

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 30 July 2013 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and extended a special welcome to Marco Biagi MSP.

R Brown offered apologies for the failure to provide copies of the Agenda and draft Minutes of the previous meeting for those in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

In the absence of a Police representative this could not be delivered. It was noted with regret that this was the second meeting at which there had been no Police representative and it was decided that **the Chairman should contact the local Chief Inspector to enquire whether the regular provision of a Community Policing Report could be resumed.**

4. Marco Biagi MSP

Marco Biagi MSP reported on two issues:-

4.1 The Scottish Government funding of the Flood Prevention Scheme ("FPS"), the shortfall in funding for the implementation of Phase 2 of the FPS and the agreement with the Association of British Insurers ("ABI") - He explained that the funding for the Flood Prevention Scheme provided by the Scottish Government in 2008, and ring fenced for that purpose, had later lost its ring fencing, but had in fact been spent on flood prevention. He had met two successive Environment Ministers with a view to agreeing a deal between the Scottish Government and COSLA which would allow the City of Edinburgh Council ("CEC") to apply for further funding. COSLA, however, were under pressure to allow funding for only new schemes and Phase 2 of the FPS did not, therefore, qualify. In June the Government and COSLA set out their policy for 2015 to 2018 and it does not look favourable to CEC.

He reported that the details of the agreement recently reached with ABI in relation to the insurance of properties in flooding zones have still to be worked out with regard to Scotland, but the owners of all such properties should be able to get reasonably priced insurance.

A member of the public intimated that Cllr Lesley Hinds had said that the sizeable overspend on Phase 1 of the FPS arose from the fact that that part of the project had been over engineered and she asked why. M Biagi conceded that the final cost of Phase 1 of £23m was twice the original estimate, but he was not aware of any over engineering – the original intention was that the whole FPS would provide protection against the severity of flooding which might occur only once in 200 years.

Cllr Ross reminded the meeting that, although the Stockbridge section of the FPS is usually referred to as Phase 1, the first element was in fact the work done at the reservoirs to control the flow of water higher up the river. He advised that unexpectedly difficult ground conditions had contributed to the overspend on Phase 1. He too was not aware of any over engineering. He informed the meeting that the sum of £26.5m is available for Phase 2 and a newly formed Working Group, which includes the three local Councillors, will be assessing the various options for implementing Phase 2 to balance the aims of the FPS with the available budget. He conceded that it might not be possible to reach the “once in 200 years” standard for Phase 2. Cllr Edie confirmed that the Group’s top priority will be the protection of homes.

R Smart considered that the protection demanded by the SRU for their property was excessive given its location in the flood plain. Cllr Balfour stated that the SRU had taken CEC to court over this matter and that the court had decided that the SRU property is not in the flood plain and is entitled to the same protection as other properties.

Cllrs Ross and Balfour agreed that they should be in a position to update MCC on progress re Phase 2 at the MCC meeting on 29 October.

The same member of the public, who had raised the question of over engineering of Phase 1, advised the meeting that in researching alternative insurers for her property she had discovered that some insurers treat all properties in EH12 as uninsurable and pay no attention to individual locations. M Biagi thought that the new deal with ABI would make the issue of insurance more certain for home owners. He advised that all insurance companies have access to a map produced by SEPA which identifies all properties actually at risk from flooding and there should be no need for a blanket ban on insuring properties in EH12.

4.2 The Paradise Sauna at Roseburn – M Biagi reported that he would be having one of his regular meetings with the Police Commander of E Division shortly and would raise the issue surrounding this sauna. Cllr Balfour explained that there are 13 saunas licensed by CEC in Edinburgh. The Police raided all 13 a few weeks ago and found that there were issues with 6 (including the Paradise Sauna), whose licences have been revoked. The operators have 28 days in which to appeal and, if an appeal is lodged, it will go to the Sheriff Principal for decision. The operators can continue to trade during this time. Cllr Balfour had met the new Head of Police and thought that the raids had resulted from a change in local policy following the amalgamation of the local Forces to form Police Scotland and the adoption of a stricter overall policy.

V Forbes and other Community Councillors felt that the Paradise Sauna had operated unobtrusively for many years without causing any real problems locally. W Amcotts was in favour of its removal and urged MCC to take this line. It was thought from her comments at previous meetings that E Robertson (currently absent) shared his view. It was decided that the issue would be kept under review, but no action would be taken meantime.

5. Councillors' Report

Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

5.1 The improvements to the pavements in Roseburn Terrace are under way. V Forbes pointed out that although the pavement at the corner of the Murrayfield Bar is much improved, the approach from Roseburn Gardens now has a hump where it used to be level.

5.2 The junction of Ravelston Dykes and Murrayfield Road is being re-surfaced.

5.3 A beech tree in Roseburn Park, which had developed a significant vertical crack, has been removed.

5.4 Murrayfield Ice Rink has been "B" listed by Historic Scotland. In answer to a question from a member of the public, he stated that he believes the owners plan to keep the asbestos roof and clad it.

Cllr Edie reported as follows:-

5.5 There remains a problem with bins not being emptied.

A member of the public intimated that she had been waiting for 12 weeks for a replacement lid for her green bin. **Cllr Edie undertook to chase this up for her.**

D Huckle reported several incidents of fly tipping of cardboard, paper and bottles in bins along Corstorphine Road.

The Chairman suggested asking someone from the Cleansing Department to attend the next MCC meeting, but Cllr Edie recommended allowing time for these issues to be resolved.

In a brief discussion on the need for a number of local streets to be weeded Cllr Ross pointed out that the CEC website contains a section asking for suggestions for the deployment of Community Service participants and he suggested that they could be proposed for this purpose. V Forbes of the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FORP") informed the meeting that she had arranged for the railings in Roseburn Park to be painted by Community Service participants.

In response to a question from W Spence about Stenhouse Community Bowling Green at Balgreen, Cllr Ross informed him that, following the consultation on CEC outdoor bowling greens, in which the Balgreen bowlers had taken part, those sites with more than one green are likely to lose one green. He understood that green "D" behind the clubhouse at Balgreen would go. Cllr Balfour understood that it was to be converted to allotments.

The Councillors understood that the area at Balgreen, which had been used as a contractor compound during the tram works, would be used for the same purpose during the construction of Phase 2 of the FPS.

G McLeod complained that the graffiti which had been daubed on the speed camera at Western Corner had not yet been removed and **Cllr Balfour undertook to chase this up.**

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 25 June 2013

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

7. Matters Arising

7.1. *Flood prevention*

This had already been dealt with.

7.2. *West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership*

The Chairman reminded the meeting that G McLeod had told the last MCC meeting about WENP funding which was available for improvements to roads, pavements and lighting and suggestions were requested as to how this funding could be used. G McLeod informed the meeting that one item which would receive WENP funding was the removal of redundant street furniture, but it was not known when this would be done. R Smart referred to the interest expressed by E Robertson at the last meeting in improved access to Corstorphine Hill from Ravelston Dykes and he suggested that a pedestrian crossing at the corner of Ravelston Dykes Road was the only feasible solution. J Forbes of Kinellan Road presented three proposals for improving pedestrian safety in Ellersly Road:- (1) a crossing point with a central island midway along the east-west section of Ellersly Road, (2) repair of the pavements on the north side of Ellersly Road west of Kinellan Road and adjacent to the grassed reservation in the middle of the north-south section of Ellersly Road and (3) further parking restrictions on the east-west section – he considered that these would be particularly important if proposal (1) were not implemented. P Sizeland supported J Forbes's proposals.

Cllr Balfour informed the meeting that a CEC survey had shown that the number of pedestrians using Ellersly Road was small and there had been no recorded accident in the last three years. He recommended that the proposal most likely to meet with success was proposal (2). It was decided that **G McLeod should write on behalf of MCC to put this proposal to Dave Sinclair of WENP and send a copy of his letter to the three Councillors. They undertook to send letters of support.**

Cllr Ross suggested that the 20 mph zone might be extended to Ellersly Road. M Biagi asked whether that would automatically involve traffic calming measures and was told by Cllr Edie that it would not.

J Forbes pointed out that the closure of the junction between Ravelston Dykes and the top of Murrayfield Road had resulted in the diversion of traffic via Campbell, Cumlodden and Lennel Avenues where, in contrast to Ellersly Road, full parking restrictions and one way traffic now applied.

7.3. *Signs at Prego Store and St George's School*

G McLeod reported that the Prego Store had been painted, but the wooden frame for the sign, which had been removed, was still there.

R Smart reported that, prior to writing the letter with which he had been tasked at the previous meeting, he had paid a site visit to St George's School and had concluded that the large sign at the entrance, about which E Robertson had complained, was not in fact obtrusive. He considered that the new Primary Department fences did not unduly impede the "right of way" between Garscube Terrace and Crarae Avenue and nor did the gate at the end of Crarae Avenue, which was not usually locked. He had concluded that no action was necessary.

It was decided that the planning application for vehicular access at 4 Henderland Road, which E Robertson had raised with the Chairman by email prior to the meeting, be held over to the next MCC meeting when further information might be available.

8. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported that he had looked at 7 small domestic planning applications, none of which required comment.

The Chairman pointed out that there were a number of consultations ongoing or anticipated. S Holland recommended individual responses to these, given the difficulty for MCC in trying to represent every view. Cllr Edie suggested “cherry picking” the issues which have a significant impact on the local community and M Biagi endorsed the value of bringing attention to these issues even where is no consensus.

Cllr Balfour urged MCC to respond to the consultation on CEC’s draft Licensing Policy Statement and highlighted the issues of overprovision, licensing hours and policing.

Cllr Edie considered that, while the concerts at Murrayfield Stadium had caused problems, the clean ups afterwards had been handled well. He was in favour of extending the hours for licensed premises to provide tables and chairs on pavement areas. S Holland explained that the Licensing Board’s current policy provides for a terminal hour of 10pm and the current consultation refers to the possibility of extending this to midnight.

9. Traffic and Transport

R Smart commented on the profusion and placing (mid pavement) at Haymarket of the poles for the trams.

Cllr Balfour informed the meeting that Shandwick Place is to re-open at the end of August and information regarding the running and pricing of the tram service should be available by mid September.

S Holland reported that work is to be carried out in Russell Road for 4 weeks resulting in temporary traffic lights and a ban on parking.

A member of the public asked why the stairway at the tram stop at Murrayfield Stadium is lit all night and was told by Cllr Edie that it is probably linked to the street lighting.

D Huckle expressed concern about the recent marked increase in parking on Corstorphine Road by visitors to the Zoo, which had been causing traffic jams as far as Western Corner.

10. Reports

G McLeod reported that there had been no meeting of WENP since the last MCC meeting.

G Douglas reported as follows:-

10.1 He had attended a meeting of the West Community Safety Forum on 12 July. He explained that the Forum covers the MCC area and the Drum Brae and Gyle areas. The meeting was told about the success of Police Scotland’s Operation Cypher which enabled the Police and Environmental Wardens to do more work in plain clothes. G Douglas indicated that this mode of operation had originated in Glasgow. He reported that he had raised the issues of (1) dog fouling in Roseburn Park, (2) cycling on pavements and (3) housebreaking.

10.2 There had been no change re Donaldson’s Hospital – Savills had recently confirmed that there was interest in the property, but nothing had been finalised.

10.3 The planning application for the vacant site at 8 Kew Terrace, which was to have been decided under delegated powers, was now to go to the Planning Committee on 28 August, because of the level of interest which it had generated. The Planning Officer had recommended it for refusal, but the

design team were fairly confident that the Committee would approve it.

11. Correspondence

S Holland reported that he had received an email from a resident complaining that the new wider pavement at the corner of Belmont Gardens and Ellersly Road had been damaged by vehicles connected with the Cocoa Bean café and the Edinburgh Printing business being parked on the pavement. **G McLeod** commented that he thought such parking occurred for only very short periods of time. He **undertook to check the situation and report back**. Cllr Edie advised that such an issue could be reported to the West Neighbourhood Team.

S Holland had also received a complaint from 32 Murrayfield Road that a lamp post shield was lying on the pavement. Cllr Balfour thought that this problem had been fixed.

12. Any Other Competent Business

V Forbes gave notice that FORP are holding a Fun Day in Roseburn Park on Sunday, 1 September. Sainsbury's had offered to send staff to help at the event and Mr Mutch of Sainsbury's was to attend the FORP meeting on 8 August. Saughtonhall Community Association had offered to lend their gazebos.

13. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 10 September 2013 at 8pm in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

Subsequent meetings: 29 October and 3 December 2013.

Minutes approved at meeting of 10 September 2013.