

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 9 September 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, E Robertson, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 11 members of the public,
Apologies: G McLeod, P Sizeland, W Spence, 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, subject to the omission of Item 3.

3. Community Policing Report

This item was omitted, there being no Police representative present.

4. Councillors' Reports

4.1 Cllr Ross reported that he was to have a meeting with the SRU regarding the suggestion from a member of the public (raised in an email to the Chairman) that opening the path at the eastern side of Murrayfield Stadium (now BT Murrayfield) to the public would improve access for Murrayfield residents to the tram stop opposite the Stadium.

4.2 Cllr Edie reported that, after an initial refusal, planning consent had been granted for the demolition of the house at 44 Murrayfield Road, on the corner of Murrayfield Road and Ravelston Dykes, and the erection of a block of flats. He confirmed that the new entrance would be directly opposite the entrance to Murrayfield Golf Club. There was general agreement that this development would set an undesirable precedent.

4.3 Cllr Balfour reported that he and the Chairman had both attended the meeting of the Flood Prevention Stakeholder Engagement Group on 26 August. A report on Phase 2 of the Scheme is to go to the Finance and Resources Committee and, if passed by that Committee, will be considered by a meeting of the full Council at the end of September. The planning application is now in and the work should go out to tender early next year. Cllr Balfour confirmed that the Council has now found the full amount of £24.5m required to carry out the work.

He expressed the caveat that, as far as he is aware, the SRU does not object to the current proposal, but has not given its express consent. He reminded the meeting that the SRU's co-operation is necessary if Phase 2 is to proceed.

V Forbes confirmed that there have been objections to the proposal to move the play park to the other side of Roseburn Park.

4.5 Cllr Ross reported that he had enquired about the continuing closure of a section of the Water of Leith walkway following a landslip two years ago.

The Council could stabilise the slope, which is still moving, but the top

part is in private ownership and the owner has not yet given permission for the work to be carried out. A member of the public suggested that the Council could use emergency powers to by-pass the lack of owner's consent, but was told by Cllr Ross that such use of emergency powers would be open to challenge.

G Douglas suggested that, as the relevant section of the walkway is within the area of the West End Community Council, that Community Council should be exerting equal pressure to get the situation resolved.

4.6 Cllr Edie reported that the results of the latest consultation on the proposed extension of the controlled parking zone are being analysed. More than 250 responses have been received. A draft report should be available in 6-8 weeks and it is hoped that there will be a conclusive result so that a recommendation can be put to the January meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee. If the proposal reaches the stage of a Traffic Regulation Order, a further statutory consultation on the Order will be required.

4.7 In response to a question from the Chairman, Cllr Balfour confirmed that the Transport and Environment Committee has agreed to a trial of standardised bus lane restrictions across the city. All-day restrictions are to be scrapped and all bus lanes are to be operational from 7.30am to 9.30am and from 4pm to 6.30pm. Motorbikes are to be allowed to use bus lanes throughout the day.

4.8 Cllr Ross referred the meeting to the public consultation on the proposal to extend the 20mph speed limits within the city. There is a map on the Council's website showing the roads affected. Both he and Cllr Edie stressed that the proposal covers a number of significant routes and expressed the view that the 20mph speed limit should not be extended to main arterial routes. They urged participation in the consultation before the deadline of 17 October.

4.9 Cllr Ross had attended a recent meeting of West Edinburgh Group Against Racial Abuse and Hatred (WEGARAH) and reported that, although west Edinburgh has a low incident rate compared with other parts of the city, there had been an increase in incidents of racial abuse every month for 5 months and the 10 recorded for July was the highest in 15 months. He reported that there is also a high prosecution rate. The point was made that bail is not available to a person charged with a racially aggravated assault.

S Holland reminded Cllr Ross that he had said at a previous meeting that, once the trams were running, a bus shelter would be provided outside Haymarket Station. **Cllr Ross undertook to speak to the Chief Executive of Transport for Edinburgh about the lack of a bus shelter.** A member of the public requested bus shelters in Shandwick Place and was told by Cllr Balfour that there have never been any there, because the pavements are too narrow.

Another member of the public asked whether the bye-law prohibiting begging in the city could be reinstated. Cllr Edie could not remember there ever having been such a bye-law. Cllr Ross confirmed that there are no plans to change the law, but the Police can intervene in cases of begging with menace and also have expertise in dealing with organised crime, if organised begging by a gang is suspected. Cllr Ross suggested raising this point with the Community Safety Officer at the next MCC meeting. Cllr Balfour informed the meeting that the advice from Ark and the Bethany Trust is not to give to beggars in the street, but to donate to the charities for the homeless.

A member of the public complained that the proliferation of "A" boards on Roseburn Terrace is a danger to disabled pedestrians and those who use a stick or zimmer. S Holland reported that the bins posed a similar problem,

which had been addressed in the Roseburn Action Plan. Cllr Ross thought that local businesses needed to be reminded of their obligation to store their bins on their premises when not awaiting collection. **Cllr Balfour undertook to take up a complaint about the Roseburn Bar's "A" boards with the Licensing Board.**

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 29 July 2014

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: V Forbes.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. *Roseburn Advertising Hoardings Planning Application*

R Smart confirmed that he had submitted comments on this application on behalf of MCC and that G Douglas had also submitted more detailed comments on behalf of Donaldson Area Amenity Association. He went on to discuss the possibility of developing the hoardings site for housing and displayed preliminary drawings of a proposed development prepared by a local architect. R Smart stated that development would only be possible if the site were brought down to the level of Roseburn Terrace. G Douglas commented that the housing proposal would not prevent the construction of a tram stop at Wester Coates, were the tram network to be extended, as originally planned, in future. A member of the public expressed the view that he would prefer advertising hoardings to houses. Cllr Balfour confirmed that public opinion on the hoardings was split 50:50. A decision on the planning application will be made in the next 2-3 weeks. He also confirmed that the Council has no plans to sell the site and, if advertisement consent is granted, it will effectively last for 15 years.

6.2. *Roseburn Action Plan*

The Chairman reported that the Coltbridge Canter plaque, which had been organised and paid for by MCC, had been installed on the Old Bridge on 15 August. The mock-up had been given to Andrew Crummy as a gesture of thanks for his willingness to allow use of the image from the Prestonpans Tapestry.

The Chairman reported further that a local resident and a number of MCC members had met Darren Wraight, Roads Manager, West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP"), at Roseburn Old Bridge on 18 August to discuss improvements to the Old Bridge. Since then the overgrown ivy had been cut back. It was hoped that the smaller items of improvement which had been requested, such as repaving, restoring the setts, installing new bollards and tidying up the bins, could be done by WENP sooner rather than later. Disappointment was expressed by the local resident concerned, the Chairman and S Holland at the absence from the MCC meeting of a representative of WENP. **The Chairman requested that a copy of the Minutes be sent to WENP.**

R Smart's suggestions that a good landscape architect/designer should be involved in the project and a weekly farmers' market introduced met with some resistance. There was a brief discussion about whether new bollards, large planters or trees would be the best option to delineate both ends of the Old Bridge. There was universal agreement that the siting of the large bins and the fact that they overflow regularly were urgent problems.

The Chairman undertook to invite Henry Coyle of WENP to the next MCC meeting.

6.3. *Floor Prevention Stakeholder Engagement Group*

This had been dealt with at Item 4.3.

6.4. *New Waste Strategy*

It was agreed that someone from the Council should be asked to speak about this at the next MCC meeting.

6.5. *Corstorphine Hill pedestrian access*

R Smart reported that Murrayfield Golf Club had turned down MCC's request that the Club permit the construction of a path inside the Club's ground which would permit safer pedestrian access to Corstorphine Hill. The reasons given were public safety and a desire to prevent people and dogs from wandering over the golf course. E Robertson suggested that the type of high thin green fencing used by some schools could be employed to protect the public from errant golf balls. J Forbes suggested reverting to the original proposal for a pedestrian crossing at the corner of Ravelston Dykes Road opposite the foot of the Corstorphine Hill path. E Robertson suggested that MCC request the Councillors to ask the Roads Department to look into this again. S Holland suggested involving Darren Wraight in this proposal.

6.6. *20mph speed limit consultation*

This had been dealt with at Item 4.8.

7. Planning and Licensing

7.1 The Chairman reported that construction had begun on the vacant Kew Terrace site. R Smart reminded the meeting that the developer requires an amendment to the planning permission, which does not permit retail use, to enable the ground floor premises to be let to a kitchen company.

7.2 R Smart reported that he had looked at 8-10 small domestic planning applications, none of which gave cause for concern.

In response to a question from J Forbes, who had noticed a "Development Site for Sale" sign at the former Capability Scotland property in Ellersly Road, R Smart confirmed that some of the buildings on the site are listed.

7.3 The Chairman noted that the former off-licence premises in Roseburn Terrace are to be an additional office of Clancy's estate agency.

7.4 R Brown reported an email communication from P Sizeland to the effect that there had been further objections to the planning application for a sizeable dwelling house at the junction of Ellersly Road and Belmont Drive.

7.5 R Smart reported that the planning application for a run-in at 1 Abinger Gardens was expected to be refused.

8. Traffic and Transport

D Huckle complained about the dangerous behaviour of significant numbers of cyclists. G Douglas and a member of the public lamented the widespread absence of bells on bicycles. S Holland thought that the Police are reluctant to use their powers to impose on-the-spot fines. G Douglas suggested writing to cycling organisations to emphasise the importance of both bells and helmets.

The Chairman undertook to invite a representative of Spokes to the next MCC meeting.

9. Western Corner MCC Noticeboard

D Huckle reported that the manager of the Prego store is not happy about hosting the MCC noticeboard. It was agreed that the current position of the board is not ideal and D Huckle expressed doubts about how well used it is. It was agreed that a board should be maintained there for the time being. D Huckle informed the meeting that Baillie Signs, who had supplied the board, had estimated the cost of repairing the recent vandalism damage at £288 including VAT. The meeting authorised the repair.

D Huckle expressed the view that some eye-catching artwork would make the board more visible and attractive. Other members felt that the function of the board was to publicise the work of MCC and be informative regarding local events and matters of local concern. J Forbes suggested re-siting the notice board close to one of the bus stops at Western Corner. It was felt that the wall adjoining the bus stop on the north side of the main road would be the more suitable location. **J Yellowlees undertook to pursue this suggestion with the Council.**

10. Youth representative

E Robertson suggested that Craigmount or Tynecastle High School could be asked to nominate a youth representative to MCC. Murrayfield Parish Church was also suggested. It was agreed that this matter be carried over to the next meeting.

11. Reports

V Forbes reported that the Roseburn Park Fun Day on 31 August had been a success. The event had been opened by Sarah Boyack MSP, the raffle had been drawn by Cllrs Balfour and Edie and the weather had been beautiful.

12. Correspondence

The Chairman confirmed receipt of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association newsletter.

S Holland commended to the meeting the Cockburn Association's Doors Open Days, which are to take place on Saturday, 27 and Sunday, 28 September.

E Robertson reported that she had received notice of a Volunteer Recruitment Day to be held at St Paul's and St George's, York Place on Wednesday, 24 September between 11am and 7pm. 50 voluntary organisations will be represented.

13. Feedback on MCC website

The Chairman expressed gratitude to Hamish Ross for maintaining an informative and interesting website for MCC.

14. Any Other Competent Business

A member of the public asked for suggestions of a local hall which she could hire for a family party. Various people suggested the Masonic Hall at Roseburn, Saughtonhall Community Association Hall, Murrayfield Parish Church Hall and Bible House (contact Ian Lawson).

15. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 28 October 2014

Subsequent meeting: 2 December 2014.

Minutes approved at meeting of 28 October 2014.