

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 1 April 2014 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: R Brown, G Douglas, J Forbes, V Forbes, S Holland, G McLeod,
E Robertson, P Sizeland, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 11 members of the public, PC Laura Blamire, Cameron Buchanan
MSP,
Apologies: W Amcotts, D Huckle, N Macdonald, W Spence, Cllr Balfour,
M Crockart MP, M Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed Cameron Buchanan, Conservative MSP for Lothian, PC Laura Blamire and the 11 members of the public in attendance. At the request of a member of the public the Community Councillors, City Councillors, PC Blamire and Mr Buchanan introduced themselves and identified their roles.

2. Order of Business

This was approved subject to the addition to Item 4 of a report from Cameron Buchanan.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Laura Blamire apologised for the fact that different officers had been attending the MCC meetings since the inception of Police Scotland. She and her colleagues were keen to establish continuity and this matter had been raised with her Sergeant and Inspector. She reported as follows:-

3.1 There had been a reduction in house break ins in the area since PC Jed Murray's report in February; the Community Investigation Units, which had been disbanded following the formation of Police Scotland, had been re-established and plain clothed police officers in unmarked cars had been carrying out patrols, as had the local officers; residents were advised to remain vigilant;

3.2 The Road Safety Officer's role had also been removed, but the officer in question was still based at Corstorphine Police Station; parking round primary schools continued to cause concern, Roseburn Primary School being particularly bad; the Head Teacher is continuing to leaflet parents and the Police are trying to visit at busy times;

A member of the public complained that Balgreen Primary School has the same problems. **PC Blamire undertook to report this and speak to the Head Teacher.**

3.3 The surveys of licensed premises are continuing;

3.4 The Diary Car, which had been trialled successfully in West Lothian, has been operating in west Edinburgh since mid January;

3.5 The front office at Corstorphine Police Station is now closed to the public;

3.6 Crime figures have improved since this time last year, but the Police are aware of an increase in car break ins near the Ice Rink, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights after the Rink closes;

3.7 As part of the Keeping People Safe campaign the Police are trialling a talk on internet safety which will be delivered to Primary 6 at Roseburn Primary School after Easter and, if well received, will be rolled out to other schools and age groups;

3.8 Operation Aristotle targeting bogus workmen has been running for two years; the public are encouraged to report anyone who appears suspicious to the Police.

3.9 The Police have investigated the yellow Saab which has been parked in Belmont Gardens for the past 5 months and found that it is taxed and legally parked;

G McLeod informed PC Blamire that to facilitate road works in Belmont Gardens a Lightways truck had uplifted the car and moved it to Belmont Crescent. **PC Blamire undertook to report this development and attempt to contact the owner.**

3.10 The burger van which has been parked in Russell Road has a licence and is legally parked.

Cllr Ross added that it is a condition of the licence that the van is moved every evening at 8pm, the owner has been contacted about the continuing breach of this condition and, if the breach continues, the Council will remove the van and the licence will be revoked.

Cllr Edie asked PC Blamire where criminals, who used to have to sign in regularly at Corstorphine Police Station, now do so. He considered that the Hub was not a suitable location for sex offenders to sign in. PC Blamire stated that Wester Hailes, St Leonards, Gayfield Square and South Queensferry Police Stations still have front offices, though some have moved to 9-5 opening hours. There are still Community and Response Officers at Corstorphine, but the counter is closed and there are no officers at the Hub. She believed that Wester Hailes is open from 8am to midnight.

J Forbes asked whether tickets are issued to vehicles parked on pavements and was told that, if they are reported, the Police will check them and try to trace the owners.

Several members of the public and Community Councillors spoke to the problems encountered by local residents on match days at Murrayfield Stadium. A resident of the Maltings reported that on the day of the recent football match between Hibs and Hearts residents returning to the Maltings at 12.30 had found that they could not obtain access. They had not been given notice of the access restrictions. He acknowledged that the junction at the Roseburn Bar is difficult to manage and that, when there are adequate numbers of them, the Police do a good job. Others pointed out that some of the shops have to close to avoid thefts and harm to staff. It was thought that some of the problems could be overcome by advance notice to residents of access restrictions and an earlier and heavier Police presence.

Several people raised concerns about the implications of Celtic Football Club playing some of their matches at Murrayfield Stadium this year. A local resident informed the meeting that she had asked a member of the Licensing Committee whether the Stadium would be granted a licence to sell alcohol at the Celtic matches and had been told that this was "highly unlikely". Cllr Edie concurred with this view. The same resident had also contacted the SRU to ask whether the SRU would convene a meeting with residents to discuss the Celtic

matches and had been told that there would be a meeting, at which Celtic could be discussed, before the One Direction concert in June.

The Chairman proposed that arrangements for the Celtic matches should be discussed at the next MCC meeting.

PC Blamire stated that the Police Events Planning Team put the arrangements for match days in place; the manpower is provided from the Corstorphine team and Events Planning arrange for additional cover from elsewhere. She **was amenable to the Chairman's suggestion that someone from Events Planning might accompany her to the next MCC meeting.**

PC Blamire advised that the Police could be contacted by email at edinburghcorstorphinemurrayfieldcpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

4. Councillors' Report

Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

4.1 He had attended a meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") that day, which was the last day in the post of Manager of Natalie McKail (Hoy). She is succeeded by Henry Coyle, formerly with the North Edinburgh Partnership, Housing and Regeneration. He suggested that **Henry Coyle be invited to the first available MCC meeting.**

4.2 It had been decided at the WENP meeting that the existing pattern of 6 weekly meetings be continued and that all meetings be open to the public not only to attend, but also to contribute.

4.3 WENP are consulting on the priorities to be addressed in the Plan for 2014-17; the consultation ends on 15 April and, so far, WENP has received little feedback from the Murrayfield area; he urged participation in the consultation either by accessing the survey online via the Council's website or by phoning the Hub to obtain a paper copy of the questionnaire. The June WENP meeting, which will be held in the City Chambers, will set the 2014-17 priorities.

R Brown undertook to place a notice on the MMC noticeboard at Roseburn encouraging participation in the consultation.

Cllr Edie proposed dealing with Items 5 and 8 (iii) of the Agenda when they arose. The Chairman referred to the email received from Cllr Balfour since the last meeting confirming that City Councillors have no role in the naming of new developments on privately owned ground, but are consulted with regard to new street names. G McLeod complained that naming the new Ellersly Road development "Wallace Gardens" invited confusion with a number of roads in Straiton which have Wallace in their names.

A member of the public requested the reinstatement of a parking bay near 39 Corstorphine Road which had been affected by an extension of the cross hatching and double red lines.

4.4 **Cameron Buchanan MSP** introduced himself as a relatively new Conservative MSP for Lothian (covering West Lothian, Midlothian and Edinburgh) who had been selected from the List following the death of David McLetchie. He referred briefly to his business background with Harrisons of Edinburgh. He informed the meeting that he sits on (1) the Local Government and Regeneration Committee, which is discussing parking on pavements and strengthening the Blue Badge Scheme to prevent abuse of the Scheme, the use of supermarket bags and litter fines, (2) the Standards and Procedures Committee, which deals with the working of the Scottish Parliament and (3) the Petitions Committee, which will be discussing the removal of speed cameras on the

A9, which may be illegal. He is also involved in the Better Together campaign and the Independence Referendum.

R Smart commented that a number of local pavements are obstructed by lamp posts and traffic signs and, where they have been lowered at crossings, puddles often form. E Robertson complained about the air pollution at Roseburn, the advertising hoardings and empty shops lending a dejected feel to the area and the encouragement to bad behaviour that these provide. V Forbes suggested that lights are required at the Roseburn end of Russell Road where the Keep Left sign has been knocked down repeatedly. Cllr Edie pointed out that traffic lights are expensive but consultation with the Transport Manager could produce an alternative solution. J Forbes suggested changing the sequence of the traffic lights to improve the flow of traffic and reduce air pollution.

5. Report from meeting of Flood Prevention Stakeholder Engagement Group on 25 March 2014 and date of next public consultation on Phase 2

The Chairman informed the meeting that V Forbes and Cllr Edie had attended this meeting. Cllr Edie reported that the meeting had been preceded by a walk around the site with the project team. The meeting had discussed the playground in Roseburn Park which, as presently sited, will be outside the finished scheme. Consideration was to be given to re-siting it in the northeast corner of the Park within the flood walls. There is funding for this and for some new play equipment. V Forbes had objected to the proposed bunds and these were to be looked at again. It had been confirmed that the Pansy Walk compound and part of the Park will be required by the contractor for use as a storage depot and for access.

The next meeting of the Stakeholder Engagement Group will be at 6pm on Tuesday, 13 May at Murrayfield Stadium. The Chairman commented that, as that meeting will take place immediately before the next MCC meeting at 8pm on 13 May in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre, Community Councillors will be able to attend both meetings.

V Forbes believed that the next public consultation on Phase 2 will be held in Saughtonhall Community Association Hall on a date prior to the Stakeholder Engagement Group meeting on 13 May, but the date has not yet been fixed.

In response to a question from a member of the public Cllr Edie confirmed that the viaduct and gate at Pansy Walk, which have been removed, will be reinstated.

A member of the public pointed out that the Baird Estate has been flooded three times in the last 10 years, but the level of flood protection referred to by Cllr Balfour at the last MCC meeting was protection against floods of the type which are likely to occur once in 100 years. Cllr Ross reminded him that the positive effect of the work which has been done at the reservoirs should not be underestimated. Cllr Edie reminded the meeting that the three local Councillors are all keeping up pressure to get the Phase 2 work done as soon as possible.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 25 February 2014

These were approved. Prop: G Douglas, Sec: S Holland.

7. Matters Arising

7.1. *Advertising hoardings at Roseburn Terrace*

The Chairman informed the meeting that Richard Willson of the Council hoped to provide the MCC meeting on 24 June with information on the outcome of the tender process.

J Forbes suggested that amelioration of the hoardings and site should be a *quid pro quo* of the tenders and should include excavation of part of the bank to provide a parking bay for the wheelie bins which are currently parked on the pavement at Roseburn. S Holland was of the view that the residents of the Maltings would prefer the hoardings to a refuse store and Cllr Edie felt that the proposed location of the bin store might not suit local residents or businesses.

R Smart informed the meeting that he and G McLeod had discussed levelling the site and using the materials removed for the Phase 2 Flood Prevention works.

E Robertson, S Holland and a resident of the Maltings were in favour of the planting of trees to improve the appearance of the site and ameliorate air pollution. S Holland proposed repeating the walkabout, which had taken place some time ago, to identify aspects of Roseburn which could be improved. **The Chairman proposed inviting Henry Coyle of WENP.**

On the question of the value of the hoardings a member of the public suggested checking the rateable value, which will vary according to location. Cllr Ross stated that the value is expected to increase because future hoardings are likely to be digital. Cameron Buchanan stated that a study in Belgium had concluded that such hoardings distract drivers. Cllr Ross agreed that this could be the case if the hoardings changed rapidly, but slowly changing images were not thought to be dangerous. A digital hoarding is currently being trialled on a gable end near Macdonald Road.

G Douglas confirmed that the site of the hoardings and the area of land behind had been reserved for part of the proposed tram works, which is not now being built, and Cllr Ross confirmed that, as the Tram Act runs until 2020, the designation of the land is unlikely to change before then.

7.2. *Improvements at Roseburn Old Bridge*

The Chairman reported that he had received an estimate from National Signs of £825 plus VAT to produce a plaque commemorating the Coltbridge Canter to be fixed to the Old Bridge. S Holland said that the estimate did not include the cost of painting and fixing the plaque; the parapet of the Bridge needed repair and Listed Building Consent might be required for the plaque. R Smart thought that the whole area needed improving and Cllr Ross recommended putting proposals to WENP, who have a new budget of about £80,000 to spend and will allow a period of six months for all proposals to be submitted.

The Chairman proposed acceptance of the estimate from National Signs with a view to having the plaque available for the next MCC meeting on 13 May and this was agreed.

7.3. *Corstorphine Hill pedestrian access*

R Smart confirmed that he will speak to the new Secretary of Murrayfield Golf Club to get this on the agenda of the Club's Council.

8. Planning and Licensing

8.1 R Smart reported that he had looked at 14 planning applications, none of which was contentious.

8.2 G Douglas reported that Building Warrant drawings are being worked up for 8 Kew Terrace. He had no news on whether the developer was going to appeal against the refusal of planning consent for Class 1 (Retail) use.

8.3 R Smart reported that planning permission had been refused for the proposed development of the corner site at 44 Murrayfield Road/ Ravelston Dykes on the grounds that demolition of the existing house would be detrimental to the character of the area. Cllr Ross reminded the meeting that, if a fresh planning application were made, there would have to be seven objections for it to be referred to the Planning Committee. A member of the public noted that the developer had been carrying out refurbishment work to the property and he surmised that it would now be sold rather than developed.

8.4 The Chairman referred to the proposal to build a care home at Pinkhill on a site which is on the border of the MCC area and proposed accepting the offer from the developer's representative to give a presentation on the proposal to MCC. J Forbes pointed out that, even if it is not in the MCC area, some MCC residents do object to it.

P Sizeland asked whether R Smart knew the timescale for replacing the house at 26 Belmont Gardens which had been demolished. R Smart confirmed that it will be a condition of the planning permission that work is started in either 3 or 5 years.

9. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the trams will be operational shortly after the next MCC meeting.

R Smart, J Forbes and J Yellowlees discussed the continuing problems regarding street cleaning and the obstruction of pavements by overhanging vegetation in Murrayfield Gardens, Roseburn and Ellersly Road.

A member of the public reported that she had tackled Cllr Ross, as he left the meeting, about the temporary closure of Succoth Gardens and the diversion of traffic down Coltbridge Terrace. Problems had been caused by a double decker bus and two removal vans using that route. She considered that a notice stating that Coltbridge Terrace is not suitable for heavy vehicles should be erected. E Robertson hoped that the extension of restricted parking would help solve such problems. In answer to a question from a member of the public, R Smart replied that he believed the consultation on parking was to start in early summer this year with restricted parking, if approved, being put in place next year.

10. Proposed public meeting on the Independence Referendum

The Chairman confirmed that this had been abandoned meantime.

11. Reports

G Douglas confirmed that Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA") is holding its AGM on Tuesday, 29 April 2014 and the MCC Chairman has confirmed his attendance.

12. Correspondence

The Secretary reported that she had received no significant correspondence.

13. Any Other Competent Business

13.1 R Brown reminded the meeting that dates for MCC meetings after the meeting on 24 June had still to be fixed and proposed 29 July, 9 September, 28 October and 2 December 2014, subject to the availability of the usual meeting room. **She undertook to confirm these dates with Murrayfield**

Parish Church Centre and advise the Chairman so that he could inform the Police.

13.2 J Forbes pointed out that issues on traffic, transport and planning often arise after the City Councillors have left the meeting. He proposed moving these items up the agenda to be dealt with before Councillors' Reports. J Yellowlees suggested amending the order of business, when necessary, rather than delaying the City Councillors at every meeting.

13.3 G Douglas asked whether a proper risk analysis had been done to assess whether the road closures and access restrictions on match days, which continue to irritate the DAAA and Wester Coates residents, are really necessary. E Robertson suggested that, once the trams are in service, spectators will be diverted to the Murrayfield tram stop and there should be fewer spectators using the roads.

13.4 The Chairman asked what was happening with Donaldson's Hospital and G Douglas stated that he understood that an announcement would be made soon.

13.5 G Douglas confessed to being confused about local policing arrangements and reported that he had invited Inspector Gilhooley to the DAAA AGM with a view to identifying the local officer.

13.6 A resident of the Maltings complained about the small lake which forms at the corner of Russell Road near the Post Office depot and which necessitates crossing to the post box at the dangerous right angled bend.

13.7 A member of the public asked whether commercial vehicles owned by car hire firms can park legally in residential areas and was told by G Douglas that they can, provided they are taxed and the car hire business is not conducted in the street.

13.8 The Chairman informed the meeting that an Evening News reporter, at her request, had been added to the MCC mailing list and would receive copies of future Minutes and Agendas.

14. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 13 May 2014 (including AGM)

Subsequent meetings: 24 June and 29 July 2014.

S Holland reminded the meeting that the Ordinary meeting will start at 8pm and the AGM at 9pm on 13 May.

Minutes approved at meeting on 13 May 2014