

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 10 September 2013 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland, D Huckle,
G McLeod, E Robertson, P Sizeland, R Smart, W Spence,
J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 8 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair,
Apologies: N Macdonald, Cllr Edie, M Crockart MP, M Biagi MSP, Sarah
Boyack MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and encouraged the members of the public to consider standing for election to Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") in October.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Euan Sinclair reported as follows:

3.1 The creation of the unitary force, Police Scotland, had involved a great deal of extra work, which was now easing off. He apologised for the absence of a Police representative from the last two MCC meetings;

3.2 The local team had been concentrating on the identified priorities of anti-social behaviour, dog fouling, cycling on pavements and house breaking;

3.3 There had been no major issues with anti-social behaviour during the summer holidays thanks to projects in Corstorphine and Murrayfield involving foot patrols, the bus inspection teams, the environmental wardens and increased licensed premises checks;

3.4 Persons over the age of 14 are not allowed to cycle on pavements; the Police have been speaking to adults about this offence and have powers to issue on-the-spot tickets to any caught committing the offence;

3.5 Continued vigilance is required regarding the ATMs at the Bank of Scotland and Tesco at Roseburn, where Lebanese Loops have been used to obtain customers' cash and bank cards;

3.6 Overall the crime rate is down; of 21 reported thefts 8 had been solved.

In response to points raised by members of the public, George Douglas and George McLeod, **PC Sinclair undertook (1) to advise his colleagues in the Events Planning Team that adults had been seen cycling on the pavement at the start of the Cycle for Scotland race at Murrayfield Stadium and (2) to take up with the Council the need for clearer delineation, by stencilling on the road, of the lanes in Russell Road and the narrowing at the Tesco end and the renewal of the stencilling at Western Corner, which is now very faint.**

The Chairman informed the meeting that a Police representative had been confirmed for the next two MCC meetings.

4. Councillors' Report

4.1 Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

4.1.1 The first meeting of the Working Group to review the proposals for Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme would take place on 23 September and he hoped to update MCC on progress at the next MCC meeting on 29 October;

4.1.2 The Council would publish a draft Budget at the end of September and he would report on it to MCC at the next meeting;

4.1.3 There would be a meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") on 3 or 4 December and feedback from the public on the draft Budget would be welcome;

4.1.4 WEGARAH - West Edinburgh Group against Racial Abuse and Hatred - meets every month. Of the 75 incidents reported in Edinburgh in June, July and August, 27 occurred in West Edinburgh; and

4.1.5 It is possible that Glasgow Celtic Football Club will play some of their games at Murrayfield Stadium when their stadium is being used for the Commonwealth Games.

4.2 In response to a question from a member of the public Cllr Balfour confirmed that the formal statutory consultation on the proposed extension of parking restrictions will begin in October.

4.3 In response to other questions **Cllr Ross undertook to enquire when the Pansy Walk section of the Water of Leith Walkway will be re-opened and to confirm which of the bowling greens at Balgreen will be affected by the Council's decision to reduce the number of greens.**

4.4 Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.4.1 He congratulated the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") on the success of the Fun Day held in the Park on Sunday, 1 September; and

4.4.2 He reminded the meeting that nominations for the Community Council elections to be held in October had to be with him by 4pm on 23 September and that, if fewer than 5 nominations were received, MCC would cease to exist. He pointed out that only one nomination per person is allowed.

4.5 A member of the public asked when the work which the Council's contractors were to carry out to the cricket square in Roseburn Park would be completed. He complained about the conduct of the contractors and the failure of Malcolm Clapperton of SAC Consultancy to manage the project. **Cllr Ross undertook to look into this issue.**

4.6 A number of issues raised at the previous MCC meeting were dealt with as follows:-

4.6.1 G McLeod confirmed that the graffiti at Western Corner had been removed.

4.6.2 G McLeod reported that he had been to see the owner of the Cocoa Bean Café at Western Corner about parking his van on the pavement and the owner now parked it half on the pavement and half on the road for a short period of time to unload it after a visit to the Cash & Carry. S Holland reported that the person who had complained to MCC about the van was still not satisfied and was going to pursue the matter with the Council herself.

4.6.3 D Huckle reported that the Zoo are working hard to minimise the difficulties caused by visitors parking on Corstorphine Road and issue printed advice to all visitors who are unable to park in the Zoo's car park.

4.6.4 E Robertson raised the issue of the Paradise Sauna and urged MCC to be pro-active in ensuring that it ceased to trade. Cllr Balfour reminded the

meeting that the Council's decision to close it had been appealed to the Sheriff Court and, until the appeal was decided, the Sauna was permitted to continue to trade. He suggested that, if the appeal were successful, MCC could consider further action.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 30 July 2013

These were approved. Prop: R Smart, Sec: G McLeod.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. *Refuge island in Ellersly Road*

6.2. *WENP funding for other improvements to roads, pavements and lighting*

Items 6.1 and 6.2 were dealt with together.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that G McLeod had been tasked with asking WENP to use some of the available funds to repair the pavements of the refuge island in Ellersly Road. G McLeod reported that he had attended a meeting with Natalie Hoy and Dave Sinclair of WENP at which a different proposal from Capability Scotland, the operators of Westerlea Special School in Ellersly Road, had been discussed. Capability Scotland had asked for the installation of an island opposite the School to allow pedestrians to cross to the bus stop outside the Ellersly Hotel. G McLeod had been told that this proposal was "at the drawing stage"; the Council's environment team were to carry out a site visit to check whether the footfall in Ellersly Road warranted an island and WENP would get back to MCC in due course. Cllr Balfour expressed reservations about the proposed location of the island. He hoped to be in a position to update MCC at the next meeting on 29 October. G McLeod suggested that the Council should wait until the residential development in Ellersly Road had been completed and was occupied before deciding on traffic measures.

A resident of Kinellan Road expressed satisfaction that an island was being considered. He was of the view that an island, wherever situated, would help to slow the traffic.

P Sizeland stated that the pedestrians who caused most concern in Ellersly Road were the pupils of Mary Erskine and Stewarts Melville Schools who use that route to school and walk up the middle of the refuge island in the north/south section. He requested that the Council's Traffic Department look into this issue.

6.3. *Signs and right of way at St George's School*

E Robertson expressed her concern that (1) the large St George's sign at the Garscube Terrace entrance to the School discouraged pedestrians from using the entrance to the cycle track which lay beyond this sign; and (2) the new gates installed by the School outside the Nursery Department inhibited pedestrians from using the right of way through the School between Garscube Terrace and Crarae Avenue. She suggested that signs directing pedestrians to the cycle track and the right of way should be erected, either by the Rights of Way Society or MCC. R Smart and G McLeod expressed doubts as to whether the School's sign and fence were causing a problem. **Cllr Balfour undertook to see whether the Council in conjunction with St George's School might agree to erect a sign indicating the entrance to the cycle track and the right of way through the School.**

6.4. *Roseburn Park toilet block*

V Forbes confirmed that FoRP were still waiting for a letter from the Council confirming that the Council will grant them a 10 year lease of the toilet block. **Cllr Balfour** explained that the grant of the lease should be passed at a Committee meeting in a week's time and he **undertook to ask the Council's Property Manager to expedite the production of the lease for signing.**

E Robertson thanked the Councillors for the invitation which she had received to a Fun Day at Lauriston Castle and said that she had much enjoyed the day.

Cllrs Balfour and Ross left the meeting.

6.5. *Any Other Matters Arising*

R Smart referred to the point raised by E Robertson some time ago about improved pedestrian access to Corstorphine Hill from Ravelston Dykes Road. He was of the view that the only feasible solution was the installation of a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights at the corner of the Road near the foot of the path leading up the Hill. E Robertson was enthusiastic about this suggestion. P Sizeland mentioned that the Council has a team of seven working on "active travel", who could be contacted. A member of the public suggested that a coalition of MCC, Mary Erskine School and the Friends of Corstorphine Hill would be able to exert more influence and **R Smart undertook to action this idea.**

7. Planning and Licensing

7.1 E Robertson reported that she had been asked by three of her neighbours in Henderland Road to raise with MCC the proposal by the owners of 4 Henderland Road to move the main access from the front to the back of the house by installing a new drive and a parking area and roof high glass conservatory to the rear. They were concerned that, if this proposal were implemented, it would set an undesirable precedent. E Robertson did not know whether a planning application had been submitted and she had not seen any drawings of the proposal. It was decided to await further information before taking a view.

7.2 G Douglas reported that the planning application for 8 Kew Terrace would be decided by the Planning Committee on 11 September. He intended to attend the meeting. The Planning Officer had recommended refusal. MCC, West End Community Council and Donaldson Area Amenity Association had all supported the application, as had a large number of residents. One objection had been received. The Planning Officers' report did not mention the support of both Community Councils, but the three Councillors had assured G Douglas that their letters of support would be brought to the Committee's attention.

7.3 R Smart reported that he had looked at 17 planning applications. He commented on three of these as follows:-

7.3.1 An extension to a house in Campbell Avenue was to be separated from the original house and itself extended; he had decided not to lodge an objection;

7.3.2 He lamented the trend towards paving front gardens for parking, as epitomised by an application for a property in Glendevon Terrace;

7.3.3 It was difficult to object to an application for a hot food shop at Roseburn, as there were other such shops there already.

7.4 V Forbes informed the meeting that the former newsagent's shop at Roseburn was to be a shop for the sale of collectables and pictures and the services of a clairvoyant.

7.5 The Chairman informed the meeting that the person who had raised concerns with him about the potential over-development of a property in Coltbridge Gardens was not present to explain his concerns and they could not, therefore, be discussed.

7.6 D Huckle informed the meeting that the hotel at 92 Corstorphine Road, which at one time was rumoured to be destined to become a DWP hostel, was up for sale again. An increase in its occupancy would overstretch local services.

7.7 A resident of Kinellan Road commented that the buildings of the residential development in Ellersly Road, which had so far been completed, looked better than had been anticipated from the drawings. It would be interesting to observe how the new access to the west side of the development, where the show home was to be situated, affected the traffic flow. G Douglas pointed out that the show home was not likely to attract visitors at rush hour.

There were no licensing matters to be discussed.

8. Traffic and Transport

8.1 A resident of Coltbridge Terrace complained about the traffic chaos caused by St George's parents at the start and end of the school day. She asked whether the School could be asked to write to parents requesting more considerate behaviour towards residents. She was told that the School's website contained instructions about parking.

8.2 A resident of Roseburn Maltings complained that the development is used as an unofficial Park & Ride by non-residents causing concern about access to the emergency services and delivery and removal companies. The Residents' Association has been trying to resolve this issue with the Council, which has promised to install yellow lines at the "pinch points", for 18 months. He asked how this process could be expedited. R Smart advised that **the issue should be taken up with the three local Councillors at the next MCC meeting.**

9. Reports

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Open Day of the Lodge Caledonian in Roseburn Gardens and had received a complaint about bins, which should be parked further up the street, blocking the entrance to the Lodge's premises.

P Sizeland reported that Saughtonhall United Reform Church will be taking part in Doors Open Day, which this year has "Natural Scotland" as its theme. The Church has a number of environmental initiatives which will be on display.

10. Correspondence

The Chairman reported that he had received correspondence confirming that the review of the Community Council ("CC") Scheme had been completed. During the course of the consultation a wide range of issues had been considered. Significant changes had been made to improve the Scheme including the provision to allow CC elections to be held on a regular three-yearly cycle. Procedures relating to special meetings, Annual General Meetings and the appointment of local interest groups had been clarified and improved and a more flexible procedure to make small-scale changes to CC boundaries

had been introduced. Alterations to the way the CC grant is calculated would result in a small increase for each CC, and the introduction of a clause requiring CCs to demonstrate evidence of how they are engaging with the community had been welcomed by CCs.

11. Community Council Elections

These had already been discussed.

12. Any Other Competent Business

G McLeod mentioned the “Get It Sorted ...Together” joint campaign between the Evening News and the Council to improve local neighbourhoods. Residents and community groups are encouraged to put forward ideas for small projects to improve the local environment, which the community group would implement. Various suggestions were made. **G McLeod was asked to write to the appropriate person to suggest the improvement of the pavement on the north side of the new Roseburn Bridge, the painting of the steelwork for the lights on the Bridge and the development of the old Roseburn Bridge as a seating area.**

S Holland confirmed that MCC has modest funds which could be used to assist such a project.

The Chairman instigated a discussion on the streets where overhanging vegetation obstructed the passage along pavements by pedestrians. The Chairman referred to the trees at the former St Helen’s site at West Coates and others complained about properties in Roseburn Street, Ormidale Terrace and Murrayfield Gardens. **It was felt that overhanging hedges and trees constituted a problem throughout the area and should be brought to the attention of the three local Councillors at the next MCC meeting.**

13. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public lamented the loss of the butcher’s shop at Roseburn. M Sturgeon informed the meeting that the former barber’s shop is to become an optician’s.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 29 October 2013

Subsequent meeting: 3 December 2013

Minutes approved at meeting of 29 October 2013.