

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 29 November 2016 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: John Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson,
S Holland, H Ross, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour,
In attendance: 15 members of the public, PC Sam Davison,
Apologies: Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross, 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. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and apologised for the lack of space in the Dove Coffee Lounge.

2. Outcome of Community Council elections

The Chairman reported that the ordinary members of Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC"), whose seats on MCC had been confirmed at the previous meeting on 11 October, had met in private on 9 November to discuss the issue of co-optation and the rules laid down in the City of Edinburgh Council's Scheme for Community Councils and Model Constitution. Of the ten elected members all were present except P Gregson. After the meeting on 11 October MCC had received confirmation that the Friends of Roseburn Park, a local interest group registered with CEC, had nominated a representative, Hamish Ross. He was also present at the private meeting. The following conclusions/ decisions were reached:-

2.1 There were three properly constituted local interest groups who had previously registered with CEC and nominated a representative, but had not done so again at the recent elections. These were Murrayfield Parish Church, Donaldson Area Amenity Association and Saughtonhall Community Association.

2.2 There were two recently formed groups who were not yet formally constituted or registered with CEC. These were the Roseburn Traders and Roseburn Cycle Group.

The Chairman reported that MCC had written to the groups in both categories to encourage them to register and nominate a representative as and when appropriate. The Chairman commented that the Corstorphine traders are in the process of forming themselves into an association, but it may take them a year to meet CEC's criteria for registration. The Chairman of Corstorphine Community Council, Steve Kerr, had offered to come to an MCC meeting to speak about this process and would attend the next one on 17 January 2017.

The Chairman reported further that it had been decided at the private meeting that it was not appropriate to co-opt anyone, including former MCC member Liz Robertson, to the vacant ordinary members' seats.

The conduct of the private meeting and the decisions taken at it were in accordance with the above Scheme and Constitution.

The private meeting had also noted the retirement from MCC of Derek Huckle and Bill Amcotts and had decided that the Chairman would write to both to convey MCC's appreciation of, and thanks for, their contribution to the work of MCC. The Chairman reported that he had done so and had received a cheerful phone call from Derek Huckle, who was in better spirits and sent his regards.

The Chairman referred to the appointment at the last MCC meeting of J Forbes as Deputy Chairman and the offer by H Barbour at the private meeting to take up the post of Secretary on a three month trial basis.

The current meeting ratified the decisions taken at the private meeting and the appointments of J Forbes and H Barbour.

Prop: P Gregson; Sec: A Anderson.

3. Order of Business

This was approved subject to the addition to Item 13 of the issue of parking in Roseburn Crescent.

4. Community Policing Report

PC Sam Davison, a Ward Officer for Corstorphine and Murrayfield, reported as follows:-

4.1 There had been a similar number of reported crimes in the Murrayfield/Corstorphine area in the previous month as in the same period last year, but house breaking was down thanks to the local Special Response Units and citywide proactive patrols under Operation Rack . There had been one house breaking in Succoth Gardens and attempted break ins to a house and a shed in Garscube Terrace. PC Davison reminded the meeting that the Police are happy to carry out domestic security surveys for residents and should email

EdinburghCorstorphineMurrayfieldCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk to request a survey.

4.2 Operation Rigoletto – He was happy that the new arrangements meant he could be more responsive to the needs of the community.

4.3 The rugby international match against Australia had attracted a crowd of 61,000 spectators and that against Argentina a crowd of 50,000. There had been two reports of uriners at the Australia match and two breaches of the peace after the Argentina match.

PC Davison said that the Police attend the meetings held by the SRU with Murrayfield and Roseburn residents. He had been unable to attend the last one and asked whether there had been a good turnout. S Holland replied that there had not been a particularly good turnout and no City Councillors had been present.

4.4 The Police had run Operation Pumpkin around Hallowe'en to target youth disorder and discourage dangerous behaviour in connection with bonfires.

4.5 The Police will be carrying out more speed checks in December and targeting both "morning after" and evening drink driving during the festive season.

4.6 Inconsiderate and dangerous driving by parents at St George's and Roseburn Primary School continued to be a serious problem.

4.7 The closure of Riversdale Crescent for the flood prevention works had resulted in some cars and taxis driving on the section of pavement left open for pedestrians. At the request of the Police the contractor has now closed this area with cones.

4.8 There had been two opportunistic thefts – one of lead and the other of a handbag from the front seat of a car.

4.9 There had been no serious assaults and no hate crimes.

4.10 A woman had reported a male who had exposed himself to her in Russell Road and he had been caught shortly after the incident.

4.11 The Corstorphine area was being targeted by bogus workmen. PC Davison suggested that local residents look out for vulnerable neighbours who could become prey to such scams. He recommended the Trusted Traders scheme run by CEC and its website.

In response to a question from the Chairman PC Davison said he had no further information about the unofficial skate park near Kwik Fit on Corstorphine Road.

R Smart reported that three bicycles had been parked at the bike racks near the eastbound bus stop at Roseburn for about eight weeks. **PC Davison undertook to investigate.**

R Beavis complained that on the two recent rugby international days the Police had blocked off Russell Road at the Roseburn Bar end and this had resulted in cars doing dangerous U turns. He suggested that a better place for the road block would be near the Post Office depot. PC Davison undertook to refer this to the Police Events Planning Team.

R Beavis mentioned that the removal of the double yellow lines near the railway bridge in Russell Road had resulted in cars parking on the bend and this had caused two accidents.

P Gregson asked whether a camera could be installed near the pedestrian crossing on Roseburn Terrace where two accidents had occurred recently. PC Davison stated that camera footage is not required if there are witnesses to an accident and the number plates of the vehicles involved are noted.

PC Davison left a number of copies of a leaflet on "Urgent Security Advice". A copy of the leaflet is attached.

5. Councillors' Report

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

5.1 Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme is on target and on budget and should be completed by the end of next year. There had been some disruption but the contractor had been accommodating.

5.2 MCC's representative on the Stakeholder Group for the Roseburn – Haymarket cycle track consultation, R Smart, had circulated an update on the meeting of 24 November by email. The next meeting was to be on Thursday, 8 December (The meeting was, in fact, to be on Tuesday, 5 December) and would discuss the results of CEC's traffic modelling. Cllr Balfour intimated that he and Cllr Ross were keen for a trial to be conducted using traffic cones to assess the effect on traffic flow of Option A, but CEC's traffic engineers were of the view that such a trial would give only a partial result. Cllr Balfour had been told by Cllr Adam McVey, the Vice-Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee, that if the meeting on 5 December revealed considerable disquiet with the traffic modelling results, a trial using cones might be tried in the New Year and the decision on the Roseburn – Haymarket section of the cycle track postponed until the end of March 2017. Cllr McVey was optimistic that the sceptics could be persuaded that the track would not cause the traffic to grind to a halt.

A Anderson commented that the trial with traffic cones mentioned above would have to be done outside school holidays in order for a realistic result to be obtained.

R Smart expressed reservations about the efficacy of traffic modelling.

Cllr Balfour stated that, if the traffic modelling results were convincing, the decision on the Roseburn – Haymarket section of the cycle track could be taken by the spokespeople of the five political parties on CEC by 15 December.

In response to a question from A Anderson he confirmed that traffic flows at Roseburn had been measured by the CEC traffic engineers and that previous traffic modelling, for the trams at Haymarket, had proved accurate.

5.3 He had no information with which to confirm or deny the report in the Evening News that Murrayfield Ice Rink was to be re-developed for housing and retail use. He understood that the developer had no funds and a planning application had not yet been lodged.

R Smart added that a planning application for re—cladding of the curling rink had been lodged and was perhaps an indication that the Ice Rink did have a future.

5.4 Cllr Balfour confirmed that the SRU do plan to develop the land currently used by Edinburgh Wanderers and intend to lodge a planning application before the CEC elections next year.

5.5 CEC’s Budget will be approved on 1 April 2017. CEC is running an online survey to find out where Edinburgh residents think CEC should save money. The Scottish Government’s Budget will be published on 15 December.

5.6 The consultation on Edinburgh 2050 to ascertain what sort of city residents want by 2050 continues and covers all aspects of the city including housing, education, culture and leisure.

5.7 In his Autumn Statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, had confirmed that the City Deal remains part of the Westminster Government’s thinking. Cllr Balfour hoped that the Scottish Government’s Finance Minister would provide similar confirmation. The City Deal is for infrastructure projects and could be worth £1.5bn - £2bn over a ten year period.

In answer to a question from the Chairman as to whether a decision about new housing at Cammo had been made, Cllr Balfour stated that he did not check the lists for Cammo and, in any event, has to remain neutral on planning matters because he sits on the Planning Committee.

A number of those present commented on CEC’s failure to clear leaves from Roseburn and **Cllr Balfour** reported that the CEC cleansing department will complete this task once all the leaves have fallen. He **will let the department know of residents’ concern over this.**

Cllr Balfour confirmed that the former Spar premises on Roseburn Terrace are to be the regional office for Conservative MSPs Ruth Davidson, Miles Briggs, Gordon Lyndhurst and himself. They hope to take entry on Monday, 19 December subject to resolving the position on planning.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11 October 2016

The Minutes were approved.

Prop: S Holland; Sec: J Forbes.

P Gregson mentioned under Matters Arising that at the recent West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”) meeting Gareth Barwell, CEC’s Waste and Cleansing Manager, had undertaken to look into the possibility of a barrow man for Murrayfield.

7. Council consultations on Roseburn – Haymarket cycle track

R Smart reported on the current proposals for Options A, B1 and B2. Option A involves moving the bus stop on the north side of Roseburn Terrace to the middle of the bridge opposite the westbound bus stop, replacing the pedestrian crossing with a wider flat crossing which would enable cyclists to cross from the two way cycle track on the north side to Roseburn Gardens and thence to Roseburn Park. Option A does not include the widening of the pavements which MCC has long wanted. He was pleased that the proposal to make Roseburn Place a cul-de-sac, which in his view would have diverted 95% of the traffic past Roseburn Primary School, had been abandoned. Roseburn Place is to remain two way and no traffic is to be allowed up Roseburn Gardens.

In both Options B1 and B2 there is to be a one way cycle track on each side of Roseburn Street linking the route from the Park to Russell Road and Roseburn Terrace and traffic on Russell Road is to have priority over traffic on Roseburn Street at that junction. In answer to a question from A Anderson about traffic lights at that junction R Smart confirmed that there will be a STOP line at the end of Roseburn Street but no traffic lights. J Forbes asked what type of crossing there would be on Roseburn Street to take cyclists to Russell Road and was told that it would be a Toucan crossing. P Gregson confirmed the proposal was to reduce traffic to one lane at the Roseburn Terrace end of Roseburn Street.

R Smart was in favour of the proposal to install a pedestrian crossing at the east end of Roseburn Terrace.

There was a brief discussion on cycling in Roseburn Park, the consensus being that it posed some problems but must be allowed to continue.

A resident of Corstorphine, John Wood, spoke in favour of Option A. He stated that Option A would involve a very small loss of loading bays on the north side of Roseburn Terrace; traffic flow would not be adversely affected; it was the most direct route for cyclists and was safe; a lot of people in his community are in favour of it; a trial using traffic cones would be misleading because traffic adapts to new conditions over time.

R Smart replied that he was concerned about pedestrians, shop deliveries, buses, cyclists and cars. In his view, as 85% of travellers use buses, they are a priority. He was sceptical about claims that cycle tracks increase cycling significantly. J Wood countered that this had been the case in London.

Cllr Balfour recommended that (1) MCC make a submission to CEC the following week; (2) as many as possible attend the Stakeholder Group meeting on 5 December; and (3) MCC raise the issue of funding because Sustrans now seem to be much less inclined to provide funding and CEC does not have sufficient funds. He reminded the meeting that TROs will be required before a cycle track can be built and their promulgation is a separate process.

J Yellowlees mentioned that the Scottish Government had set up a working party to find out why some Councils have been removing cycle tracks.

P Gregson reported that the online survey "Why bike?" set up by the Roseburn Vision Group to assess how many new cyclists would be drawn into cycling into the city centre, should the track be built, had received 850 responses and he hoped for 1000. The closing date for the survey had been set for 15 December. J Wood described the survey as "laughable".

Several members of the public with experience of Copenhagen contributed to the discussion.

J Forbes made the point that the arguments for and against Options A and B had been rehearsed many times and it was time to make a decision as to

which Option MCC should support in the interests of the community it represents including the Roseburn traders.

A member of the public asked whether a decision by the five spokespeople mentioned at Item 5.2 above would be constitutional. P Gregson explained that CEC had delegated responsibility to them. He urged MCC to put forward a view on the proposals.

H Ross asked whether, if Option A prevails, it is the best version of Option A which can be achieved. R Smart thought not.

MCC was divided with regard to J Forbes's proposal for a vote at the current meeting but decided 7 to 3 in favour of such a vote. The vote itself was 7 in favour of enhanced Option B1, as amended, and one in favour of Option A. There were two abstentions.

The Secretary undertook to liaise with R Smart in writing to inform CEC of MCC's decision.

P Gregson urged as many MCC members as possible to attend the Stakeholder Group meeting on 8 December. **The Secretary undertook to write to CEC to find out the location and time of the meeting.**

8. Murrayfield 2020 Ltd proposed development at Murrayfield Ice Rink

This had already been discussed at Item 5.3.

9. Murrayfield Wanderers' proposal for Roseburn Park

The Chairman asked whether there had been any developments regarding Murrayfield Wanderers' plans for the use of Roseburn Park.

H Ross noted that there were currently three Friends of Roseburn Park (FoRP) trustees on MCC: himself, J Yellowlees and P Gregson. He said the case of Murrayfield Wanderers raised two general questions: (1) what should be the amount of park time/space given over to organised sport; (2) how should the built facilities be sensitively improved, given that they were in dire need of improvement? He recommended that MCC attend more urgently to the first of these, which was more immediate and was not subject to an obvious public process such as planning. He thought FoRP would likely aim to contact Edinburgh Leisure about how total bookings and pitch use would be discussed and agreed for this small park, as a general matter and one that related to a number of clubs. He agreed to co-ordinate with MCC should this be the case. A member of the public noted that spectator numbers were also relevant.

FoRP had attended the recent WENP meeting, where they were offered: funds to submit change of use/planning application for the old toilet block; CEC staff time/liaison with the Flood Prevention Scheme contractors to ensure that appropriate community benefit contributions to items on the Park improvement plan were secured.

A consultation on a trial scheme separating cyclists and pedestrians in the centre of the Park, where there are blind-spots caused by buildings, had recently closed and FoRP were awaiting the results from CEC. The proposed scheme included upgraded lighting.

Like MCC, FoRP had thus far unsuccessfully attempted to arrange to meet with Rick Finc Associates about the planning application notice submitted for the Ice Rink area.

10. Flood Prevention Progress

This had already been discussed. V Forbes had attended a meeting with the contractor the previous week.

11. Roseburn Action Plan

It was agreed that the Roseburn Action Plan had been halted by the cycle track proposal, but might re-emerge.

12. Planning and Licensing

12.1 R Smart reported that a number of unobjectionable domestic planning applications had been lodged.

12.2 He referred to applications for planning permission to (1) convert the former massage parlour on Roseburn Terrace into two flats, and (2) extend the cafe in Murrayfield Place into the adjoining flower shop.

A near neighbour of the flower shop informed the meeting that the café and flower shop are owned by the same man; the manager of the café has lodged the planning application; the proposal to run a larger restaurant with longer opening hours raises a number of issues regarding waste disposal, glass collections and noise. She reported that the residents of the stair at 5 Murrayfield Place will be lodging objections and would welcome support from other objectors. She was concerned that, as many of the flats in the stair are let, neighbour notifications often do not reach the owners.

S Holland confirmed that the proposed opening hours of the restaurant are 8am to midnight.

12.3 J Forbes referred again to the large earthwork in front of Donaldson's College, which partially obscures the front of the building. **R Smart** replied that it relates to the installation of an underground car park and **undertook to confirm that the earthwork is temporary.**

13. Traffic and Transport

13.1 The Secretary reported that a constituent had contacted MCC about heavy lorries using Saughtonhall Drive and that this issue should be raised with Cllr Ross at the next MCC meeting.

13.2 A Anderson complained about double parking in Roseburn Crescent. P Gregson replied that the new parking restrictions in Coltbridge have moved parking problems to Roseburn. He reported that Cllr Ross had expressed the view that Roseburn residents, who had previously been against the extension of parking restrictions to Roseburn, would soon be pressing for them.

14. SRU events calendar

The Chairman referred the meeting to the list of forthcoming events at BT Murrayfield detailed on the Agenda as follows:-

26 December 2016	Edinburgh v Glasgow	Kick off 4.05 pm
4 February 2017	Scotland v Ireland	Kick off 2.25 pm
25 February 2017	Scotland v Wales	Kick off 2.25 pm
18 March 2017	Scotland v Italy	Kick off 12.30 pm

Robbie Williams concert on 9 June 2017.

15. Any Other Competent Business

15.1 A Anderson remarked that the new advertising hoardings on Roseburn Terrace were less obtrusive than had been feared and the new landscaping

had improved the area. She felt that MCC's persistence on this issue had been worthwhile.

15.2 The Secretary reminded the meeting about the Focused Group Session on locality improvement to be held at the Drumbrae Hub on Thursday, 1 December from 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

16. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

17. Dates of 2017 MCC meetings

The Chairman referred the meeting to the list of MCC meetings in 2017 detailed on the Agenda as follows:-

17 January	15 August
7 March	10 October
2 May	5 December
27 June	

18. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 19 January 2017

Subsequent meeting: Tuesday, 7 March 2017.

Minutes approved at meeting of 19 January 2017.

for approval