

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 3 October 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, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal,
In attendance: Scott Neil, Murrayfield Ice Rink, 14 members of the public,
Apologies: D Dawson, S Macpherson, H Whaley, Cllr Fiona Bennett, Cllr Euan
Davidson, Cllr Margaret Graham, Cllr Finlay McFarlane, Cllr Claire
Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP,
Miles Briggs, MSP, Foysol 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 in-person meeting of the year. He confirmed that the meetings over the winter would be held on Zoom.

2. Application for a Public Entertainment Licence (“PEL”) for Murrayfield Ice Rink

The Chair introduced Scott Neil of Murrayfield Ice Arena Limited (“MIA”), who explained that he is one of the managers of the ice rink, which is owned by MIA. His sister and Alex Robertson are the directors and took over the lease of the rink from Murrayfield Ice Rink Limited in order to bring the rink back into operation after a 2 ½ year break during the Covid-19 pandemic. Ice was put down in October 2022 but for economic reasons it is not possible to maintain ice over the summer. The rink hosted a Fringe event for the first time this summer and this was judged a success. S Neil further explained that in order to ensure the financial viability of the rink MIA requires a flexible business model which allows for the hiring of the rink by third parties and the holding of different events. At present the ice is used for recreational skating until 10 pm at the latest and training, ice hockey and team practices from 5 am to 1am. The bar has a licence to midnight. The PEL which has been applied for is on the same terms as the PEL under which MIA’s predecessor operated. That PEL was renewed annually. The renewal application did not require to be advertised and did not, therefore, come to MCC’s attention, as the new application has. S Neil assured the meeting that MIA has no intention of causing any issues to the local community and is not currently considering any late night events. J Forbes responded by saying that MCC values the contribution which the ice rink makes to the community. He explained that MCC had objected to MIA’s application for a 24 hour PEL and felt that the ice rink should be subject to the same 11pm curfew as Scottish Gas Murrayfield. MCC had no objection to a 24 hour PEL covering indoor sports only but had concerns about events other

than sport taking place after 11pm. MCC also had no issue with the bar being open until midnight, but bands playing after 11pm, for example, would be a problem. The application will be considered by the Licensing Committee on 13 October and he will represent MCC at that meeting.

Note: It was subsequently agreed that D MacLennan would represent MCC at that meeting.

After considerable discussion the meeting agreed that MCC would withdraw its objection if a condition is placed on any PEL granted to MIA specifying that (1) no entertainment other than indoor sports is permitted between the hours of 11 pm and 7 am; and (2) should MIA later wish to apply for a variation setting aside this condition on any specific date or dates, it will first inform MCC of the nature and duration of the entertainment proposed so that any community concerns can be addressed.

3. CCWEL – outcome of 8 September walkabout

The Chair was disappointed to report that, following the walkabout with Rurighd McMeddes from the Council and Liam Browne, Scott Ritchie's successor at Balfour Beatty, on 8 September, neither was at the meeting and there had been no update on the following outstanding matters:-

- (1) New planters for the Old Colt Bridge area – surplus planters left over from the tram project to be provided by Edinburgh Trams;
- (2) Installation of the bin housing round the six bins now located at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue;
- (3) Remedial work to areas of ponding on the cycle track and pavement at Roseburn;
- (4) Remedial work to the slabs and tarmac at the foot of Wester Coates Road and Terrace;
- (5) Completion of crossings on West Coates at Stanhope Street and opposite the Bible Society building;
- (6) Reinstatement of a permanent bus shelter and tracker on Roseburn Bridge and at West Coates.

The Chair reported that the owner of Pape's Cottages is pleased that bull bars have been installed round the communal bins outside her property.

A Anderson pointed out that the ordinary waste bins on Roseburn Terrace and at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace, which had been damaged by Balfour Beatty and removed, had still not been replaced. A member of the public said there was the same problem at the foot of Ormidale Terrace.

P Gregson requested that the nitrous oxide monitor on Roseburn Terrace, which is now behind parked cars, be returned to its original position outside the former Conservative Party offices.

J Forbes again requested that the waste bin on the south side of Roseburn Bridge be repositioned so that it does not obstruct the plaque on the bridge.

Note: The day after the meeting R McMeddes issued an update by email. The relevant part of the text is attached as an appendix.

4. Relations with Scottish Rugby

The Chair reported that:-

4.1 M Stevens of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association and Jude Thomas of Saughtonhall Community Association (“SCA”) were to have had meetings with Graham Law of Scottish Rugby to review the arrangements which had been put in place for the summer concerts which had been held at Scottish Gas Murrayfield. They were to report to MCC on those meetings. M Stevens confirmed that he was still waiting to hear from Graham Law to arrange a meeting. The Chair understood that J Thomas had also not yet had a meeting.

4.2 Graham Law had provided a list of forthcoming events at Scottish Gas Murrayfield.

4.3 Christine Jardine, MP had emailed the results of research into the Pedlars Act 1871, which had been reviewed in 2014. At that time the Police had said that the process under which street pedlars are licensed under the Act was of value and should be retained. There appear to have been no other attempts to update the Act.

5. Councillors’ reports

5.1 Cllr Beal reported that the traffic calming measures for Ellersly and Kinellan Roads will not be done in the current financial year because of lack of resources.

J Forbes complained that the Road Safety team at the Council had previously given misinformation that the measures were with a design consultant, when this was not true. timetable for getting the work done had been repeatedly postponed from one financial year to the next and he had no faith that it would ever be done. In response to a request from J Forbes for a list of current projects **Cllr Beal said** he understood that such a list was to be presented to the Transport and Environment Committee and **he would find out when this was to happen.**

Don Page, a resident of the Westerlea development on Ellersly Road, and a member of the pressure group which had recently written to the Council, reported that Cllrs Beal, Bennett and Davidson and Angus Robertson, MSP were all lending their support. Angus Robertson had asked for a site meeting which was still to be arranged.

J Forbes commented that a large sections of Kinellan Road have recently been resurfaced to more resemble a Formula One race track, making the speeding situation worse.

5.2 Cllr Beal confirmed that the work to install a new electricity cable from Balgreen Road to Corstorphine Road will be started by Scottish Power in January 2024.

5.3 A member of the public, who lives at 1 Roseburn Crescent, complained that the communal bins which serve Roseburn Court and used to be located against the wall of Roseburn Park, have been relocated outside her house. She said that local residents had not been consulted about the change. The Council considered the previous location to be dangerous, but she thinks the current one is equally so. Children walking to school cannot be seen. Residents still have to walk on the road to access the bins and they are often too full for the residents of Roseburn Court to use.

Cllr Beal replied that residents had been consulted via a letter sent out in May and the relocation was in accordance with Council policy.

The Chair stated that the bins in Roseburn Gardens, which had been the subject of a similar complaint, had been moved from outside a flat to outside the Masonic Lodge. A resident of Coltbridge Avenue who had raised the same complaint with MCC and the Council, had had no success in getting the bins moved. She had required an ambulance recently and it had been unable to access her home because of the bins.

The Chair reported that Cllr Bennett had suggested in an email report, which she had sent shortly before the meeting, that if residents were unhappy with a particular bin location, they should suggest an alternative to the Council.

It was agreed that **Cllr Beal would approach Hanover Housing Association**, who manage Roseburn Court, **about having a bin store in Roseburn Court**, as had been the case at one time. The residents would make a Freedom of Information request to Hanover to disclose the minutes of the meetings at which the decisions about bins had been taken.

5.4 In response to complaints from several Roseburn residents about the problems caused by unrestricted parking Cllr Beal reported that a parking review is proposed. P Gregson explained that a parking review is held every 7 or 8 years and so far Roseburn residents have not been in favour of parking restrictions, which would involve their paying for residents' parking.

J McDonough asked when the next review will be held **and Cllr Beal undertook to find out**. He said that his party is not in favour of a blanket solution for every area and there should be bespoke remedies for specific areas.

5.5 The Chair of the Murrayfield Court Residents' Association addressed the meeting about the request by some residents, discussed at earlier MCC meetings, for double yellow lines on one side of Western Gardens. She had assessed the situation and measured the street and confirmed that, if the prohibition on pavement parking is enforced and people park on both sides of Western Gardens, it is not possible for bin lorries or emergency vehicles to access the street. She was, therefore, in favour of double yellow lines on one side.

Cllr Beal undertook to assist those Western Gardens residents who are in favour of double yellow lines in their application to the Council.

The Chair reminded the meeting that MCC cannot take sides in this situation.

5.6 Cllr Beal reported that some diseased trees on Balgreen Road have been cut down.

5.7 He had been alerted to the fact that St George's School had put gates across the public right of way through the school.

6. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 29 August 2023 and Matters Arising

6.1 The Chair reported that Jude Thomas had encountered an internal objection to her nomination as a representative of SCA to MCC.

6.2 At its last meeting MCC had decided that a small donation to an event to promote the Roseburn traders would be appropriate.

6.3 The owner of Roseburn Shoe Repairs also has a shop in Stonehaven and on the basis of his experience there might be asked to report on the impact of hanging baskets.

6.4 Cllr Beal reported that he is in touch with the factors of the buildings which are adversely affected by the large number of birds which are being fed constantly by a local resident.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: M Stevens.

7. Friends of Roseburn Park

7.1 B Knowles reported that the Rosebean Café opened for business on 21 September. Congratulations are due to all involved.

7.2 There are plans for improvements to Quiet Route 8 which goes through the Park; they do not include the pinch point at the Armoury. The Café has tried to improve the situation there by putting out a warning flag;

7.3 P Gregson confirmed that he is pursuing an application to Sustrans for funding to carry out a feasibility study into cycling safety in the Park. He has included cycle parking in his proposals to make the application more attractive to Sustrans.

7.4 The Friends of Roseburn Park will hold their AGM on 25 October and will discuss the results of their recent survey on the future use of the Park. P Gregson mentioned that the children of Roseburn Primary School want a trampoline.

8. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

ROSEBERY HOUSE, 9 HAYMARKET TERRACE – The Reporter’s decision is expected shortly.

37 CORSTORPHINE ROAD – The status of the application has not changed but two pieces of work have been done recently – an archaeological survey and a bat survey. An agreement on education and affordable housing provision is awaited.

OSBORNE HOUSE, 1-6 OSBORNE TERRACE - No decision has yet been announced on the provisional licensing application for the hotel development, to which MCC and DAAA objected. The next Licensing Sub-Committee meeting is in late November.

9. Police Report

The Chair reported that he had met PC Sam Davison and had requested that the Police reports include information on actual incidents rather than statistics. The latest report for the period from 29 August to 2 October 2023 complies with this request as follows:-

31 August - Dangerous driving on Baird Drive - Driver traced and charged with a variety of offences.

4 September - Roseburn Tesco store – Four youths assaulted a staff member. Enquires are ongoing. This type of incident is uncommon in this area compared to others.

Electric motor bikes on Roseburn Path – Police have received a number of calls regarding these as well as calls from all over the city. Please report sightings.

16 September - Male fell down embankment of the Water of Leith, significant Fire, Ambulance and Police resources attended. Male had only minor injuries.

23 September – Theft from vehicle on Coltbridge Terrace - Rear window smashed and golf clubs stolen.

Football

8 7 October, Hearts v Hibernian - Please expect a Police presence in the area to manage fan entry and egress.

10. Treasurer's Report

J McDonough reported on August and September as follows:-

The opening balance on 1 August was £2,407.93. MCC received the Annual Administration Grant from the Council of £692.70 and had expenditure of £803.79 associated with the supply of materials for the noticeboards at Western Corner and Saughtonhall Avenue. The closing balance for August was £2,296.84.

In September MCC received no income and incurred expenditure on the Murrayfield Station plaque of £95.00, noticeboard labour costs of £160.00 and the supply of magnets for the noticeboards of £29.97, giving a closing balance for September of £2,011.87.

11. Social Engagement

P Gregson referred to the widespread publicity which his proposal to erect a plaque commemorating John Lennon's association with Murrayfield had attracted. He reminded the meeting that he had the agreement of the Abinger Gardens Residents Association to the installation of the plaque on the wall owned by the Association at the foot of Ormidale Terrace. He had contacted John Lennon's half-sister who might be persuaded to unveil the plaque on 25 November. Failing that he had other people in mind. He proposed holding an event at Murrayfield Ice Rink to follow the unveiling of the plaque and envisaged serving tea and sandwiches and having a disco playing Beatles music. The event at the Ice Rink would cost about £500. He was confident that people would pay £10 for a ticket to such an event and he would sell enough tickets to cover this cost. His event would link in with a Beatles marathon to be held at the Assembly Roxy in Newington from 3 pm to 11 pm the same day.

Although some scepticism was expressed about whether it was appropriate for MCC to support P Gregson's proposed event, on the understanding that he would bear the upfront costs and any financial loss, MCC voted 7 in favour and 3 against. P Gregson also undertook to make any profit available to MCC for a John Lennon mosaic or other social engagement projects.

12. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 ONLINE

Subsequent meeting: 12 December 2023 (online).

Minutes approved at meeting of 7 November 2023.

Appendix

Text of email from R McMeddes to MCC and Cllr Beal dated 4 October 2023:-

“Bus Shelters

At our walk around I advised that the bus shelter on Roseburn Bridge would be installed during the first two weeks of October. I can now confirm that this is scheduled to be installed tomorrow.

Furthermore, the bus shelter at West Coates is scheduled to be installed this Friday, though it's possible that this may end up being next Monday. I hope that this is welcome news.

Planters

We have confirmed availability of several planters from the Trams to Newhaven project and Balfour Beatty are currently making arrangements to collect these. I will be meeting with the site team on site soon to identify the locations for these, alongside the associated benches. I will share the proposed layout with Murrayfield Community Council later this week for comment.

Bins

The bins have now been installed by the Waste and Cleansing Team as part of the Communal Bins Review, this took place while I was on leave. They have provided the following explanation:

“As part of the City Centre West to East Link project, one of the bin hub location is on the side of 1/3 Murrayfield Place (reference B9-05). The road works as part of the CCWEL have been finalised and the Communal Bin Review project was waiting for the installation of screening before to proceed with the bin installation. Unfortunately due to delay from the manufacturer contractor there have been delay in regards of the screening and the CBR project team has progressed with the installation of bins ahead of the screening which is due in the second half of October. The CBR team has delivered 2 x non-recyclable waste bins, 2 x mixed recycling bins, 1 x glass bin and 1 x food waste bin.”

Please be assured that though there has unfortunately been a delay in the delivery of the bin housing, this will be installed later this month.

Wester Coates Road Crossing

This crossing will be commissioned alongside the repair of the Wester Coates Road continuous footway area.

Stanhope Street Crossing

I have asked Balfour Beatty for an update on the issue that Mike has raised about the 'No Right Turn' sign on the cycle aspect of this crossing.

Milestone

I have asked Balfour Beatty for an update on the snagging at the milestone.”