

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 25 June 2013 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: R Brown, G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland, D Huckle,
N Macdonald, G McLeod, E Robertson, P Sizeland, R Smart,
J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour,
In attendance: 5 members of the public,
Apologies: W Amcotts, W Spence, Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross, M Crockart MP,
M Biagi MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed Paul Sizeland to Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") as the nominated representative of Saughtonhall Residents Association. He welcomed the members of the public in attendance.

2. Outcome of AGM on 14 May 2013

R Brown reported that at the AGM on 14 May J Yellowlees had been approved as Chairman and D Huckle as Vice Chairman. S Holland had been authorised to continue in the role of Treasurer and had submitted a report confirming that MCC's finances were healthy. The meeting had discussed how email correspondence was to be handled following the departure of the former Chairman, H Ross, who had dealt with most correspondence.

G Douglas proposed that a letter should be sent to H Ross expressing MCC's gratitude for his excellent service as Chairman. G McLeod seconded this proposal and **J Yellowlees undertook to send such a letter.**

3. Order of Business

This was approved, subject to the addition at the start of Item 7 of a report by G McLeod on the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP").

4. Community Policing Report

It was noted that PC Durant appeared to have been unable to hold the planned surgery immediately before the MCC meeting and, in his absence, the community policing report could not be delivered.

5. Councillors' Report

Cllr Balfour congratulated J Yellowlees on his appointment as Chairman. Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

5.1 Over the next six weeks the junction between Murrayfield Road and Ravelston Dykes near Mary Erskine School is to be resurfaced. It is expected that the work will result in traffic delays and temporary traffic lights may be required.

5.2 There has been some progress with the proposal to extend the Controlled Parking Zone. He anticipates that the City Council's Transport Department will brief MCC on this in early autumn.

5.3 A lot of work is taking place “behind the scenes” on the Flood Prevention Scheme. Marco Biagi, MSP is to brief MCC on this issue at the next MCC meeting on 30 July. Cllr Balfour expects a City Council official to provide a further briefing to MCC in early autumn.

R Smart asked that the MCC noticeboards carry prominent notices advertising these briefings once the dates are known.

S Holland reported that he had received notice of the priority parking proposals for the Blinkbonny, Craigleith, Orchard and Ravelston area and that representations had to be made by 9 July. This area is not, in fact, within the MCC boundary.

J Yellowlees asked whether there had been any progress in relation to the Council’s Vision for the City Centre. Cllr Balfour replied that, as a significant negative response to the consultation had been received from shops and other businesses, further consultation was to take place and the report, which was to have been made to the Transport Committee three weeks ago, would be delayed until the end of August.

A member of the public intimated that Roseburn Drive has not been cleaned since July 2011 and is now overrun with tall weeds. Another complained that the pavements of Saughtonhall Drive, Avenue and Crescent and Riversdale Crescent are choked with weeds. **Cllr Balfour undertook to deal with these complaints.**

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14 May 2013

These were approved. Prop: GMcLeod, Sec: R Smart.

7. Matters Arising

7.1. *West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership*

G McLeod reported that he had attended the meeting of WENP on 18 June and had been introduced by Cllr Balfour to Dave Sinclair, who is in charge of roads, pavements and lighting. He had been told by Dave Sinclair that there was funding available for projects and he proposed that MCC identify desirable improvements to roads, pavements or lighting and apply to WENP for funding. G McLeod handed round two schedules showing improvements which are to be carried out to the pavements of Roseburn Terrace and the Balgreen/Glendevon junction, where there are broken railings. A discussion ensued about the merits of replacing the railings which were removed from the grassed area in the centre of Ellersly Road some time ago. G McLeod proposed the realignment and resurfacing of the path between Ormidale Terrace and Campbell Avenue, but was told by Cllr Balfour that, as it is on private land, it would not be eligible for Council funds; E Robertson raised the issue of improved access to Corstorphine Hill from Ravelston Dykes; R Smart suggested that the area around Roseburn Bridge and Old Roseburn Bridge would benefit from refurbishment and G Douglas suggested the painting of the lights on Roseburn Bridge. P Sizeland suggested that there was a need for a pedestrian crossing in Ellersly Road.

Cllr Balfour reminded the meeting that the available funds are limited. It was decided that a list of suggestions should be compiled for the next MCC meeting and G McLeod would progress any application for funds which the meeting approved.

7.2. *Prego store*

R Smart reminded the meeting that he had undertaken at the last meeting to write to the Planning Department about the condition of the Prego store at Western Corner following the removal of the unauthorised signage. He reported that he had inspected the property with a view to doing so, but had concluded that simply repainting the area from which the window signs had been removed would solve the problem. **G McLeod undertook to raise this issue and the removal of the wooden frame which had supported the roof signs with the store owners/management.**

On the subject of signs E Robertson intimated that St George's School is displaying a large and visually intrusive sign, including a site map, near the entrance to the School. **R Smart undertook to investigate whether planning permission has been obtained for this sign.**

7.3. *Flood Prevention*

G Douglas and Cllr Balfour confirmed that an application has been made to renew the planning permission for Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme and extend the initial period from 3 to 5 years.

7.4. *Roseburn Park (toilet block)*

At the request of V Forbes **Cllr Balfour undertook to pursue the sending of a letter from the Council's Head of Estates to the Friends of Roseburn Park confirming that the Head of Estates has authority to grant a 10 year lease of the toilet block to the Friends.**

7.5. *Sunday Market - licence*

No one had any information as to whether the application for a licence for a Sunday market at Murrayfield Stadium was proceeding.

8. Planning & Licensing

8.1 R Smart reported that he had looked at eight domestic planning applications, none of which is controversial. He had attended the exhibition put on for public bodies by McCarthy & Stone to showcase their proposals to convert the former Tower Nursing Home into high quality retirement flats. R Brown and N Macdonald had also attended the exhibition. The three attendees considered that the proposals were unobjectionable.

S Holland advised the meeting that McCarthy & Stone were to put on an exhibition for members of the public once the current consultation has been completed.

8.2 E Robertson stated that she had been informed that the owner of a house at the east end of Henderland Road had applied for planning permission for major alterations which would result in access to the house being taken from the rear and a large two storey conservatory being added. She had not seen the application and R Smart confirmed that it was not listed among the applications which he had examined.

8.3 R Smart reported that he had looked at the National Planning Framework. He had decided to make written comments on the Framework in his personal capacity, as a response on behalf of MCC was not feasible. He considered

that undue weight had been given to low carbon objectives without due consideration for the costs involved. The Framework appeared to aim to discourage travel, but encourage tourism. A brief discussion on Government spending on transport infrastructure ensued. G Douglas reported that he had also considered the Framework and had no adverse comments on it.

9. Traffic and Transport

G Douglas reported that he and Cllr Balfour had had a meeting with a Council official about the road closures which are put in place between Haymarket and Western Corner on days when an international rugby match is taking place at Murrayfield Stadium. It had been confirmed that these closures will continue when the tram works have been completed. Cllr Balfour explained that the Police require the closures to enable them to disperse the crowds at Haymarket, rather than Murrayfield, after the matches.

S Holland reminded the meeting that the SRU want to establish a “golden mile” between Haymarket and the Stadium for the staging of live entertainment on match days. G Douglas urged continuing vigilance regarding these developments.

10. Reports

10.1 R Smart reported that he had attended the recent Civic Forum at which attendees had been told that the inspection of the Structure Plan for the Lothians, Borders and Fife had resulted in the decision that additional land for 11,000 more houses is required. Further discussions with the various local authorities to identify this land will be required and the finalisation of the Structure Plan and Local Plan will be delayed.

10.2 R Smart and G Douglas confirmed that the planning application for 8 Kew Terrace is still under consideration by the planners, who are thought to want a modern design and to be concerned about the commercial element. G Douglas stated that the application will go to the Planning Committee and Cllrs Edie and Balfour have said that they will support it. Cllr Balfour reminded the meeting that, as Cllr Ross sits on the Committee, he has not expressed a view on the application.

11. Correspondence

S Holland advised the meeting that he had received correspondence about an online portal for accessing public information notices, such as road closures, planning and development and other notices by Councils. The website, which has been operational since 2010, is supported by the Scottish Government and the local Councils and the address is www.tellmescotland.gov.uk.

12. Any Other Competent Business

The Chairman referred to the Community Council elections which are due to take place in October. Cllr Balfour informed the meeting that he is the Returning Officer for Murrayfield and, once he has the nomination forms, he will be happy to receive nominations. This process is likely to start in September. If there are more nominations than places available, there will be an election.

S Holland reminded the meeting that the Council plans to issue promotional leaflets in the run up to the elections and has asked for details of any recent engagement activities, campaigns or projects in which MCC has been pro-active.

R Smart undertook to respond to this request.

13. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public asked whether the public could make suggestions for the use of the funds referred to in Item 7.1 and was told that they could. Cllr Balfour again reminded the meeting that the funds are limited and the area for which they are to be used extends from Donaldson's School to the airport and the hinterland beyond. S Holland intimated that MCC has funds of £4000 available for projects.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 30 July 2013 at 8pm in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

Subsequent meetings: 10 September, 29 October and 3 December 2013.

Minutes approved at meeting of 30 July 2013.

for approval