who own them are to be charged for this. Part of the loading bay at the corner of Roseburn Gardens may be used to accommodate these bins;

4.3.4 All households on both sides of the main road between Western Corner and Roseburn Bridge are to be asked to complete a survey to ascertain their views on the proposed introduction of controlled parking in Murrayfield.

G McLeod raised two issues with the Councillors:-

1. Who had lodged the appeal re the Corstorphine Roofing advertising signs at Western Corner? He understood that the manager of the shop did not want the signs. Cllrs Balfour and Ross were in agreement that it was the shop owner who had appealed.
2. A green street cleaning machine should be deployed between Western Corner and Balgreen where an accumulation of wet leaves had become a hazard, particularly at the bus stop. R Smart, S Holland, V Forbes and

a member of the public raised similar issues in relation to Murrayfield, Ravelston Dykes, Roseburn Street, the entrance to Roseburn Park and Ellersly Road. **Cllr Edie** explained that street cleaning is often scheduled for Rugby International days when parking restrictions are in place. He **undertook to follow up the matters raised**. Cllr Balfour suggested raising these matters at the next meeting of the West Edinburgh Partnership at the end of January.

V Forbes pointed out that the traffic lights at the Murrayfield Bar/ Tesco junction at Roseburn do not allow enough time for older or less agile pedestrians to cross the road safely. **Cllr Edie undertook to raise this issue with the appropriate department.**

A member of the public asked about the reinstatement of the traffic lights at the Roseburn Street/ Western Approach Road junction and the points made at the last meeting were reiterated. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had asked when the effectiveness of these lights had last been assessed and he awaited a reply.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 27 November 2012

These were approved, subject to the comment from N Macdonald that the reference in the final paragraph of Item 6.1 to Kingsburgh Gardens should be to Kingsburgh Road.

Prop: G McLeod, Sec: G Douglas.

In response to a query from R Smart re Item 8, the Chairman confirmed that the bottom quarter of Roseburn Street next to the Stadium had indeed been re-surfaced.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. *Pavement repairs outside Murrayfield Bar*

These had been dealt with.

6.2. *Roseburn Bridge lights*

J Yellowlees reported that the faulty light had been repaired and thanked Cllr Balfour for his help.

6.3. *Stabilisation of Water of Leith walkway*

Cllr Ross reported that the landslide was being monitored for movement and that this would continue for several months.

6.4 *Kingsburgh Road and Ellersly Road*

In response to a query from N Macdonald, Cllr Balfour confirmed that the Development Management Sub-Committee had carried out a site inspection of 27 Kingsburgh Road on the afternoon of Thursday, 29 November. Planning permission for the extension to 27 Kingsburgh Road and the Ellersly Road residential development had been granted, in both cases contrary to the Community Council's wishes. N Macdonald pointed out that 22 neighbours and the Cockburn Association had objected to the Kingsburgh Road application, but their objections had been disregarded.

R Smart proposed a motion of "no confidence" in Development Control and the Planning Committee. This proposal was not adopted. There followed a discussion in which the majority of those present expressed dissatisfaction with the judgement of the Planning Committee in both cases and with the way in which the Ellersly Road application had been handled. G Douglas and others reiterated that the second application for the Ellersly Road development had been treated as a minor

variation of the first, when in fact it was radically different, thereby avoiding the requirement for a public presentation and shortening the public consultation period to two weeks.

Cllr Balfour expressed the view that the Planning Officers had acted in good faith in recommending that both applications be granted. Both he and Cllr Edie confirmed that, once planning permission has been granted, the only avenue of challenge is an application to the Court of Session for judicial review on the ground of procedural irregularity.

It was decided that **the Chairman would adopt Cllr Edie's suggestion and invite the Acting Director of Planning to the Community Council meeting on 2 April to answer the Community Council's questions on both applications. He undertook to draft a letter and circulate it for approval.**

6.5 *Any other matters arising*

6.5.1 The Chairman reported that he had invited Marco Biagi, MSP to the current meeting, which he could not attend, but that he and a representative of Trams for Edinburgh would attend the next meeting.

6.5.2 J Yellowlees reported that the last refuse collection in Roseburn Cliff had taken place on Boxing Day. S Holland also reported problems with refuse collections at Roseburn Maltings. The Chairman said that he had raised this issue with the City Council, who conceded that the changes to the collection dates had caused confusion, which had worsened because of the disruption to services over the Christmas and New Year period.

6.5.3 A resident of South Beechwood reported that he had been informed by Registers of Scotland that Miller Homes' title to the area to the west of South Beechwood would be registered shortly but would be subject to an exclusion of indemnity. He anticipated that an application for planning permission will be made shortly.

7. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported that he had looked at 6 planning applications since the last meeting. The application for a hot food shop in Roseburn had been refused. One neighbour had lodged an objection to the application for an extension to a house at the top of Ormidale Terrace (which R Smart had considered unobjectionable) and alterations were now being made to that application.

8. Traffic and Transport

These issues had already been dealt with.

9. Reports

9.1 S Holland reported that he had attended a West End meeting of the Tram Construction Group chaired by Jim Davidson of the Trams for Edinburgh Stakeholder Engagement Team. The meeting had been told that, weather permitting, part of the north side of Shandwick Place would be re-opened to traffic by March and the rest of that area by May/June.

9.2 G Douglas reported that the Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA") newsletter was issued in late December and the next DAAA meeting is on 22 January. He awaits confirmation that the planning application for 8 Kew Terrace has been lodged.

9.3 The Chairman reported that Sustrans had said that they had funds available to be used for painting signs on paths which are designed to mitigate conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.

9.4 S Holland reported that he had attended a meeting with the SRU that afternoon. There had been no alcohol related trouble at any of the autumn Internationals. The SRU had decided to provide street entertainment between Haymarket and Murrayfield Stadium for two hours before matches. At the last match there had been a group of drummers in Roseburn Street, the reaction to whom had been mixed. The SRU intended to gauge public reaction to different types of entertainment. There is to be an RAF fly past at only one match, yet to be announced. Scotland's opponents in the forthcoming Internationals are:-

9 February Italy

24 February Ireland

9 March Wales

There will be no concerts at Murrayfield Stadium this year.

G Douglas reminded the meeting that there was strong local feeling against the road closures which were now standard on International days.

10. Correspondence

The Chairman reported that no correspondence of concern had been received since the last meeting.

11. Any Other Competent Business

11.1 *Membership*

The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr Derek Huckle had put himself forward to join the Community Council, there were current vacancies and the Community Council has the power to co-opt new members. The proposal that Mr Huckle be co-opted to the Community Council was carried.

Prop: G McLeod, Sec: S Holland.

11.2 S Holland reported that since the re-opening of the section of cycle track near the railway line, where the cycle track snakes downhill to join Russell Road, pedestrians and cyclists have been taking a shortcut straight downhill and ploughing up the unpaved ground. Cllr Edie suggested that this matter should be taken up with the contractor or a Neighbourhood Partnership grant applied for to finance the building of steps.

12. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 January 2013 at 8pm in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

Subsequent meetings: 26 February, 2 April and 14 May 2013.

Minutes approved at meeting of 26 February 2013.