

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 1 February 2011 at 8 pm in
Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair : H Ross

Present : W Amcotts, G Douglas, S Holland, G McLeod, E Robertson, H Ross, R Smart, W Spence, A Weatherston, J Yellowlees
Ex officio : Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie, Cllr Wheeler
In attendance: Sgt B McCabe, PC P Durant, PC I Jamieson & 8 members of the public
Apologies : R Brown, M Crockart MP, S Boyack MSP

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The meeting scheduled for 21 December had had to be cancelled due to the Centre being locked.

2. Order of business

An extra item 3.1 was added for councillors' report.

3. Community policing report

PC Durant said that a suspicious male on Garscube Terrace had been caught and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. PC Jamieson had combated the usual rise in Christmas break-ins by being out and about on his bicycle so as to raise the police's visibility. Sgt McCabe reported that the new Safer Neighbourhood Team in partnership with the City Council (with whom they were co-located at Chesser House) were seeking to capture low-level concerns about quality of life issues, and at an inaugural priority-setting meeting in November had identified three priorities: speeding motorists at Lennel Avenue, parking outside primary schools and speeding cyclists in Roseburn Park. However the impact of the winter had resulted in these becoming overtaken in January by cold-calling in West Catherine Place and parking on Riversdale Crescent. Postcards seeking engagement with the public were being distributed to a street a week. In discussion it was noted that binmen could not get into Murrayfield View for parked cars and that parking on a driveway in Ormidale Terrace for an event at Murrayfield Church had prompted the homeowner to come into the hall and become abusive. At Lennel Avenue the problem of motorists going that way in the morning peak to beat the traffic lights had arisen ever since their installation on Ravelston Dykes, but the problem was of short duration and did not extend to speeding - Cllr Wheeler said that with no funds left in the budget for traffic calming, any measures would require special justification, and Cllr Edie thought that speed bumps or road closures might be a disproportionate solution given that the volume was not high and the flow was tidal. W Spence invited any Community Councillors with an interest to join him at the next meeting of the Almond & Western Edinburgh Safety Forum on 16 March at 2pm.

3.1 Councillors' report

Cllr Edie noted that following a further meeting after Christmas, work had now commenced on the Western Corner urban regeneration project. Next week the administration would be presenting its budget. All Council staff had done their very best during the unprecedented weather conditions in December, when for example it had taken thirty people digging one street for half a day to get a dialysis patient out. Priority had been given to Baird Drive because of the number of disabled residents, and bus services had remained in operation through all but four hours of the period. A consultation meeting had been held on the next Neighbourhood Partnership Plan

and a proposal had been received for a phone-mast on the Donaldson's telephone exchange in Russell Road.

Cllr Wheeler said that with council tax remaining frozen under the concordat between Cosla and the Scottish Government, the emphasis of the Council's budget would be on efficiency while helping vulnerable citizens. Work had started on a new home for the West Neighbourhood Office for completion in a year at Drumbrae, where it would be co-located with the library, police and day-care centre. The Council's new chief executive Sue Bruce had come from Aberdeen City Council.

Acknowledging as a fair question why had the Council made no attempt to clear pavements of ice and snow, Cllr Balfour said that they were going to have to review equipment and resources against an assessment as to how likely was the recurrence of such severe weather, looking at which pavements should be given priority and with what treatment - the Roseburn Terrace pedestrian crossing was suggested as one such location. Should priority be given to say primary schools or retirement homes or to people who could not get to the Western for their diabetes or dialysis? Cllr Edie said that community service offenders could be used on snow clearance, and food distribution to inaccessible places could be given to volunteers with 4x4s. There had been a fear that traffic wardens might be invited to deal with abandoned cars. An audit was taking place of grit bins, which had attracted a suspicion that people had been clearing them for commercial gain. Flood prevention would commence in March on the Bonnington-Stockbridge stretch, with the Murrayfield one to follow

Cllr Balfour said that the trams were in mediation, with a legally binding arbitration due to conclude in mid-March. Meanwhile no work was under way other than at the depot, and a review of the revised business case by an independent consultancy would also have to await the outcome of the mediation.

4. Approval of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 2 November 2010

Approval was proposed by R Smart and seconded by W Spence

5. Matters arising

5.1 : Air Monitoring Unit

Cllr Edie reported that the Air Monitoring Unit would be relocated to one of three potential sites on Glasgow Road as soon as Scottish Power were able to make the necessary arrangements.

5.2 : Roseburn Bridge lights

Work would begin shortly to replace the globes, which had been missing for some years from the lights on Roseburn Bridge.

5.3 : Roseburn Terrace survey

S Holland said that the walkabout on 22 January including PC Jamieson and two environmental wardens had been very positive, with the ugly traffic-light gantry suggested for replacement by a pole but other poles carrying contradictory or no information should be removed and shops ought to be reminded that they were entitled to only one advertising board each. E Robertson believed that the hoardings created a depressing feel to a high footfall area: others in places like Leith Walk had been removed, and while it had previously been presumed that the trams would take care of these now the issue deserved to be tackled in its own right. W Spence surmised that the Council rented the ground to the contractor, who took the income from the advertisers. Cllr Wheeler noted that the proposals mirrored what had been achieved a few years ago in Corstorphine, and so as to secure a holistic approach Cllr Edie undertook

to set up a meeting with neighbourhood manager Natalie Hoy for whom S Holland would collate with J Yellowlees a list of suggested actions.

5.4 : pillars

With work on protection of the Roseburn Cliff pillars deferred from end November, R Smart said that paperwork would now have to be processed as soon as possible for the grant application to be considered for moving the Murrayfield Gardens pillar. There was still a £900 shortfall that he would be addressing.

6. Severe weather planning

The Chairman would recirculate a priority locations survey which considered the claims of such locations as the South Gyle respite centre, retirement homes, leisure centres and shops and might have to be reviewed in the light of this winter's experience. J Yellowlees noted that at Roseburn Cliff bins had been emptied once in December.

7. Western Corner urban regeneration project

Recalling an award of funding in 2009, which led to confirmation of the final proposal in June of last year, G McLeod said that the promised sight of the firm design never happened. Instead there had been a letter in December saying that work would begin in January.

At a meeting arranged by Cllrs Wheeler, Edie and Balfour and by himself and R Smart on 7 January, Helen Platts had assured him that the problems he foresaw were non-existent, but when work began it became apparent that the bin-bays were a design pattern on the pavement, not as had been hoped a cut-out shape to prevent them from rolling away. Instead the contractor had sloped the pavement slabs with the result that on the first night a shop bin had rolled into the road and ended up on its side with the contents spilled out. Cllr Edie undertook to arrange a site-meeting, and Cllr Wheeler noted that it had proved difficult to secure agreement on relocation of the southbound bus stop. Commending the excellence of the workmanship, R Smart recalled that the detailed drawings had shown a stone block insert.

8. Scottish Rugby Union local residents meeting & stadium concerns

SRU had notified to residents these dates for rugby internationals: 12 and 27 February and 5 March, plus Rugby World Cup preliminaries on 6 and 20 August. Applications for licences to sell alcohol would be for the Bon Jovi and Kings of Leon concerts on 22 and 26 June, which were being held in proximity so as to share use of structures. The Community Council could not object to the concerts as such, only to the sale of alcohol, and if its objection was successful drinking would take place outside. R Smart suggested insisting on mobile toilets at each exit, and Cllr Edie said that the Community Council could invite the licensing authority to make this a condition of the licence. Reporting that the concerts were due to finish at 1030 pm, S Holland envisaged that the Community Council noticeboard should invite any members of the public wishing to make representations to do so through the Chairman. A Weatherston understood that stewards employed by the promoter would be supported by environmental wardens and by deployment of CCTV cameras. It was reported that this year there might be neither a marquee nor fireworks, and SRU had assured S Holland that these bands might attract a more middle-aged audience, though it was noted that a similar assurance had been given about the Oasis audience previously.

9. Controlled Parking Update

The Chairman would seek an update on the survey, which was thought not to have happened due to the weather.

10. Digital Switchover June 2011

The analogue signal would be switched off on 20 June 2011. Help with the switchover would be available on the website.

11. Planning & Licensing

R Smart had noted only half-a-dozen applications, mostly domestic. The Community Council had not objected to the application for a hotel licence for 92 Corstorphine Road. A preliminary proposal put to the Edinburgh Urban Design Panel on 26 January had been at a broad level of detail, with good design of pavilions but no mention of materials - he was dismayed about English developers' use of brick so favoured stone, noted that underground parking ensured just one entrance and exit and saw the main problem as too high a proportion of one-bedroom flats. An exhibition of the proposals would take place in the Ellersly House Hotel on Monday 7 February. He would circulate for comments a draft response to the Planning Department and architect.

12. Traffic & Transport

J Yellowlees said that two lifts had come into use on 1 February at Haymarket Station, where consent had been given for an upgrade commencing in 2013 with a new concourse and the City Council were seeking to ensure with Transport Scotland that the scheme should be future-proofed to allow improvement of the surrounding area when funds became available. Cllr Wheeler said that the bus stop would remain at its present temporary location until the arrival of the trams brought a new interchange with awning.

13. Reports

S Holland had made two payments to the architects for the pillars, saving the VAT on them. Sadly a second auditor had now died, so he sought names of potential successors for consideration at the next meeting in the hope that remuneration in a gentlemanly fashion might again be acceptable.

W Spence had attended several meetings of the Western Edinburgh Community Safety Forum, and had gone on an excursion organised by the City Council's Joint Housing & Environment Committee to show Community Councillors where the city's money had been spent. R Smart had attended a Planning Department focus group.

14. Correspondence

An extensive list had been circulated.

15. Any Other Competent Business

S Holland praised a team from the cleansing department who had swept pavements around Murrayfield Place and the old Roseburn Bridge led by taskforce manager James McNeil tel :331-2369. Resources however had had to be reduced, with the staff allocation per lorry cut from five to two.

16. Questions from the Floor

Cllr Wheeler explained that the long-term plan was to replace the Rannoch Road Community Centre with a new building.

Date and venue of next meeting : Wednesday 6 April at 8 pm in the Saughtonhall Community Association Hall at 22A Saughtonhall Drive.

Subsequent meetings :

Tuesday 3 May 2011 (AGM) – Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

Tuesday 2 August 2011 – Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

Murrayfield Community Council Main Correspondence Received
Since meeting of: 2 Nov 2010

4 Nov 10	Association of Scottish CCs	Online Bulletin – October 2010 (Iss. 2)	
4 Nov 10	City of Edinburgh Council	Severe weather organisation survey	
7 Nov 10 →	Gorgie-Dalry CC	Various updates on the Dalry Swim Centre Campaign	
8 Nov 10 →	CEC West Neighbourhood Team	Various updates on a W. Edinburgh water/gas emergency	
13 Nov 10	Association of Scottish CCs	Online Bulletin – October 2010 (Iss. 2)	
15 Nov 10	Murrayfield Churches Together	Climate change local action seminar	5 Dec 2010
16 Nov 10	CEC Licensing Dept	Application lists for December meeting	
16 Nov 10	Cockburn Association	Notice of Edinburgh Civic Forum meeting	7 Dec 2010
17 Nov 10	Two members of the public	Copying the CC into objection letters to the 92 Corstorphine Road application	
17 Nov 10	CEC Roads Services	Temp. Henderland Rd. Coning for St George's School carol concert	16 Dec 2010
19 Nov 10	CEC	Severe winter emergencies survey	10 Dec 2010
22 Nov 10	Edinburgh Rep. Assoc. Scott. CCs	Alert that the Assoc. Scott. CCs is trying to remove him from his duly elected position	
22 Nov 10	CEC Road Services	Temp. traffic regulations for rugby at Murrayfield	2 Jan 2011
22 Nov 10	CEC Conservative Party Group	Christmas reception invitation	10 Dec 2010
23 Nov 10	Sarah Boyack MSP	E-newsletter	
24 Nov 10	Lothian and Borders Police	Murrayfield/Corstorphine Newsletter	
25 Nov 10	Edinburgh Rep. Assoc. Scott. CCs	Request to support a motion (cf 22 Nov item)	
26 Nov 10	CEC Operational Communications	Outlook newspaper delivery survey	
26 Nov 10	CEC West Neighbourhood Team	Information on grit bins	
26 Nov 10	CEC CC Liaison	Survey of Assoc. Scott. CCs stakeholders	31 Dec 2010
30 Nov 10	Portobello CC	Alerting CCs to the proposed reduction in the time Ward Cllrs allowed to speak on planning matters	2 Dec 2010
30 Nov 10	Gorgie-Dalry CC	As Portobello CC	
2 Dec 10	Portobello CC	Postponement & consultation on proposed reduction in the time Ward Cllrs allowed to speak on planning matters	24 Feb 2011
4 Dec 10	Association of Scottish CCs	Online Bulletin – December 2010 (Iss. 1)	
6 Dec 10	Scottish Rugby Union	Postponement of local neighbourhood meeting	Jan 2011
8 Dec 10	Coordinator Digital Switchover Help Scheme (Edinburgh)	Offering awareness services to local community	
12 Dec 10 →	Cllr Edie	Daily severe weather bulletins	
13 Dec 10	Steve Francey, CEC	Looking for old photos of the Roseburn Bridge Lights	
15 Dec 10	CEC CC Liaison Officer	Volunteering charity seeks volunteers to raise awareness of Digital Switchover help scheme (see 8 Dec 10)	
16 Dec 10	CEC Planning (Community Engagement)	Community engagement evaluation questionnaires are to be used in the near future	
17 Dec 10	Neighbourhood Partnership	Local community plan development meeting, 25 Jan, 6.30pm, City Chambers	25 Jan 2011
17 Dec 10	CEC Roads Dept	Cashless pay and display to be introduced across the City's controlled parking areas	
20 Dec 10	Cllrs Wheeler & Balfour	Update on Western Corner improvement works	Jan 2011
20 Dec 10	Edinburgh City Libraries	New issue of "Word Up" http://www.wordup.edinburgh.gov.uk	
21 Dec 10	CEC Licensing Dept	Application lists for December meeting	
22 Dec 10	Sarah Boyack MSP	E-newsletter	
11 Jan 11	Association of Scottish CCs	Online Bulletin Newsflash	
12 Jan 11	Services for Communities, CEC	Notes availability of Climate Challenge funding	
13 Jan 11	Traffic Orders, CEC	Changes to retailers permits in controlled areas	
14 Jan 11	Lothian and Borders Police	Home security advice	
18 Jan 11	Andrew Guest	MPC 'Just Us' Climate change meeting	13 Feb 2011
18 Jan 11	Joanne Johnstone	Fundraising Request – Indian orphanage project	
20 Jan 11	Community Growing Initiative	Looking to start more community growing sites	
20 Jan 11	Cllr Balfour	Correspondence re: controlled parking with local resident	

24 Jan 11	CEC Licensing Dept	Application lists for December meeting	
24 Jan 11	Road Services via Cllr Wheeler	Traffic Orders for the Six Nations rugby matches	
24 Jan 11	Association of Scottish CCs	Online Bulletin – January 2011 (Iss. 2)	
24 Jan 11	BBC	Invitation to Brian Taylor's Big Debate	28 Jan 2011
25 Jan 11	Sarah Boyack MSP	E-newsletter	
26 Jan 11	CEC Care and Support services	Consultation on new 5 year strategy	4 March 2011
29 Jan 11	Liberton CC	Concerned about reports about out-sourcing council jobs	
31 Jan 11	Cllr Wheeler	Information on new material that can be recycled	

CC = Community Council
CEC = City of Edinburgh Council