

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 7 March 2017 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour (Secretary), R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes,
P Gregson, S Holland, R Smart, M Stevens, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 10 members of the public, PC Julian Peukert,
Apologies: Norma Macdonald, H Ross, D Whitelaw, Cllr Balfour, 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.

2. Progress towards representation of properly constituted local interest groups

H Whaley reported that the Roseburn Cycle Group will have been constituted for one year by the end of March and will then register with the City Council as a local interest group.

There was no update on the progress of the Roseburn Traders in the absence of anyone from that group.

3. Order of Business

This was approved. Cllrs Edie and Ross indicated that they would have to leave the meeting by 8.30 pm.

4. Community Policing Report

PC Julian Peukert, a Community Police Officer based at Corstorphine Police Station, told the meeting that he was endeavouring to attend all MCC meetings to ensure continuity of Police representation and had changed his shifts in order to be present. He reported that in the period from 17 January 2017 there had been 140 reported incidents, of which 24 had become recorded crimes. This represented a significant drop from the 51 recorded crimes in the previous period. Five of the 24 crimes had been solved and enquiries are ongoing regarding the others. The Police are continuing with Operation RAC patrols and he and his fellow Community Police officers are carrying out foot patrols locally as and when they can.

There had been two domestic house breaking incidents, one of which had been solved and the two male offenders reported to the Procurator Fiscal. They had stolen the keys to a high value Audi, which had been found burnt out in Granton. The keys to a high value Land Rover had also been stolen from a house which was thought not to have been locked. The car had a tracker and had been recovered.

There had been no break ins to business premises.

A break in to a house in Kingsburgh Road, which was undergoing renovation, was believed to have been by a rough sleeper, as no items were stolen.

One prolific house breaker had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for 50 crimes, 26 of which he admitted, and had been given a two year custodial sentence. As he had previously been in prison for assault and had been given early release, a further 150 days had been added to his custodial sentence.

There had been one assault on an inebriated male in Corstorphine Road/Belmont Crescent in the early hours of the morning and his bag had been stolen.

A set of golf clubs had been stolen from an insecure garage in Ravelston Dykes.

The Police have been carrying out school patrol checks and giving road safety talks to schools.

The Police are investigating the theft of bikes in Roseburn Terrace and Coltbridge Avenue and car number plates in Garscube Terrace and Kingsburgh Road. An ipod had been stolen from an unlocked car and tools from an unlocked van.

A workman at BT Murrayfield had stolen two boxes of champagne, but had been caught on CCTV and apprehended.

There had been two incidents under the Misuse of Drugs Act and two incidents of vandalism - to a patio door in Roseburn Maltings and a vehicle parked on the pavement in Roseburn Street.

A number of stolen items had been found at Cauldron's Weir in the Water of Leith - a drawer containing photos and jewellery from a house in Linlithgow, which had been returned to the owner, and a pillowcase of jewellery.

PC Peukert reported that he had contacted the City Council regarding parked bikes, such as those at the bike rack near the eastbound bus stop at Roseburn, which had not been moved for some time. The City Council had informed him that, if the bikes were on City Council property and were clearly dilapidated, the City Council would put a sticker on them alerting the owners to the fact that the City Council would remove them if they were still there after 7 days. The Chairman reported that there is now only one bike at Roseburn and it is damaged. PC Peukert replied that the Police had made enquiries about the three bikes, but no information had been forthcoming.

He confirmed that, if vehicles legally parked on a public road are in order and properly registered, the Police have no authority to move them.

In reply to a question from the Chairman PC Peukert confirmed that the Police Newsletter should be reinstated after April 2017.

PC Peukert reported that the Police had held a surgery at the Gyle Shopping Centre in February which had been very successful and would be repeated. They had also held a crime prevention event at Craigmount School which had been well attended. He suggested that the Police organise a similar event at Murrayfield Parish Church Centre.

The Chairman asked about the incident on 7 January in which the bench on Roseburn Bridge, the railings on Roseburn Terrace and the Murrayfield Bar had been damaged by a vehicle. **PC Peukert** replied that the Police Constable investigating this incident is not currently on duty, but he **would provide an update to the next MCC meeting.**

R Beavis asked whether there was a system for carrying out foot patrols. He was told that the Community Police Officers each have designated areas and carry out foot patrols as often as they can when other work permits.

The Secretary commented that she had observed policing arrangements at two recent major football matches. In one case there had been hardly any visible Police presence and at the other match there had been a huge Police presence.

She asked who was responsible for deciding the level of policing and was

told by PC Peukert that matches are graded according to intelligence received by the Police and policed accordingly.

The Secretary also asked who makes decisions on changes to traffic lights and filters and was told that the Roads Police do.

A Anderson, a resident of Coltbridge Terrace, commented that taxis are the worst offenders with regard to dangerous parking around St George's School. PC Peukert agreed that taxis are often guilty of parking contraventions.

M Stevens asked why there had been a drop in crime from the previous period and whether the same drop had occurred last year. PC Peukert said he did not have figures for the previous year. He pointed out that one offender can be charged with a number of crimes and these are all logged separately. Cllr Edie advised that it is usual to average crime statistics over a three year period.

5. Date of Hustings for City Council election

The Chairman informed the meeting that MCC will hold a hustings event to be chaired by the Reverend Keith Graham in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre on Tuesday, 25 April 2017 at 7pm. Unfortunately this will clash with the AGM of Donaldson Area Amenity Association.

6. Councillors' Report

Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

6.1 City Council officers have begun the monitoring of traffic, in particular heavy lorries, on Saughtonhall Drive and some results might be available for the next MCC meeting. In response to a question from J Forbes he confirmed that the location of vibrations reported by a resident is being investigated. J Forbes intimated that Ellersly Road is also affected by the same increase in traffic including heavy vehicles.

6.2 The City Council passed its Budget for 2017/18 on 9 February. It includes the first Council Tax rise in 10 years. The City Council had received an additional £10m of funding from the Scottish Government a week before the Budget and had had to make some adjustments. The City Council is now working on the detail of the Budget.

6.3 He had attended a meeting on the Flood Prevention Scheme, Phase 2 and reported that the work was going well and would be finished in October 2017 in line with the original timescale. V Forbes and P Gregson suggested that the original timescale had proposed completion by the end of June 2017.

6.4 The City Council is orchestrating a big push on voter registration, particularly targeting 16-18 year olds, ahead of the City Council election on 4 May 2017. The deadline for registration is 17 April.

6.5 H Ross had emailed him to ask the current position on Murrayfield Wanderers' proposals for Roseburn Park. **Cllr Ross undertook to update MCC by reply to H Ross.**

6.6 Work to install a shelter at the westbound bus stop for the 12, 26 and 31 services at Haymarket will start on Monday, 10 March.

6.7 The redevelopment of the St James Centre will involve the closure of Leith Street for the replacement of gas and water mains and the relaying of the road surface. The decision to be made is whether to close Leith Street completely for 42 weeks or close it completely for 16 weeks and partially for 60 weeks. Lothian Buses prefer the former option.

Cllr Edie reported as follows:-

6.8 The independent report into the problems which caused the temporary closure of a number of City schools last year had been published on 9 February and had found that the bricklayers had installed insufficient tags in the wall cladding. [There had been no ideological failures.]

6.9 The Fire Service and Police have plans out for consultation.

The Chairman raised the proposal by the City Council to change garden refuse collections to three weekly throughout the year. Cllr Ross explained that the change from twice weekly to monthly collections over the winter always causes confusion. A regular three weekly collection would avoid this and allow efficiencies to be made.

Cllr Ross had no information about the resiting of the glass recycling bins in Roseburn Gardens and Roseburn Drive which had been requested.

The Secretary commented that on International match days, although the Rapid Response Team was in evidence, there appeared to be no plan for emptying the refuse bins to co-ordinate with the timing of the matches.

R Beavis added that for major events at BT Murrayfield there were never enough temporary waste bins or toilets. He suggested that either the City Council or the SRU should pay for these to be provided in sufficient numbers. Cllr Ross was of the view that the SRU should pay and, as they are now required to apply for drinks licences for these events, there was some leverage to be exercised regarding the provision of toilets.

The Chairman suggested inviting the SRU to an MCC meeting.

S Holland undertook to raise the issue at the next residents' meeting with the SRU on 14 March.

A Anderson complained that the communal food waste bin on Roseburn Old Bridge is not emptied frequently enough. S Holland complained that the food waste collection at Roseburn Maltings is unreliable. Cllr Ross admitted that there are faults with the service.

J Forbes reported that he had seen a barrowman working in the West End and in Corstorphine. Cllr Edie suggested renewing the request for a barrowman for Roseburn after the City Council election.

In response to a question from H Whaley about the muddy condition of the "cut through" at the top of Ormidale Terrace R Smart informed him that it is private property, as is the one at the top of Murrayfield Gardens, which MCC had tried without success to take over and improve.

7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 17 January 2017

These were approved. Prop: R Beavis, Sec: R Smart.

8. Matters Arising

8.1. *City Council Officer*

The Chairman expressed the wish that MCC be once again supported regularly by a City Council officer such as Mags Laing, who had assisted with the Roseburn Action Plan. Cllr Ross suggested inviting the Locality Manager to the first MCC meeting after the City Council election.

8.2. *Graffiti on Roseburn Park toilet block*

Cllr Ross confirmed that the City Council will only remove graffiti which is considered to be offensive. P Gregson reported that the

Friends of Roseburn Park (“FORP”) intend to remove the graffiti from the toilet block themselves.

J Forbes asked whether the City Council would encourage private citizens to remove inoffensive graffiti from Council property. **Cllr Ross undertook to enquire.**

9. MCC response to City Council decision on Roseburn – Haymarket cycle track

The Secretary reported that Sustrans had replied to the point which she had made on behalf of MCC that Sustrans had influenced the decision in favour of Option A by indicating prior to the decision that their funding might not be available unless the decision were in favour of Option A. Sustrans felt that they had consistently made their criteria clear and had participated in a fair and balanced process.

The Secretary expressed the view that MCC should concentrate its efforts on becoming involved in the design process and roll out of the project and in monitoring the success of the track in the first year.

Cllr Ross reminded the meeting that the Traffic Regulation Order (“TRO”) process, which would take 12-18 months, was an opportunity to influence the design and that monitoring should cover the improvements to the public realm which had been promised.

The Chairman was in favour of engaging constructively in the cycle track project.

R Smart again expressed his dissatisfaction with parts of the design of Option A. He reported that he had not yet fully implemented the actions highlighted at Item 7 of the Minutes of the meeting of 17 January 2017.

J Forbes urged MCC to stop fighting a battle which had already been lost and focus on achieving the best result possible from the project.

A Anderson referred to the proposed closure of the slip road at Murrayfield Place, which will force traffic from Coltbridge Terrace into Murrayfield Avenue in order to access the main road. She anticipated severe congestion and asked whether traffic monitoring will be carried out before the TRO stage is reached. Cllr Ross replied that monitoring has already taken place.

The Chairman referred to a recent article in the Evening News stating that a “mini-Holland” approach to reduce car domination between Roseburn and Edinburgh Park/The Gyle is one of the City Council’s two bids to the Community Links PLUS Award. H Whaley explained that the Gyle area is heavily used by cars, but there is space to include provision for cycling and walking. The City Council’s project proposes to transform the west of Edinburgh into a Dutch-inspired cycle and pedestrian friendly neighbourhood by creating a direct cycling and walking route from Roseburn to Edinburgh Park. The route would include the Napier University and Heriot Watt campuses, the Gyle shopping centre, the business park, new housing developments at East Craigs and Cammo and existing communities to the west. H Whaley explained that the PLUS Award guarantees funding for future years rather than for just one year at a time.

In relation to the Roseburn to Haymarket cycle track P Gregson asked by what criteria the success of Option A would be measured. Cllr Ross was of the view that measures of success are irrelevant, because once installed the cycle track would not be removed, but if criteria were required, they were to be found in the Report to the City Council. Cllr Edie suggested that such matters as improvements to parking and the effect on the shops should be considered and, **as Cllr Aldridge had proposed monitoring the success of the track, he should be asked about criteria. Cllr Ross undertook to do so.**

Cllr Ross confirmed that he would attend the next MCC meeting on 2 May, two days before the City Council election. Cllr Edie, who is not standing for re-election, intimated that he would not attend. He thanked MCC for its help and support throughout his time as a City Councillor. He paid tribute to the voluntary leaders of the local communities whom he had encountered during his involvement with Community Councils since 1990. The Chairman thanked Cllr Edie for his patience and hard work. He had heard Cllr Edie described by his officials as “difficult and demanding”, which the Chairman felt was exactly what Cllr Edie should be.

Cllrs Edie and Ross left the meeting.

10. Murrayfield 2020 Ltd’s proposed development - outcome of meeting with FORP on 1 March 2017

P Gregson reported that David Coutts of Murrayfield 2020 Ltd had failed to attend the meeting with FORP scheduled for 1 March. It was difficult to get any information from him.

11. Other Roseburn Park issues

The Chairman declared his interest as a Board member of FORP.

P Gregson reported as follows:-

11.1 FORP had set aside an oak tree which had been felled during the flood prevention works and wished to have it carved into a bench for the Park. The bench would be located either beside the chess table or the new play park. A company called Four Seasons had quoted £2,500 for the work, but he thought the cost could be brought down to £2000. FORP are considering applying to Scotrail and Scotmid for funding, but did not expect to get the full amount. After some discussion the meeting decided to offer FORP £1000 towards the cost of the bench in the hope that this contribution would encourage Scotrail or Scotmid to fund the balance. P Gregson expected to have a decision on funding by the end of April 2017.

R Smart advised the meeting that the 3 rules for a successful bench are: facing the sun, facing the action and covering the back. He also recommended including the price of a plaque in the costing. P Gregson said that the cost of an aluminium plaque would not exceed £50.

11.2 FORP had recently issued a newsletter by email and put 400 copies in the local shops.

11.3 The City Council are to install a new play park at the east side of the Park at a cost of £90,000. The money will come from the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”) and may be included in the Flood Prevention budget so that the contractors install it.

FORP are looking for suggestions on what to do with the old play park. There is a questionnaire on their website, which has so far elicited only 5 responses.

11.4 The City Council has re-run its online survey on improving cycling and walking in the Park and received 69 responses.

11.5 V Forbes and B Knowles are to meet City Council officers tomorrow to discuss tree planting in the Park.

11.6 The Planning Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee of the City Council will consider FORP’s proposals for the toilet block on 23 March 2017. FORP hope to be granted a lease of the block to enable them to renovate it.

In response to a question from a member of the public V Forbes reassured her that the new flood prevention wall does not involve any encroachment into the Park, nor has the SRU enclosed any land which does not belong to it.

12. Flood Prevention progress

This had been dealt with at item 6.

13. Roseburn Action Plan, including relocation of bins

R Smart undertook to speak to Dave Sinclair at the City Council about the desired relocation of the bins in Murrayfield Place.

14. Planning and Licensing

14.1 R Smart reported that he had attended a meeting run by Leith Community Council which he had thought was to discuss the Scottish Government's planning review, but in fact its aim had been to promote third party rights of appeal. He considered that such rights are resisted by government for good reason.

R Smart reported that he had also attended the Civic Forum which had discussed the said planning review. One recommendation from the Civic Forum was that more local planning should be done and more local people should be involved in it. He felt that a proper procedure would be required to facilitate more involvement in the Local Development Plan.

14.2 J Forbes reported that a large Corsican pine tree had been felled in the course of constructing a new house at the corner of Belmont Drive and Ellersly Road. He could find no authority for this in any of the planning documents. The arborist's report had described the tree as category A and it was not marked for destruction. He had submitted a complaint to Planning Enforcement and awaited their response.

P Gregson suggested that the developer be required to pay for a mature tree to be planted as a replacement.

14.3 R Smart informed the meeting that the proposal to convert the office building at 33 Pinkhill into a 7 storey block of flats was objectionable. The new building would overshadow the adjoining four storey houses and cause parking problems. He intended to attend the meeting which the developer was to hold at the Holiday Inn at the Zoo on 9 March 2017 and would support Mr Kerr, the local resident who had raised this issue with MCC.

14.4 R Smart confirmed that there were no other planning applications requiring consideration.

15. Traffic and Transport

15.1 J Forbes proposed that MCC make strong representation against any reduction in subsidy from the City Council for the 13 and 38 bus services. He considered that the 38 service is the more significant as it links Granton to RIE via WGH, Craigleith Sainsbury's, Ravelston, Balgreen, Morningside and Kings Buildings. It is an essential route for non-drivers to Craigleith Sainsbury's. It runs every 20 minutes during the week, every half hour on Saturdays and less frequently on Sundays, but no longer goes into Craigleith at weekends. A Anderson and R Smart felt that the 13 service would be used more if it were better advertised.

It was decided that **The Secretary would liaise with J Forbes in formulating a representation to the City Council.**

15.2 The Secretary referred the meeting to three proposed TROs, details of which are on the City Council's website at edinburgh.gov.uk/trafficorders. Objections can be lodged online before 24 March 2017.

One of the TROs reduces the existing 40 mph speed limit on the West Approach Road to 30 mph for a distance of approximately 200m eastwards of its junction with Roseburn Street. This reduction is deemed necessary as a new traffic island is to be constructed at the east end of Westfield Road. The other TROs propose changes to waiting times in various locations including Roseburn Street and Russell Road.

16. Community Council insurance

S Holland reported that from 1 May 2017 the City Council will no longer be involved in Community Council insurance. It used to pay the premium for MCC's insurance under a block policy with Zurich and deduct it from the City Council's grant to MCC. From 1 May MCC will insure direct with Zurich. The policy is worth continuing, as it covers public liability, legal expenses, corporate manslaughter, financial loss, personal injury and damage to property. In reply to a question from P Gregson S Holland confirmed that the premium is about £82 per annum.

17. Any Other Competent Business

17.1 S Holland and the Secretary reported that they had attended a recent residents' meeting with the SRU and would attend the next one on 14 March 2017.

The Secretary intended to raise again with the SRU the fact that live music at the recent International matches had been played at the location within BT Murrayfield closest to local residents when there was adequate space for it on the other side of the ground.

S Holland reported that there are to be two European Cup finals at BT Murrayfield on 12 and 13 May 2017 and three International matches on 11, 18 and 25 November 2017.

The Secretary reported that local residents are invited to the Armistice service to be held in the stadium before the match against Samoa on 11 November.

17.2 R Smart reported that he was endeavouring to progress applications for funding to restore the stonework of the front garden walls adjoining Donaldson's College to the west. R Brown queried whether it is appropriate to seek public funding to restore commercial property - the walls are owned by three hotels, an architects' practice and one private individual. R Smart said that some work on the walls had been done by the owners, but it was not up to Conservation Area standard.

18. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

19. Date of Next Ordinary Meeting and AGM: Tuesday, 2 May 2017

The Chairman reminded the meeting that MCC will hold its AGM at 7pm on Tuesday, 2 May 2017, i.e. immediately before the next ordinary meeting. Subsequent meetings: 27 June and 15 August 2017.

Minutes approved at meeting of 2 May 2017.