

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
Wednesday, 6 April 2011 at 8pm  
In Saughtonhall Community Association Hall  
Chair: R Smart

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, S Holland, G McLeod,  
E Robertson, R Smart, W Spence, J Yellowlees  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Edie, Cllr Wheeler  
In attendance: 10 members of the public, PC J Gittens  
Apologies: M Crockart MP, S Boyack MSP, Cllr Balfour, H Ross, A  
Weatherston.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The chairman welcomed those in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

PC John Gittens reported on the following issues:-

3.1 Priority Setting - two of the three priorities identified at the inaugural priority setting meeting last November - cold calling in West Catherine Place and dangerous parking in Riversdale Crescent - had been dealt with. Dangerous parking outside schools remained a priority and to this had been added speeding cyclists in Roseburn Park and antisocial behaviour in Glendevon.

3.2 EPOG – Pandas at Zoo – the arrival later this year of pandas at the Zoo is expected to cause a substantial increase in visitor numbers and serious disruption to traffic on Corstorphine Road. Meetings are underway to discuss possible problems and their solutions.

3.3 Housebreakings – 3 out of 9 recent cases of housebreaking have been solved and a male reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Enquiries into the others continue. Visibility of patrols has been heightened in the Murrayfield/Corstorphine Ward particularly on and around the cycle paths.

3.4 Parking at schools – high visibility patrols have been carried out at a number of schools and warnings issued to parents guilty of inconsiderate and dangerous parking. The next phase of this initiative will be the issue of fixed penalty tickets by Traffic and Environmental Wardens.

G Douglas was pleased to note that the Police had been distributing “cold calling” information packs in the Donaldson area.

A member of the public asked how the issue of “rat running” in Campbell Avenue and Lennel Avenue had been elevated to “the number one priority” of the Safety Forum justifying the deployment of two policemen in carrying out speed checks for 5 hours on 3 consecutive days in January. PC Gittens replied that the checks had been carried out by Traffic Support Officers, not policemen, in response to numerous complaints from residents over a long period of time.

In response to another member of the public PC Gittens confirmed that the Police were organising meetings to plan for the policing of the 2 concerts to be held at Murrayfield Stadium in the summer.

4. Councillors' Report

Cllr Edie reported on the following issues:-

4.1 Zoo land swap – The Zoo had commissioned an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed land swap. Part of the land to be swapped by the Zoo is currently used as a rubbish dump and a part which the Zoo proposes to tarmac is used by badgers at night. The EIA therefore favours the status quo.

4.2 Severe weather – A meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”) has been convened for the week commencing 11 April to ascertain the public’s views about the City Council’s response to the problems caused by the severe winter weather. Two members from each Community Council are requested to attend.

4.3 Western Corner – The regeneration project is nearly complete. Tree planting has still to be carried out.

4.4 Roseburn Terrace – A useful walkabout by members of the Community Council and the WENP had taken place on 1 April and had considered the streetscape, the advertising hoardings and the restrictions on parking.

4.5 Balgreen Tunnel – Murray Black of WENP is looking into renewing the lights and the plaster which have been damaged by vandalism and damp.

Cllr Wheeler reported on the following issues:-

4.6 Council Budget – The City Council set its budget for the coming year on 1 April. Council Tax has been frozen for the fourth successive year and the Council is aiming to save £90m over the next 3 years by making efficiencies including management delayering.

4.7 Parking – A meeting held recently at Murrayfield Church Hall and attended by Alex Cole-Hamilton and Cllr Gordon Mackenzie, the Transport Convener, discussed the parking problems around schools referred to above and a proposed extension to the controlled parking zone to take in Murrayfield. The next meeting of the Transport Committee will discuss the proposal that 70% of the available spaces in the proposed extension area be reserved for residents who would pay £30 per annum for a permit. The remaining spaces would be available to non-residents, but reserved to residents for a 1 ½ hour period during the day to prevent commuters from parking all day. Concern was expressed over the current arrangements in the Wester Coates area. There will be further public consultation after the Transport Committee meeting. Cllr Mackenzie wishes the proposals and progress of the consultation to be widely publicised locally. In response to a question from a member of the public the Chairman stated that the Community Council would make a submission to the consultation if representations were made to it. Concern was expressed that, if the proposals were brought into force, many front gardens would be converted to hardstanding.

4.8 Trams – In response to a question from J Yellowlees Cllr Wheeler confirmed that the mediation and confidential discussions were continuing, but he could provide no further details. The Council is renting some trams, which have been built ahead of schedule, to Croydon Council for a limited period.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 1 February 2011

These were approved. Prop: GMcLeod, Sec: S Holland.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Controlled Parking – this had been dealt with.

6.2 Murrayfield Gardens Pillars – R Smart reported that the cost of resiting the eastern pillar will be £7,335. A £4000 grant has been received from WENP.

S Holland confirmed that the Community Council has £890 left from the funds raised for the repairs to the Roseburn Cliff pillars and £2000 from Murrayfield Residents Association. It was agreed that the remaining £445 could be provided from Community Council funds. It was conceded that the Community Council might become responsible for the maintenance of the pillars.

6.3 Ellersley Road planning objections – a member of the public asked whether the Community Council had ascertained the views of the community before submitting a positive letter to the architect responsible for the current redevelopment plans for Balfour Stewart Park. It was explained that the proposals were at the consultation stage. A planning application had not yet been submitted. The proposals had been discussed at the last Community Council meeting and the comments made to the architect reflected the Community Council's desire for a development which would result in a stable community. The Chairman cautioned that objections can lead to an undesirable result. It was agreed that the architect would be invited to a future meeting of the Community Council to explain the proposals once the consultation had been completed and any resulting amendments made to the plans. Cllr Wheeler commented that the Community Council's input to the previous developer's proposals for this site had resulted in improvements being made.

7. Kerbside recycling

J Yellowlees reported that new bags have been issued to residents to enable sorting of the different types of rubbish to be recycled.

8. Roseburn noticeboard

It was agreed that R Brown could look into upgrading the noticeboard to solve the problems of damp penetration damaging the notices and the danger to pedestrians of the front of the board swinging out over the pavement when opened.

9. Capital works at Roseburn Cliff

J Yellowlees reported that the residents of Roseburn Cliff had been notified of a 6 week programme of Council works to resurface the road and upgrade the pavement.

10. Edinburgh representative to the ASCC

No volunteers could be found for this post.

11. Scottish Parliamentary election hustings

The Reverend Bill Brown is to chair a meeting in Murrayfield Parish Church Main Hall on Tuesday, 12 April at 7.30pm at which the 4 Parliamentary candidates will be present. G McLeod, S Holland, W Spence and R Smart confirmed that they would attend. Representatives from the Committees of the 3 local churches will also attend.

12. Planning and Licensing

Most of the 16 recent planning applications considered by R Smart relate to telecommunications boxes on pavements, the rest being minor domestic applications. There was nothing to report re the former Kenny Dunn car showroom at Roseburn. The Community Council had not objected to the application submitted some time ago to convert the upper floor into flats.

R Smart's proposal to invite architect and town planner, Riccardo Marini, to give a presentation on his vision for Edinburgh to the next meeting of the Community Council met with approval.

13. Traffic and Transport

There was nothing to discuss.

14. Reports

In the discussion of the Murrayfield Gardens pillar S Holland had reported that the balance on the Community Council's account was £7,375.

E Robertson and W Spence had nothing to report.

15. Correspondence

Notice had been received of the annual clean up by volunteers of the Coltbridge section of the Water of Leith on 10 April and had been put up on the Roseburn noticeboard.

Cllr Wheeler intimated that a road closure order had been granted to enable a Royal Wedding street party to be held in Murrayfield Avenue.

16. AOCB

16.1 A member of the public complained that elderly residents were having difficulty in getting to the supermarket at Stevenson Road because the temporary path, which was to have been maintained while building work was carried out, had not in fact been maintained.

16.2 Members of the public expressed continuing concern over branches and hedges overhanging the pavements in Murrayfield and Roseburn. Cllr Edie reported that this issue had been referred to Murray Black of WENP.

17. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public suggested that the "rat running" problem in Campbell Avenue and Lennel Avenue, which stemmed from the installation of traffic lights at the Murrayfield Road/Ravelston Dykes junction, could be cured by introducing an extra lane of traffic in one direction.

18. Date of Next Meeting (and AGM): Tuesday, 3 May 2011 at 8pm, Murrayfield Parish Church Centre, Upper Room.

Subsequent meetings: 2 August, 14 September, 1 November and 14 December 2011.

Minutes approved at meeting of 3 May 2011.

Murrayfield Community Council Main Correspondence Received  
Since meeting of: 1 Feb 2011

24-01-11	CEC Licensing	Latest list of applications	
31-01-11	Cllr Wheeler	New kerbside recycling services	
1-02-11	CEC CC Liaison	Invitation to EACC event	5 Mar 11
1-02-11	CEC CC Liaison	Information about 'The Gathering'	23 Feb 11
4-02-11	CEC CC Liaison	Waste Action grant scheme event	16 Feb 11
7-02-11	Cllr Wheeler	Western Corner bus top repositioning investigation	
7-02-11	CEC Planning	Minutes of CEC Planning focus group meeting	
8-02-11 →	CEC CC Liaison	Planning Aid event	
09-02-11	CEC Libraries	'Word Up' newsletter	
10-02-11	Portobello CC	Efforts to retain Cllr speaking time on planning issues	
11-02-11	ASCC	Online Bulletin	
13-02-11	Terry Tweed	Directions to EACC minutes: <a href="http://www.edinassoccc.btck.co.uk">www.edinassoccc.btck.co.uk</a>	
14-02-11	CEC CC Liaison	Scottish Gov. consultation on Fire & Rescue services	5 May 11
14-02-11	CEC CC Liaison	Information about 'The Big Lunch' (from the Eden Project)	
15-02-11	Cllr Edie	Invitation to North West Re-ablement Team	
16-02-11	Sarah Boyack MSP	E-newsletter	
17-02-11	CEC Project Mgmt	Western Corner Urban Centre Programme progress report	
17-02-11	CEC Parks	Tynecastle High School's 2 kilometre run in Roseburn Park	19 May 11
19-02-11	Edinburgh Uni. Student	Undertaking a project on the Zoo's Corstorphine Hill plans	
21-02-11	West Neighbourhood Team	List of forthcoming environmental actions	
22-02-11	Safer Neighbourhood Team	February Newsletter	
22-02-11	CEC Licensing	List of applications for March board meeting	
23-02-11	Cllr Wheeler	Information about Roseburn Terrace hoardings	
01-03-11	CEC Planning	New neighbour notification formats	
02-03-11 →	Cllr Wheeler	Copy correspondence regarding 33 Ellersly Road	
02-03-11	ASCC	Online Bulletin	
02-03-11	Inverleith Comm Dev. Team	Edinburgh Central Scottish Parliamentary election hustings	18 Mar 11
03-03-11	Lothian & Borders Police	Information about the census	
04-03-11	CEC Project Mgmt	Western Corner Urban Centre Programme progress report	
07-03-11	CEC	Lothian & Borders Police Board newsletter	
08-03-11	ASCC	Online Bulletin including vacancy of Edinburgh Area Rep.	
08-03-11	Murrayfield Churches	Climate change public event	3 Apr 11
09-03-11	CEC Planning	Outcome of an 8 Roseburn Terrace possible control breach	
15-03-11	CEC Planning	Information sheet about finding planning information	
15-03-11	CEC CC Liaison	Civic Forum meeting papers	29 Mar 11
15-03-11	ASCC	Online Bulletin	
15-03-11	Edinburgh Central SNP	Campaign office seeking discussion of local issues	
16-03-11	Cllr Balfour	Delay to the survey that would precede controlled parking	
21-03-11	John Riddell	Notification of the Coltbridge River Cleanup event	10 Apr 11
22-03-11	CEC Licensing	List of applications for the 26 April board	
22-03-11	Sarah Boyack's office	Pursuing the issue of Roseburn Terrace hoardings	
22-03-11	CEC CC Liaison	Edinburgh Community Councils Newsletter	
22-03-11	Sarah Boyack MSP	Antisocial Behaviour 'Party Flats' legislation now in force	
22-03-11	Cllr Wheeler	Parking restrictions Murrayfield Avenue / Place	28 Mar 11
23-03-11	Cllr Wheeler	Murrayfield Avenue Street Party	29 Apr 11
24-03-11	West Neighbourhood Team	Seeks interest in the CEC's 'Sustainable Edinburgh 2020'	

ASCC = Association of Scottish Community Councils  
 CC = Community Council  
 CEC = City of Edinburgh Council  
 EACC = Edinburgh Association of Community Councils