

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 29 August 2023 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
N Macdonald, J McDonough, D MacLennan, E Robertson,
M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Fiona Bennett,
In attendance: 16 members of the public,
Apologies: D Dawson, S Macpherson, Cllr Euan Davidson, Cllr Margaret
Graham, Cllr Finlay McFarlane, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat,
Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP,
Foyso Choudhury, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Angus
Robertson, MSP, Lorna Slater, MSP, Sue Webber, MSP, Christine
Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chair welcomed those in attendance to the last meeting of the summer. He intimated the recent death of Cameron Buchanan, former list Conservative MSP, who had attended some MCC meetings in the mid-2010s.

The Chair reported that MCC hoped to welcome Jude Thomas as the nominated representative of Saughtonhall Community Association ("SCA"), whose participation in MCC had lapsed some time ago. J Thomas confirmed that the necessary paperwork would be completed at the next SCA meeting on 4 September.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Community Council Scheme and boundary review – pre-statutory consultation – J Forbes reported that in his view the main issue is the proposed re-drawing of Community Council boundaries to coincide with City Council Ward boundaries. The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils is in favour of this proposal. He felt that Murrayfield Community Council represents a community regardless of the fact that its area straddles two Ward boundaries and that position should be maintained. M Stevens of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association shared his view and confirmed that dealing with the City Councillors for both Corstorphine/Murrayfield and the City Centre had never been a problem. It was unanimously agreed that J Forbes should draft a submission on behalf of MCC focussing on this point for submission before the deadline of 1 September.

B Knowles made the point that when the Scheme for community councils was first introduced the emphasis in the guidance was on representing communities and no mention was made of Wards.

Cllr Beal added that he expected governance to be a prominent topic in the review.

2.2 J McDonough confirmed that MCC had received funding of £964.00 from the Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network for the new Saughtonhall noticeboard and the upgrade of the Western Corner noticeboard and contractors had been appointed.

3. CCWEL remaining items

In the absence of Rurighd McMeddes of the Council and Scott Ritchie of Balfour Beatty the Chair reported that the heritage lanterns had been installed on the Old Colt Bridge and the refurbished bench returned to the New Colt Bridge. There are, however a number of outstanding items :-

3.1 reinstatement of the bus shelter and bus tracker on the New Colt Bridge;

3.2 installation of the pedestrian crossing at Stanhope Street;

3.3 replacement of the planters on the Old Colt Bridge – a member of the public complained that the existing planters had not been maintained and another demanded their removal as soon as possible. The member of the public who has assumed responsibility for maintenance of the planters explained that she had been invited by R McMeddes to select the type of new planter which she wanted but nothing further had happened. **Cllr Beal undertook to pursue this issue.**

3.4 final adjustments to the Roseburn Street/Russell Road junction;

3.5 installation of bollards and repair of the road surface (tarmac and slabs) at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace and Road – D MacLennan explained that the damage caused by the CCWEL construction vehicles had been exacerbated by the heavy “telehandlers” used to manoeuvre the traffic barriers which are installed across the A8 for events at Murrayfield Stadium. **Cllr Beal undertook to pursue this issue.**

3.6 removal of redundant signs and other tidying up.

The Chair undertook to contact R McMeddes to request a walkabout with him, S Ritchie and the City Councillors to review the outstanding items and the timetable for completing them.

A Anderson mentioned the bins on Roseburn Terrace and at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace which she said had been damaged by Balfour Beatty, removed and not replaced. She and D MacLennan also referred to poor drainage at points on the Old Colt Bridge and at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace. The Chair suggested that photos would be useful.

3.7 Hanging baskets on Roseburn Terrace – one of the Roseburn traders explained that retail traders are reporting that their income is down 20%-40% from before the start of the CCWEL works and he felt an initiative was needed to bring customers back to the shops. He reported that he had costed the installation of hanging baskets and an automatic watering system, the water for which would be supplied by one shop on each side of the Terrace. Almost all of the businesses on the Terrace had agreed to this proposal. He intended to apply to the Council for funding and remind Cllr Cammy Day that he had indicated that he would support the proposal.

3.8 Promotional event on Roseburn Terrace – P Gregson proposed holding an outdoor event on Roseburn Terrace similar to the event held at Christmas with a view to encouraging customers to return to the shops. He asked whether MCC would fund the printing and distribution of 5,000 flyers at a cost of £300-£400. A majority of MCC members were in favour of matching any funds raised by

the traders themselves. The Treasurer viewed the proposal as commercial activity and was not in favour of the use of MCC funds for this purpose. He suggested a donation of £50.

4. Abinger Gardens – Scottish Water proposal to remove trees

The Chair was pleased to report that Scottish Water had reconsidered their plan to remove a number of trees from the land adjoining Abinger Gardens to enable the installation of a sewage treatment facility. This would now be done within the carriageway of Corstorphine Road.

5. Murrayfield Stadium/Scottish Gas Murrayfield recent and forthcoming events

5.1 The Chair expressed the view that the recent football match and three rugby matches had been managed well overall. He was disappointed that Scottish Rugby remains unwilling to invite MCC to the review meetings after events.

J Thomas of SCA advised that the reason given was that sensitive commercial issues are discussed at these meetings.

5.2 A number of those present referred to the recent incident when the fire alarm at the stadium had been triggered and had rung for most of the night. Scottish Rugby had apologised for failing to have it switched off. Cllr Bennett reported that she had been told that a solution to the problem had been found. On the basis of previous experience others were sceptical.

M Stevens asked for the email which a number of local residents had received from Scottish Rugby to be circulated. A member of the public thought that D Dawson had posted it on the Roseburn and Murrayfield Village Blether Facebook page.

5.3 Feathers and Harry Styles concert – The Chair expressed disappointment that Keep Scotland Beautiful had merely reacted to the press reports about the feathers which had littered the streets after the Harry Styles concert but had taken no positive action. Cllr Bennett reported that Cllr Davidson intended to contact Christine Jardine, MP about a possible amendment to the Pedlars Act 1871.

5.4 Bus diversion – The Chair referred to the fact that the buses diverted from the A8 via Murrayfield Road and Ravelston Dykes during concert and match road closures do not stop on Ravelston Dykes. Lothian Buses had agreed to consider allowing the diverted buses to use the bus stops on the Dykes which the number 13 and 38 services use.

5.5 Road closures – M Stevens reported that he had contacted Scottish Rugby about the measures which had been put in place for the recent concerts at the stadium. He understood that the multi-agency planning team had met on 29 June and had agreed that the proposed road closures had been excessive. The A8 had not in fact been closed before the concerts. M Stevens was aware that the Wester Coates residents had been invited to a review meeting with Scottish Rugby on 11 July. He was to have a meeting with Graham Law about road closures in general and would make it clear that closing off the whole of the Donaldson area for the majority of a 12 hour period was unacceptable. Wester Coates has the same issue.

The meeting discussed whether MCC should invite Graham Law to their next meeting. It was decided that M Stevens would report on the outcome of his

meeting with Graham Law and J Thomas should feed back on that of the review meeting before MCC decided what to do next.

6. Councillors' reports

6.1 Cllr Bennett reported that she was pursuing the following outstanding CCWEL issues - bus shelters, bins and road surface repairs.

A member of the public complained that the bins outside the Murrayfield Bar are overflowing and causing mess on the street. **Cllr Bennett undertook to action this complaint.**

The Chair reported that he had complained recently to the Council about overflowing bins at the foot of Roseburn Cliff and they had been emptied promptly.

Members of the public thought that the bins on Roseburn Terrace and at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace needed checking more regularly.

6.2 Cllr Beal reported that he had been dealing with the following issues:-

6.2.1 complaints about bad parking on corners,

6.2.2 overhanging hedges,

6.2.3 the Scottish Power works on Murrayfield Avenue and Ravelston Dykes,

6.2.4 the request for double yellow lines on one side of Western Gardens – a resident of the other side of Western Gardens explained that not all of the residents are in favour of this request. She rejected the argument made by the applicants that parked vehicles prevent the bin lorries from getting down the road and complained that all of the residents should have been consulted and MCC should not have supported her neighbours in this request. The Chair quoted Item 6.1 of the Minutes of the previous MCC meeting and reiterated that Cllr Davidson had undertaken to contact the appropriate team at the Council. Cllr Davidson was not available to provide an update.

6.3 Ellersly and Kinellan Roads traffic calming and pedestrian improvements – J Forbes reported that after years of campaigning by MCC for traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures little had been achieved. Recently a group of local residents had put together, and sent to the Council, a call for urgent action. He introduced one of the group, Don Page, who explained that he is a resident of the Westerlea development on Ellersly Road.

D Page stated that the only measure which had been introduced – the 20 mph speed limit – is badly signed and ignored by 80% of drivers. He and his neighbours, comprising 38 households, are seriously concerned for the safety of elderly residents, those with mobility issues, cyclists and ordinary pedestrians. They are calling for the support of the local City Councillors in obtaining a specific undertaking and timetable for action from the Council. They are acting independently of MCC but will keep MCC informed.

J Forbes reminded the meeting that he had been told that a traffic calming action plan would be implemented in the current financial year. He was looking to the new manager of the Road Safety team to deliver this.

He was also looking to the City Councillors to help identify the process for moving a project from the Neighbourhood Environment Programme list to the capital projects programme. He had been told that it is hard to justify carrying out improvements to pavements unless the carriageway is also due to be upgraded. In the case of Ellersly Road an upgrade is slated for 2024/25.

Cllr Beal undertook to pursue this matter.

6.4 Two Roseburn residents asked for help in dealing with a neighbour who feeds the local birds on such a scale that they are causing serious disruption to these residents and their other neighbours' lives. They referred to an increase in vermin, bird droppings and noise which makes it impossible for them to use their gardens. The offending neighbour has been reported to Environmental Health and the Police, has been spoken to by the Police and has been dissuaded from feeding the birds in Roseburn Park, but continues to put out large quantities of food on her own roof. J Forbes suggested that Cllr Beal meet with the residents and agree a plan of action.

7. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 27 June 2023

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: J McDonough.

8. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported as follows:-

8.1 The Rosebean Café is due to open on 9 September, subject to being signed off by Environmental Health.

8.2 The Café building has recently been daubed with graffiti and some repainting may be required.

8.3 The results of the survey conducted into the community's preferred future use of the Park have yet to be discussed by the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP").

8.3 A new tree has mysteriously appeared in the area designated as a reflective garden.

8.4 Cycling and pedestrian safety – P Gregson reported that the three Corstorphine/Murrayfield City Councillors had provided a letter in support of his request to the Council for funding to employ a consultant to find solutions to the issues of cyclist and pedestrian safety at the blind corner near the Café. The recent survey had revealed a strong interest in improved cycle parking in the Park and he thought that Sustrans might be more interested in FoRP's proposals if this were included. It was agreed that MCC would write a letter in support of FoRP's proposals and P Gregson would include it in FoRP's business case.

9. Planning and Licensing updates

J Forbes reported as follows:-

9.1 ROSEBERY HOUSE, 9 HAYMARKET TERRACE - MCC's agreed representation to the Scottish Ministers via DPEA, objecting to the developer's Appeal, was timely submitted and acknowledged. The Reporter has made an unaccompanied site inspection and has requested further information from the applicant and the Council relating to other proposed developments in the area. DPEA's target date for a decision is 24 October 2023.

The case record for the Appeal shows no submission from West End or Gorgie/Dalry Community Councils, neither of whom acknowledged receipt of MCC's draft submission. Three local residents submitted representations.

9.2 37 CORSTORPHINE ROAD - Fifteen months have now passed since the Scottish Ministers gave "Notice of Intention" to grant planning permission for the proposed development, subject *inter alia* to conclusion of a

planning obligation with regard to education and affordable housing provision. The current status of the application is unknown but it is assumed negotiations are continuing (with multiple extensions of time) to conclude these matters.

9.3 36 ROSEBURN STREET (FLAT 1F3): This flat has been used as a short-term let (STL) property since 2018. The owner has submitted an application for retrospective confirmation of change of use from residential to STL, following the Council's requirement for such properties to be registered. In previous discussions within MCC concerns have been raised about Airbnb-type lets of flats sharing an external street door with residential flats. As there have been no issues with the flat at 36 Roseburn Street in the past five years, the meeting decided that MCC would make no comment.

9.4 6 ELLERSLY ROAD: A planning application is pending for moving one of the masonry gate posts to widen the entrance to the property by 1 metre. The reconstructed gate post will look identical to the existing one. The metal gates (to be retained) will not be enlarged to fit. The existing pavement kerb line will be reconfigured for the wider entrance. MCC's interest in this proposal is only related to the project (still not budgeted) for widening the pavement on the north side of Ellersly Road. The meeting agreed that MCC would not object to the application.

Licensing

9.5 OSBORNE HOUSE, 1-6 OSBORNE TERRACE - An objection to a provisional licensing application for the hotel development at Osborne House (reviewed by all MCC members) was timely submitted. MCC's concerns relate primarily to late (post-10pm) alcohol sale and/or consumption in the outdoor area, and are in line with objections raised by the Donaldson Area Amenity Association.

9.6 13 RIVERSDALE CRESCENT (ICE RINK): An application is pending for a new 7 day 24-hour public entertainment licence at the Ice Rink. No information is given as to the type of public entertainment envisaged. The deadline for objection is 14 September 2023. The meeting discussed whether there should be an evening cut-off time of 11pm as at Murrayfield Stadium. It was agreed that J Forbes would draft an objection stating that insufficient information is provided and that, if granted, the licence should impose an 11pm curfew.

10. Police Report

10.1 **The Chair** was disappointed to report that no Police report had been received prior to the meeting. He **undertook to remind PC Sam Davison that MCC is entitled to receive a regular report.**

10.2 The Chair reported that, with input from a local resident, he had advised a Glasgow University researcher on football and politics that the main problem locally was not Hearts fans as they accessed the Tynecastle stadium from Gorgie. It was mainly when there was a derby match with Hibs, in particular the last of the season, but also on other occasions when there were visiting teams, and fans were corralled at the Murrayfield Hotel and allowed to march down the main road. The road was taken over and there could be fans in black balaclavas being allowed to hurl fireworks. This seemed surprisingly *ad hoc* given the way the road got closed for rugby and

concerts at Murrayfield Stadium in the name of safety. Unfortunately the Police had offered no input, and he hoped that the study would highlight MCC's concern in advance of next spring's closure to the current season.

11. Treasurer's Report

J McDonough confirmed that the opening balance on MCC's account on 1 June and 1 July was £1,513.93, there having been no income or expenditure during June. In July MCC had received the funding of £964.00 from the Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network referred to at Item 2.2 above and had incurred hall hire charges of £70.00, giving a closing balance at 31 July of £2,407.93. August's management accounts will include the annual grant from the Council of £692.70 and some, if not all, of the noticeboard costs. The annual grant is less than he was expecting, having previously been £840. The reduction is due to the fact that the grant is based on MCC's expenditure two years previously, when all meetings were held on Zoom, and does not include the hall hire costs incurred last year.

12. Social Engagement

12.1 P Gregson reported that Abinger Gardens Residents' Association is happy for MCC to install a plaque commemorating John Lennon's association with Murrayfield on the wall at the bottom of Ormidale Terrace. He read out the proposed wording of the plaque.

12.2 J McDonough confirmed that planning the Christmas events on the Old Colt Bridge is under way. St George's School and Roseburn Primary School ("RPS") will again decorate the tree and the railings on the Bridge. The ceremony for switching on the Christmas tree lights will take place on 30 November. A bucket collection will be held and the proceeds donated to one of RPS's initiatives. A Anderson pointed out that this should be advertised properly so that people bring cash to the ceremony. D MacLennan suggested asking RPS to design a poster.

13. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 3 October 2023 (in person)

Subsequent meetings: 7 November and 12 December 2023 (both online).

Minutes approved at meeting of 3 October 2023.