

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 25 February 2014 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, J Forbes, V Forbes, S Holland,
D Huckle, N Macdonald, G McLeod, E Robertson, R Smart,
W Spence, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour,
In attendance: 9 members of the public, PC Jed Murray,
Apologies: P Sizeland, Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross, M Crockart MP, M Biagi MSP, Sarah
Boyack 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 Jed Murray, a Community Policing Officer based at Corstorphine, reported as follows:-

3.1 House breaking is a local policing priority. Operation RAC has involved extra patrols, particularly on the cycle tracks/walkways, to identify the perpetrators using these routes. Across the city a large number of people have been charged with housebreaking offences. He urged residents to be vigilant, keep their properties secure and report anything suspicious. J Forbes asked whether thefts of roof lead were classed as break ins and was told that they would not be if there had been no entry into the building.

3.2 Parking round primary schools is another priority which has been tackled with extra patrols. The Police liaise with schools in educating parents about safe parking. A Road Safety Officer is to carry out an assessment at Roseburn Primary School, which will include road markings and signage. A local resident had heard that a puffin crossing was to be installed outside Roseburn Primary School and asked how this would differ from a pelican crossing. PC Murray explained that the two are similar, but a puffin crossing has low level lighting. Another member of the public asked why there are no traffic calming measures on Roseburn Street and was told by Cllr Balfour that it is because this street is a main artery which would be used by emergency vehicles if there were to be a major incident at Murrayfield Stadium.

3.3 The Police are continuing to survey licensed premises with a view to building a database designed to reduce crimes of violence associated with such premises.

G McLeod reported that a yellow Saab has been parked, apparently abandoned, in Belmont Gardens for more than 5 months. **PC Murray undertook to look into this**, but confirmed that the Police cannot move the car until the road tax disc expires.

In answer to a question from G Douglas PC Murray confirmed that the Police do not enforce the Highway Code rule that during the hours of darkness a vehicle must be parked facing the direction of travel.

V Forbes asked whether the trailer part of a snack van, which is currently parked permanently in Russell Road, is parked legally. **PC Murray undertook to investigate.**

4. Councillors' Report

Councillor Balfour reported that February had been a quiet month. He expected others to speak to Items 5, 7 and 8 of the Agenda.

Cllr Balfour confirmed that from the end of January 2014 the Council no longer license saunas, but they will continue to be inspected by the Police, NHS and Health & Safety officials. Until the current appeals are decided the saunas can continue to trade.

GMcLeod asked whether the Council have any say in the naming of new housing developments. He expressed the view that Wallace Gardens was not an appropriate name for the Ellersly Road development. Cllr Balfour explained that, as the development is privately owned, the Council has no say in the matter, but does have to be consulted on new street names.

5. Reports from meetings:-

5.1 28 January, Flood Prevention Stakeholder Engagement Group – V Forbes reported that she had attended this meeting as the representative of Friends of Roseburn Park (“FRP”) and, in the absence of P Sizeland, Murrayfield Community Council (“MCC”). The attendees had been given details and been shown drawings of the proposed works. They had been told that work to move the gas main should start in January 2015 and the flood prevention works themselves in mid 2015. V Forbes reported that, subsequently, she had walked round Roseburn Park with Rob Leech, the Project Manager of Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme, to discuss alternative ways of dealing with the play park. She explained that there will be gaps in the proposed flood defence walls, e.g. at the entrances to the Park, but flood warnings will enable these to be plugged with temporary measures, i.e. sandbags.

Cllr Balfour informed the meeting that the next meeting of the Stakeholder Engagement Group is on 25 March and he stressed the importance of residents passing their comments and concerns to MCC so that MCC can represent them at that meeting.

A member of the public reported that the public consultation on Phase 2, which was held on 20 February, had been useful. R Brown read out an email from Rob Leech to P Sizeland reporting that more than 100 people had attended; he had addressed concerns about the delays to date, the effectiveness of temporary defences, water encroachment from Pansy Walk and the height of the proposed walls relative to the bund on the SRU land. He confirmed that there will be another public consultation before the new planning application for Phase 2 is submitted and **the Chairman undertook that MCC will publicise the date of that public consultation.**

In response to questions from members of the public about the limited funding for Phase 2, the perceived excessive influence of the SRU and the level of protection which the revised scheme will provide at a time when the recent flooding in England has heightened public concern over flooding, Cllr

Balfour reminded the meeting that the proposed protection for the majority of affected properties is against the type of flooding which occurs once every 100 years; the SRU's land will be protected against the type of flooding which occurs once every 200 years; the fact that the Council now own and manage the reservoirs reduces the risk of flooding downstream; all the stakeholders, and not just the SRU, have to be brought on board for the revised scheme to go ahead and the Council is in discussions with all of them.

5.2 30 January, Friends of Roseburn Park - V Forbes reported that this meeting was an EGM at which the Constitution of FRP was changed to permit the granting of charitable status to FRP. This had been granted on 13 February 2014. Once the lease from the Council to FRP of the old toilet block in Roseburn Park has been finalised, FRP will apply for funding to renovate it. The FRP AGM will take place in June.

5.3 5 February, West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") – G McLeod reported that he had been unable to attend this meeting. Cllr Balfour undertook to email the Minutes of the meeting to the Chairman.

5.4 Edinburgh Proposed Local Development Plan Briefing Opportunity – R Smart reported that he had been unable to become involved in this. He had attended a meeting of the Civic Forum at which the Development Plan had been discussed and he thought that not many of its proposals affected Roseburn, Murrayfield or Corstorphine. Cllr Balfour intimated that he and Cllrs Edie and Ross were concerned about the knock-on effect on the schools and other public services in these areas of the new housing which was proposed for the area between Cammo Estate and the Maybury roundabout.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14 January 2014

These were approved. Prop: G McLeod, Sec: V Forbes.

7. Matters Arising

7.1. *Advertising Hoardings at Roseburn Terrace*

The Chairman reported that he had been informed by Richard Willson of the Council that a citywide contract for advertising hoardings and street furniture had been put out to tender on 14 February, tenders are to be in by 1 April and the matter will go to Committee on 5 June. He understood that the successful bidder will be keen to liaise with MCC and other interested bodies regarding improvements to the site.

In response to questions from members of the public Cllr Balfour confirmed that the Council own the site of the hoardings and under the current lease, in lieu of paying rent, the tenant provides bus stops and toilets across the city. The financial value of this arrangement is confidential, being relevant to the tender process. The new lease will have an express financial element.

E Robertson expressed the view that MCC should be campaigning to have the hoardings removed. Contrary views were expressed by some members of the public and Community Councillors. Cllr Balfour was at pains to point out that the tender process cannot be halted, planning permission is in place and a new planning application will be required only if the hoardings are to be altered. He suggested that, as the Committee meeting on 5 June is a public meeting, MCC should send a deputation, ask the Council not to award a new contract for the hoardings and put forward an

alternative scheme. R Smart suggested that MCC ask WENP for help in devising an alternative landscaping scheme.

J Forbes pointed out that there was a divergence of opinion both among the members of the public and on MCC on this matter. S Holland, a past chairman of The Maltings Residents Association, confirmed that the residents of the 197 flats there were indifferent to the removal of the hoardings. On a show of hands 8 people were in favour of keeping the hoardings, 5 were in favour of removal, the rest abstained.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Richard Willson had indicated that, realistically, “amelioration, but not annihilation” of the hoardings could be expected. **The Chairman suggested inviting an officer of the Council to attend the next MCC meeting on 1 April.**

7.2. *Get it Sorted Together campaign- public workshops*

The Chairman reminded the meeting that MCC wished to consult local residents on what improvements they would like to see to the Roseburn area. He had received a suggestion that lighting similar to that which had been reinstated on Roseburn Bridge should be installed on Old Roseburn Bridge. Another resident suggested removing the wheelie bins from the Old Bridge, replacing the existing bollards with smarter reproduction bollards, restoring the cobbles and erecting a plaque (in imitation bronze fibreglass) commemorating the Coltbridge Canter, which is depicted in Panel 49 of the Prestonpans Tapestry. Someone else suggested a couple of benches to be paid for from MCC funds. There was general agreement that clearing leaves, cleaning pavements and eliminating puddles near pedestrian crossings would all be worthwhile improvements. Cllr Balfour suggested that, as the post of WENP Manager is currently being advertised, with the departure of Natalie Hoy, and will not be filled for 6-8 weeks, MCC should invite the new incumbent and Dave Sinclair, the WENP person responsible for roads, to the MCC meeting on 24 June and put the various suggestions to them. A member of the public offered to take photographs of the leaves and puddles for the June meeting. A local resident recommended the “Fix my Street” section of the Council’s website as being effective.

7.3. *Corstorphine Hill pedestrian access*

R Smart reported that he had spoken to the Secretary of Murrayfield Golf Club about ownership of the relevant strip of ground, but as the Secretary would be demitting office shortly, he **would try to find out whether this matter was to be put on the agenda of the Club’s Council in the near future.**

8. Planning and Licensing

8.1 Vacant site, 8 Kew Terrace - G Douglas reported that on 15 January the Council’s Development Sub-Committee confirmed the grant to the developer of permission for Use Classes 2 (financial, professional and other services) and 3 (restaurant, café, snack bar) and residential use and the refusal of permission for Use Class 1 (retail). The developer may appeal to the Secretary of State against the refusal of permission for Use Class 1. In answer to a question he confirmed that the advertising hoarding at this location is outwith the development site on ground owned by the Council.

8.2 R Smart reported that had looked at 15 planning applications and had no real objection to any of them. He confirmed that he had objected to the

proposed development at the corner of Ravelston Dykes and Murrayfield Road. E Robertson stated that it was important for MCC to object to such developments in order to avoid the setting of an undesirable precedent. J Forbes pointed out that there is a huge demand for housing locally.

9. Traffic and Transport

9.1 A member of the public thanked the Chairman for his intervention regarding the inadequate bus stop at Haymarket.

9.2 She also asked whether there was a timetable for public consultation on extending controlled parking to Coltbridge and was told by R Smart that there is to be a consultation later this year. Brief reference was made to a proposed Traffic Regulation Order for double yellow lines in part of Coltbridge Vale.

9.3 It was noted that volunteers are sought for a tram exercise at Murrayfield on 13 March.

9.4 The Chairman reported that a planning application for the proposed cycle storage at Haymarket Station had been lodged on 21 January and can be viewed in the city development portal of the Council's website. There is a six week turn-around and it is open to consultation during that period.

10. Any Other Reports

There were no other reports.

11. Correspondence

E Robertson reported that she had received posters advertising Project Harm and gave some to R Brown for display on the MCC noticeboard.

She had also received an invitation to a Network Rail community drop-in session on Friday, 28 March from 9.30am in the Apex Hotel, Waterloo Place.

12. Any Other Competent Business

N Macdonald reminded the meeting that she had provisionally booked the main hall at Murrayfield Parish Church Centre for a public meeting on the independence referendum on 8 April. It was agreed that this date was premature and a new one should be discussed at the next MCC meeting. **N Macdonald undertook to cancel the booking.**

A local resident arranged for a poster advertising the annual Water of Leith Clean Up on Sunday, 27 April at 10.30am, to be displayed on the MCC noticeboard at Roseburn.

13. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

14. Date of Next Meeting: 1 April 2014

Subsequent meetings: 13 May (including AGM) and 24 June 2014.

Minutes approved at meeting of 1 April 2014.