

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 14 January 2014 at 8pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: J Yellowlees

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

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 Euan Sinclair from the Murrayfield/Corstorphine team, assisted by PC Belinda Brown, reported as follows:-

3.1 PC Belinda Brown is replacing PC Prince Durant as the Community Officer for the Murrayfield area;

3.2 There will be a meeting in April with elected local representatives to set new priorities; the existing priorities are housebreaking, parking near schools and cycling on pavements;

3.3.1 There had been a significant increase in house break ins in the Murrayfield area; the Police had responded with Operation Murray, which involved high visibility uniformed and plain clothes patrols. A number of culprits had been identified. PC Sinclair warned that houses with high value vehicles are being targeted by the thieves and the Police will be checking the identity of the drivers of such vehicles periodically;

3.3.2 The next step with regard to break ins is the implementation of Operation Rack, a national initiative involving high visibility patrols in hot spots and specially trained officers. The Police will also be liaising with the Courts with a view to achieving more robust sentencing;

3.4 High visibility patrols had been used to tackle dangerous parking near primary schools and the Police had offered advice to offending parents, but were constrained by the devolution of some of their powers to the traffic wardens;

3.5 The stencilling on pavements designed to prevent cycling on pavements will be renewed in the Spring;

3.6 The number of Community Officers has increased and their role has changed to include responding to Grade 3, 4 and 5 calls as well as their existing community based tasks. In response to questions from Cllr Edie and S Holland, PC Sinclair explained that, when a 101 or other call is received, it is graded from 1 to 5 by the call centre, Grades 1 and 2 being calls deemed to require immediate attention provided by Response Officers. PC Brown explained that 10 Response

Officers from the West area have become Community Officers and that matters which do not require immediate attention will be dealt with by them; the Diary Car, which had been trialled successfully in West Lothian, will operate day and back shifts 7 days a week and hourly appointments will be booked for it. PC Sinclair felt that the public would notice little difference in the service provided as a result of these changes;

3.7 Senior Police officers had met with City Council officials and the SRU to discuss traffic disruption following rugby matches at Murrayfield Stadium and to put a better Temporary Traffic Regulation Order in place for the future.

#### 4. Councillors' Report

4.1 Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.1.1 The Flood Prevention Scheme had been discussed by the Transport and Environment Committee on 14 January and there was to be a Stakeholder Engagement Group meeting on 28 January;

4.1.2 He believed that there had not been too many problems with bin collections over the festive period;

4.1.3 He had asked the Council's Licensing Officers to look at the noise restrictions attached to the 2 alcohol licences relating to Murrayfield Stadium when they come up for renewal later this year; in response to a question from a member of the public he confirmed that one licence covers the Stadium itself and the other the area outside the Stadium but within the SRU's wall where the tents, about which complaints had been made, are situated.

4.2 Cllr Edie reported that the planning application for the vacant site in Kew Terrace will be considered by the Development Management Sub-Committee on 15 January.

#### 5. Flood Prevention Update

Cliff Hutt, Traffic and Engineering Manager, The City of Edinburgh Council, introduced his colleague, Rob Leech, the newly appointed Project Manager for Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme ("FPS"). He explained that the Council had concluded that the outsourcing of the project management of Phase 1 to consultants had been a mistake and had decided on more robust governance and in-house project management for Phase 2. Rob Leech was in the process of putting together a team.

Rob Leech provided figures for the residential and commercial properties at the 5 locations within Phase 2 – Damside, Belford Bridge, Edinburgh Sports Club, Coltbridge and Murrayfield. The Murrayfield section has by far the largest number of both residential and commercial properties at 186 and 14 respectively. He explained that Phase 2 of the original Scheme had been costed at £34m, for which there was inadequate funding. Arup Engineering had been asked to look at the best use of the available budget and had focussed on the Murrayfield section. Their report proposed doing very little work on the first 3 sections and putting in place temporary measures at Murrayfield until further funding is found for the permanent scheme. The report envisaged the need for a new planning application for the revised scheme and he thought that that process could be undertaken concurrently with the procurement of contractors and finalisation of the revised design. Arup's revised scheme was estimated to cost £25m. The available funding of £19.916m would, therefore, still leave a shortfall of over £5m. Rob Leech stated that the process of applying for planning permission afresh will allow

time for public consultation and he intends to engage with the community before then through the Stakeholder Engagement Group, the next meeting of which will be on 28 January, and a day long public exhibition to explain the revised scheme to be held in late February. He estimated that work could start on site in early 2015 with the diversion of the gas main on the left bank of the river followed by construction of the defences starting in mid 2015 and taking 14 to 18 months to complete.

In answer to questions from the Chairman and members of the public Rob Leech and Cliff Hutt explained the work which would be carried out at different locations along the river. In some stretches existing walls will be refurbished, in others new concrete walls will be constructed, in others temporary sandbag walls will be built and grassed over and in one location the level of the bank will be reduced and a permanent bund formed. Rob Leech confirmed that there will be no loss of amenity once construction has been completed, as the works will be landscaped, as has been done in Phase 1.

Cllr Balfour asked when the new planning application will be submitted and Rob Leech replied that he could not yet give a date. He wanted to meet all the stakeholders and attempt to get them onside before submitting the application. Several people expressed concern about the involvement and influence of the SRU in the past and sought reassurance that the SRU's views will not be given undue weight. Cliff Hutt explained that the SRU had objected to the original scheme for Phase 2, their objections had been upheld by the Reporter and the location of the defences changed to suit the SRU. As the locations remained the same under the revised scheme, it was hoped that the SRU would have no reason to object further.

Cllr Edie considered the involvement of local representatives in the Stakeholder Engagement Group to be essential. P Sizeland offered to identify members of Saughtonhall Community Association who would be willing to join the Group and offered the use of the Association's hall for the public exhibition referred to above.

In response to expressions of concern from members of the public that the revised scheme might prove inadequate, Cliff Hutt explained that work had been carried out at the reservoirs to control the flow of water into the watercourse and accurate flood predictions in future will enable additional temporary measures, such as raising the height of walls with sandbags to prevent overtopping, to be put in place.

P Sizeland informed the meeting that SEPA's new flood maps were to be launched online on 15 January.

6. Hoardings at Roseburn Terrace

The Chairman reported that E Robertson had spoken to Richard Wilson at the Council about the advertising hoardings, which are leased to Clear Channel by the Council. The lease comes up for renewal later this year and E Robertson had been asked to write to the Council setting out MCC's views before the end of January. The Chairman asked whether the meeting approved campaigning to have the hoardings removed. G McLeod expressed disapproval on the grounds that he understood that Clear Channel made a significant contribution to the Council's estate in addition to the rent and that E Robertson was the only person who wished to see the hoardings removed. **Cllr Balfour undertook to find out how much rental income the Council receive and what other contribution Clear**

**Channel make.**

7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 3 December 2013

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

8. Matters Arising

8.1. *Refuge island in Ellersly Road*

G McLeod reported that the Council will discuss the request for a refuge island in Ellersly Road in the next financial year. He understood that it is viewed favourably but there is no guarantee that it will go ahead. Capability Scotland have confirmed that the footfall of people with special mobility needs is no longer such that the island has to be outside their premises.

8.2. *Get it Sorted Together campaign – Old Roseburn Bridge*

R Smart expressed the view that the Bridge area requires proper, pedestrian friendly, paving and not cobbles, as had been proposed some time ago. His suggestion that MCC hold a series of workshops to enable local residents to express their views as to possible improvements to the Roseburn area met with universal approval. Cllr Edie stated that the West Neighbourhood team could be approached for funds once desirable improvements had been identified. It was agreed that **G McLeod would raise this matter at the meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership on 5 February**. The Treasurer confirmed that MCC could contribute funds by way of “pump priming”. The Chairman suggested inviting an officer from the West Neighbourhood team to a future MCC meeting.

8.3. *Sign to show right of way at St George’s School*

Cllr Balfour reported that he had been in correspondence with E Robertson regarding her proposal for new signage at St George’s School to indicate the entrance to the cycle track which lay beyond the School sign and the right of way through the School between Garscube Terrace and Crarae Avenue. The School was reluctant to erect a new sign. Others thought the cycling organisation, Spokes, should take the lead in this. It was agreed that this matter would be left meantime.

8.4. *Corstorphine Hill pedestrian access*

G McLeod reported that the Council had checked their records and concluded that the Council does not own the land between the trees and the dry stone dyke adjoining Ravelston Dykes Road on the south side. Further investigation is required. **R Smart undertook to raise this matter with the Captain and Secretary of Murrayfield Golf Club.**

8.5. *Public right of way – Murrayfield Gardens/Campbell Avenue*

G McLeod reported that the sale of 73 Murrayfield Gardens had not yet been completed and he would wait until March before trying again to speak to the new owners. Dan Rae of the Council wishes to meet with him and the new owners.

9. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported that:-

9.1 The Development Management Sub-Committee of the Council is minded to grant planning permission for Use Classes 2 and 3 and residential use for the

proposed development on the vacant site in Kew Terrace. Retail use is excluded, but the developer is still hopeful of getting permission for non-food retail use;

9.2 The house at 26 Belmont Gardens had been demolished and a new house of one and a half storeys, identical to an existing house in the Gardens, is to be built on the site. He saw no reason to object to this proposal;

9.3 He intended to lodge an objection on behalf of MCC to the proposed development of 8 flats to be built on the site of a bungalow at the corner of Murrayfield Road and Ravelston Dykes opposite the entrance to Murrayfield Golf Club. He considered the size and bulk of the proposed development and the access arrangements to be unacceptable.

#### 10. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman reported that (1) the newly redeveloped Haymarket Station with its large concourse was now in use and (2) Cllr Ross had confirmed that the bus stop for the buses to Corstorphine, which was outside the Station, but the furthest away and had no shelter, was to have a shelter added. S Holland commented that (1) the redevelopment of the Station had been completed on budget and on time, (2) the taxi rank has moved across the road from the Station and is now outside the Tune Hotel facing east and (3) none of the 6 bus stops in Shandwick Place has a shelter. A member of the public reported that the cycle racks at the Station were inadequate and she believed that Spokes was trying to arrange for part of the old Station building to be used for bikes. **The Chairman undertook to inquire about this.**

#### 11. Reports

The Chairman notified the meeting that the Friends of Roseburn Park are holding a public meeting in the Dove Coffee Lounge, Murrayfield Parish Church, Ormidale Terrace, on Thursday, 30 January at 7.30pm to provide an update on current and future developments in the Park and gather ideas and suggestions for areas which could be improved.

#### 12. Correspondence

The Chairman reported that he had been notified that a meeting of the Council's Transport Forum is to be called shortly.

#### 13. Any Other Competent Business

The Chairman notified the meeting that the Model Constitution and Standing Orders, which had been adopted at the previous meeting, had subsequently been signed by the required number of office bearers.

#### 14. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

#### 15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 25 February 2014

Subsequent meetings: 1 April, 13 May and 24 June 2014.

Minutes approved at meeting of 25 February 2014