

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 11 October 2016 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: Cllr Frank Ross and John Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson,
S Holland, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 36 members of the public, Sgt R Holmwood, PC James Loosemore,
PC Julian Peukert, Euan Gillies, Murrayfield Wanderers RFC,
David Bell, Parliamentary Assistant to Michelle Thomson MP,
Apologies: Cllr Edie, Margaret Laing, City of Edinburgh Council, Miles Briggs,
MSP, Ruth Davidson, MSP, Kezia Dugdale, MSP, Neil Findlay,
MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Gordon Lindhurst, MSP, Andy
Wightman, MSP, Michelle Thomson, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. Cllr F Ross, as Returning Officer, took the Chair and opened the first meeting of Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") since the Community Council elections. He welcomed those in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Election Results

The Chairman reported that nine nominations for elected members of MCC had been received and the following persons had been duly elected:-

Ann Anderson	Peter Gregson
Helen Barbour	Stephen Holland
Roy Beavis	Robert Smart
Rosanne Brown	John Yellowlees.
Jim Forbes	

The Chairman informed the meeting that, as there were sixteen places on MCC, there were opportunities to co-opt additional members.

4. Appointment of Office Bearers

The following appointments were approved:-

Chairman: John Yellowlees	Prop: J Forbes,	Sec: R Brown
Deputy Chairman: J Forbes	Prop: R Smart,	Sec: J Yellowlees
Treasurer: S Holland	Prop: R Smart,	Sec: R Brown

R Brown confirmed her willingness to continue in the unofficial post of Minutes Secretary, but declined to stand as Secretary. It was agreed that appointment to this post would be held over for discussion by the newly formed MCC.

Cllr Ross relinquished the Chair to the newly appointed Chairman, J Yellowlees. P Gregson asked whether Cllr Ross, in his capacity as Returning Officer, had been informed of the nomination of Hamish Ross by the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FORP") and was told that he had not.

The Chairman intimated the retirement from MCC prior to the election of W Amcotts and D Huckle and thanked them for their contribution to the work of MCC. He intimated that E Robertson had previously held the post of Secretary and had not stood for re-election, but could be co-opted to one of the vacant seats. The Chairman reported that Saughtonhall Community Association (“SCA”) and Donaldson Area Amenity Association (“DAAA”) had previously had nominated representatives on MCC; the new Chairman of DAAA was present and wished to be co-opted, as did a representative of the newly formed Roseburn Traders. Henry Whaley, who had attended previous MCC meetings to represent the views of the Roseburn Cycle Group, asked whether he could be co-opted. It was pointed out that a local interest group has to meet a number of criteria, including being formally constituted and in existence for twelve months, before it can nominate a representative. Individuals can be co-opted, but have to be resident in the MCC area. Cllr Balfour stated that nominated representatives of a local interest group do not have to be resident in the MCC area. Osman Simsek of the Roseburn Traders and Henry Whaley both confirmed that they are not resident in the MCC area. There was some confusion as to whether a representative of the Roseburn Traders could be co-opted to MCC.

5. Community Policing Report

5.1 Sgt R Holmwood, PC James Loosemore and PC Julian Peukert of Corstorphine and South Queensferry introduced themselves.

PC Peukert reported that in the Murrayfield (Roseburn/Ravelston/Wester Coates) and Corstorphine (Saughtonhall/Riversdale/Balgreen) areas in the previous month 191 calls had been made to the Police and 35 crimes recorded, of which 14 had been solved and the culprits referred to the Procurator Fiscal. Efforts under Operation RAC had been concentrated on these areas and there had been a small number of house breakings and attempted housebreakings to dwelling houses and business premises. There had been one sexual assault and two common assaults in the Murrayfield area and one serious assault in the Clermiston area, which had resulted in a referral to the Procurator Fiscal. There had been several minor driving offences and thefts of bikes and a motor vehicle, four minor incidents of vandalism, one Police assault and two Section 38 charges (“domestic” breach of the peace).

5.2 Operation Rigoletto – PC Loosemore explained that from 17 October 2016 there will be dedicated Police Officers for each operational area and MCC should begin to see the same officers delivering the Community Policing Report at their meetings. Sgt Holmwood will be the Community Sergeant for Edinburgh West. Community Police Officers have often been taken away from community duties to help ease the pressure on the Response Team. From 17 October they will no longer be linked to the Response Team and the situation in community policing should improve.

R Smart reported that he had been advised to contact the Traffic Division of the Police for their views on the Council’s proposal to change the bus lane at Roseburn. He was advised by PC Loosemore that the Council should carry out traffic counts. The Chairman referred R Smart to the stakeholder group set up by Cllr Hinds to consider the proposals affecting Roseburn. Cllr Balfour interjected that the Police are not a member of the stakeholder group but are happy with the proposals.

P Gregson asked whether the Police were aware that the toilet block in Roseburn Park had been broken into and was told that such an incident could be categorised as vandalism or housebreaking with intent and, if it had been reported, they would be aware of it.

A member of the public, who lives near the Kwik Fit premises on Corstorphine Road, reported that an adjacent area had become an unofficial skate park and that a bike belonging to her neighbour had been stolen recently. She was advised to report all incidents of anti-social behaviour and theft by calling 101. Sgt Holmwood indicated that repeated complaints could result in pro-active Police patrols.

6. Councillors' Report

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

6.1 The Council is in the process of setting its Budget, but this has been delayed because the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not make his Autumn Statement until mid to late November. The Scottish Government will announce its Budget on 15 December and the Council will set its Budget in February next year. He reminded the meeting that Council Tax for the top three bands will be increased.

6.2 The Council, in conjunction with local businesses and a number of other bodies, has recently launched a consultation called "Edinburgh in 2050" to find out what sort of city the residents of Edinburgh want in the future. Their views can be expressed in an online survey.

6.3 Roseburn Cycle Track - A stakeholder group comprising representatives from all the different interest groups has been set up to fine tune the Council's proposal. R Smart is representing MCC on the group. The group held a walkabout in Roseburn on 4 October and one was to take place at Haymarket on 13 October. The decision, to be made before Christmas, on the route of the track between Roseburn and Haymarket will be taken, not by the Transport Committee, but by the transport spokespersons of the five political parties. Council officers will then draw up the detailed design and pursue the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders.

Cllr Ross added the following points:-

6.4 "Edinburgh in 2050" is not a politically driven initiative but long term financial decisions will have to be made beyond the normal cycles.

6.5 When the decision on the Roseburn cycle track has been taken and the design finalised, the Council will have to make a submission to Sustrans for 50% of the necessary funding.

6.6 Flood Prevention works in Roseburn Park – An additional tree has had to be felled in response to a ground situation.

P Gregson asked why a poplar on the far side of the toilet block in the Park has been left without any branches. **Cllr Ross undertook to ask the contractors.**

A Roseburn resident asked why the new wall next to BT Murrayfield, which has replaced a hedge which was inside the BT Murrayfield boundary fence, has been erected at least 1 metre outside the fence. **Cllr Ross** replied that he had been assured by Council officers that the new wall has been erected on the boundary line, but he **undertook to ask the question again and get a full answer.**

The Chairman referred to a Council consultation on changing services, about which leaflets had been distributed, and surmised that there is likely to be an online survey too.

Cllr Balfour mentioned the City Deal in which the Council bids for money from Westminster to be used on capital projects. The Council is in discussion with the Westminster and Scottish Governments but no decision has been announced yet. Cllr Ross explained that the money is not a grant and has to be used to increase economic activity by at least 5%. Projects in which it is invested will be scrutinised to ensure this objective is met.

A Anderson complained about the overflowing litter bin in front of Costa Coffee at Haymarket.

A Roseburn resident again raised the issue of the location of the glass recycling bin on the corner of Roseburn Gardens and Roseburn Drive. Cllr Ross replied that he had raised this matter with Council officers and it is an active enquiry.

7. Boundary Commission Proposed Changes to Ward boundaries

Cllr Balfour reported that the proposed changes to Ward boundaries had been approved and would be effective at the Council elections in May 2017. Wester Coates, the Donaldson area and Forrester Park will be removed from Ward 6, while the whole of Craighleith to Stewart's Melville School, both sides of Ravelston Dykes and Wester Broom will be included in Ward 6.

Cllr Ross stated that there is potential for a judicial review of the changes on the ground of lack of consultation and an announcement will be made soon.

P Gregson asked whether the MCC boundary is affected and was told by Cllr Balfour that it is not, but MCC might want to consider changing it to reflect the removal of the Donaldson area.

8. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 30 August 2016

The Minutes were approved.

Prop: J Forbes, Sec: R Smart.

9. Council consultations on Roseburn- Haymarket cycle track

R Smart reported that he had attended the walkabout at Roseburn (referred to at Item 6.3) and the subsequent discussions in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre on 4 October 2016 and had circulated a report by email to MCC, as constituted prior to the election. He referred to parts of that report, a copy of which is attached.

Cllr Ross explained that the group in which he and R Smart had taken part in the above discussions had included one person from Sustrans and Cllr Bagshaw of the Green Party. The aim of the discussions was to sift the good from the bad and come up with a better solution. The proposals involve the gain of a 24/7 parking and loading bay on the south side of Roseburn Terrace (not just an off peak one) and the retention of an off peak one on the north side. The pavements are to be widened and changes made to the westbound bus lane. There is talk of adding a pedestrian crossing at the east end of Roseburn Terrace and changing traffic priority at Russell Road/Roseburn Street, both of which he thought were good ideas. He acknowledged that the corner at Tesco is awkward, not enough thought has been given to Roseburn Street and the bus stop on the north side of the Terrace needs to be moved back to improve visibility for cars trying to exit Roseburn Cliff. Roseburn Gardens are to be one way – downhill from the city centre direction only. There is to be a second meeting of the stakeholder group on 27 October.

A member of the public asked how there would be sufficient room for buses if the bus stop were moved closer to Roseburn Bridge. Cllr Ross replied that Lothian Buses had said they needed space for three buses. He had been surprised by their assertion that 40 buses pass through Roseburn each way every hour.

A member of the public asked how the proposals affected disabled parking in the bays on Roseburn Terrace and was told by Cllr Ross that the arrangements would be the same on the north side and better on the south side than at present.

P Gregson said that he understood that MCC were to have two representatives on the stakeholder group and asked if he could be the second one. He was told by Cllr Balfour and the Chairman that MCC was to have only one representative.

P Gregson expressed the view that the loss of 40% of the existing parking would put some businesses on Roseburn Terrace out of business. He stated that the Council has not tested the assertion that a dedicated cycle track will give rise to a significant increase in cycling and he wished to survey the public on what would make them cycle more.

H Whaley stated that most of the bays on Roseburn Terrace are used for loading, not parking, and he referred to a huge uptake in cycling in London following the introduction of cycle tracks. R Smart and P Gregson disagreed on both points.

H Whaley expressed the hope that a solution which works for most people could be found.

A member of the public asked whether the revised proposals will be put to the public and was told by Cllr Ross that they will not; the Roseburn to Leith cycle track has been approved in principle and revised proposals for the Roseburn to Haymarket section delegated to the stakeholder group; the decision on their findings will be made by the transport spokespersons of the five political parties on the Council – Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democratic, Scottish National and Green.

10. Keeping the pavements along Corstorphine Road presentable

J Forbes averred that the importance of visitors to Edinburgh's economy is underestimated. He confirmed, as reported at the previous MCC meeting, that the pavement on Corstorphine Road between Roseburn and the Zoo, which is used by many visitors to the City, is in a state of disrepair and is strewn with litter. He expressed embarrassment at the poor impression of Edinburgh which it gives in contrast to the cleanliness and tidiness of the five European capitals which he had visited this year. He stressed that he was looking for a commitment from the Council to regular maintenance by a barrowman, at least during the summer, and not just a one-off clean.

Cllr Balfour confirmed that there is a barrowman in Corstorphine, but said that there was no funding for a barrowman anywhere else and, if MCC raised this issue again, the answer from the Council's Dave Sinclair would still be the same. He suggested lobbying the five political parties on the Council for the desired commitment before the Budget is set next February.

The Chairman referred briefly to the possibility of asking Murrayfield Parish Church to organise another hustings event before the Council elections in May 2017.

R Smart complained that the Murrayfield area had not been cleaned properly this year, but was contradicted by Cllr Balfour, who stated that Murrayfield Road and Avenue had both been cleaned at least three times.

A Roseburn resident complained that Roseburn Street, Avenue, Gardens and Drive have not been cleaned for four years.

H Barbour asked about the criteria for getting a barrowman and was advised by Cllr Ross to put this question to Dave Sinclair.

Cllr Ross informed the meeting that the next meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee is on 1 November 2016 and the papers, including the annual Street Cleanliness Report, will be available online by 23/24 October. He suggested reading the Report and sending a deputation to the Committee meeting.

A member of the public, who lives near the Kwik Fit premises on Corstorphine Road, complained that the gullies along that road between the bridge at Roseburn and the doctors' surgery have not been cleaned for years despite repeated requests.

Cllr Ross noted this complaint and advised that online reporting of complaints was supposed to result in the complainant receiving updates. He was told that this had not happened.

The same resident also complained that spectators' buses parked along Corstorphine Road on Rugby International match days had twice blocked her drive. She had emailed the Police and phoned the bus companies to complain.

Cllr Balfour confirmed that it was a Police decision to park buses there and acknowledged that such parking is a problem.

The Chairman suggested raising this issue with the Community Police Officer at the next meeting.

11. Murrayfield Wanderers' proposal for Roseburn Park

The Chairman invited Euan Gillies of Murrayfield Wanderers Rugby Football Club to describe the Club's plans for the use of Roseburn Park, which they hope to negotiate with the Council, once their lease from the SRU of the back pitches at BT Murrayfield comes to an end in August 2017.

E Gillies explained that currently Wanderers use changing accommodation, a club room and pitches at BT Murrayfield and desire these facilities in Roseburn Park. They have a number of flexible proposals for changing accommodation, social spaces and upgrading of the playing fields in the Park. He acknowledged that no work could begin on the ground until the flood prevention works have been completed. The SRU have indicated that they will grant Wanderers a short extension of their lease.

Wanderers have consulted Murrayfield-DAFS Cricket Club, who have used pitches in Roseburn Park since 2008, and, although the two clubs' playing seasons overlap to some extent, they feel sure that they can accommodate each other's requirement for pitches.

E Gillies explained that Wanderers will put in a request to the Council to accommodate them in the Park and, if granted, this will be the start of a lengthy process to obtain the desired facilities. He set out Wanderers' credentials as a club providing a social service – they fund the development of junior rugby and currently have a team of one development officer and two apprentices who deal with 200 primary school children and two secondary schools.

A member of the public asked whether the social facilities would include a bar and the provision of food. Another pointed out that the Park is used by different age groups and the proposed facilities would limit access to it for children and other groups. E Gillies replied that the current management of the Park by

Edinburgh Leisure will not change and Wanderers will continue to have access to floodlit pitches at BT Murrayfield for training and to car parking there.

Cllr Balfour assured the meeting that, if Wanderers' proposals are implemented, the Park will remain open to the public.

P Gregson asked whether the proposals are in the form of a planning application and was told by E Gillies that they are not yet at that stage. If the request to the Council referred to above is granted, that will lead to a planning application. The request itself will not be as detailed as a planning application.

Cllrs Ross and Balfour thought that it would be considered by the Culture and Leisure Committee. Cllr Balfour explained that Wanderers are looking for an indication as to whether their proposals will be accommodated and, if they receive a positive response from the Council, they will submit a planning application which will be subject to wide consultation and will be considered by both the Planning Committee and the Licensing Board.

P Gregson asked whether the Culture and Leisure Committee consults and was advised by Cllr Ross that their papers are in the public domain and interested parties can make representations at Committee meetings and via the Councillors.

A representative of Saughtonhall Community Association asked about the scale of the proposed facilities. E Gillies replied that Wanderers had given a presentation on their proposals to a number of groups at a meeting organised by FORP and stated that the facilities would be roughly the same size as the existing clubhouse and groundsman's accommodation. He also confirmed that there is no proposal to remove trees.

R Smart referred to the widespread local concern over the proposals and suggested that a better alternative to the proposed location in the centre of the Park would be an area of ground on the west side next to the Ice Rink, where deliveries could be made more easily via the bridge from Corstorphine Road and there are closer bus stops. E Gillies replied that there is existing changing and storage accommodation in the centre of the Park, but Wanderers are in fact considering three separate locations in the Park. He confirmed that Wanderers will hold an Open Day once they have detailed plans - he hoped by Spring 2017.

A member of the public pointed out that the old title deeds to the Park refer to its use for public benefit and suggested that MCC should get a legal opinion as to whether they prohibit Wanderers' proposed use.

Cllr Balfour acknowledged that the Park is "common good" land, but informed the meeting that the Council had in the past sold off such land or overturned that provision, for example, in the case of Parliament Hall. Such a decision would have to be taken by the full Council acting on legal advice.

A local resident expressed reservations about having a two and a half storey building with an alcohol licence in the middle of the Park and was certain that it would involve the felling of trees.

Cllr Balfour was asked for his opinion on the proposed alcohol licence and increased use of pitches, but declined to comment on the ground that he is a member of both the Culture and Leisure Committee and the Licensing Board.

Cllr Ross informed the meeting that he had been gathering the views of concerned parties and had facilitated meetings between a variety of different groups.

In answer to a question from the floor E Gillies confirmed that the current use of one pitch for football by Roseburn Primary School on Saturday mornings would not be affected.

E Robertson asked how many of the Wanderers' teams are female and was told that there are two adult teams, one under 18 and one under 16 team and that overall about one third of the club is female.

P Gregson reported that FORP have been trying to get the toilet block in the Park refurbished as a café and public toilet. This would not be in contravention of the title condition because it is an existing building. The rent from the café would be put towards maintenance of the Park. FORP's improvement plan for the Park had been the subject of an extensive consultation, which was concluded in March/April this year. It had been hoped that some public benefit could be obtained from having the flood prevention contractors on site, but the Council is now delaying a decision on funding the improvement plan because of the Wanderers' proposals.

A member of the public connected with Murrayfield-DAFS, which is also a community club which encourages youngsters, affirmed that Murrayfield-DAFS are totally in support of Wanderers' plans and can work with them to agree the scheduling of matches. He explained that he watches his son play football in the Park on Saturday morning and there are no facilities for parents and nowhere for the youngsters to socialise with each other or older players and parents.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the next meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership will take place on Wednesday, 26 October 2016 at the Drumbrae Hub and the FORP application for funding is on the Agenda. He urged a good turnout in support of the application.

P Gregson stated that the proposal for a big new building in the centre of the Park causes most concern. FORP would rather see the existing building refurbished.

A Anderson asked whether it was proposed that the new building would have the same opening hours as the existing social club. E Gillies replied that it was proposed that it would be open on Saturdays and on some Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. It would also be open on Rugby International match days.

Cllr Balfour added that the decision on opening hours would be one for the Licensing Board, which can tailor the hours to individual locations.

P Gregson urged Wanderers to bring forward detailed plans and designs for consultation as soon as possible.

J Yellowlees had to leave the meeting and passed the Chair to the Deputy Chairman, J Forbes.

12. Flood Prevention Progress

This had already been discussed.

13. Roseburn Action Plan

R Smart reported that over the past year the bollards on the Old Bridge had been replaced with planters, the lights and the bench on the main bridge had been refurbished and the bins at Roseburn Cliff had been removed. New road markings in Murrayfield Place to deal with the relocation of the communal bins have still to be installed. The Deputy Chairman agreed that progress on the Roseburn Action Plan had been halted by the cycle track proposal.

14. Planning and Licensing

The Deputy Chairman noted that there is now a large earthwork in front of Donaldson's College which partially obscures the front of the building. He

asked whether this was to be permanent. **R Smart** replied that the developers' planning permission does not include altering the front of the building and **undertook to confirm that the earthwork is temporary.**

15. Traffic and Transport

R Smart again raised the issue of the timing of the traffic lights at Roseburn and reported that he had recently counted a tailback of 88 cars at rush hour.

A Roseburn resident complained about dangerous and inconvenient parking in Roseburn Crescent and expressed the view that, if Wanderers' proposals for the Park come to fruition, this situation will become worse. The Deputy Chairman informed him that double parking can be reported. H Whaley expressed the view that an increase in cycling would improve this situation. **It was agreed that this issue be added to the Agenda for the next MCC meeting on 29 November 2016.**

16. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

17. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

18. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 29 November 2016

Minutes approved at meeting of 29 November 2016.