

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 1 September 2020 at 7.30pm
via Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson,
N Macdonald, J McDonough, N Oldroyd, E Robertson, M Stevens,
H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Frank Ross,
In attendance: 5 members of the public,
Apologies: B Knowles, PC Sam Davison, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, Cllr Karen Doran,
Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair Rankin, Cllr Frank
Ross, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Ruth Davidson,
MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Neil Findlay, MSP, Alison Johnstone,
MSP, Gordon Lindhurst, MSP, Andy Wightman, MSP, Christine
Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance to the first public meeting of Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") to be held via Zoom. He mentioned that the Agenda was slightly shorter than usual.

The Chairman explained that for MCC's first attempt at a Zoom meeting proceedings would be restricted to ordinary business and the AGM would be postponed until October.

2. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 25 February 2020

These were approved. Prop: E Robertson, Sec: J McDonough.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that he had issued a written update in lieu of each of the cancelled meetings of 7 April, 19 May and 30 June 2020.

3. Community Policing Report

The Chairman reported that PC Sam Davison had tendered his apologies and explained that the recent cut in Council funding to Community Policing meant that he could not attend an MCC meeting if that entailed overtime. He had emailed the following report:-

"3.1 Bogus workman - An incident occurred where elderly residents were targeted, persons offered gardening services and after the money was handed over little or no work was carried out. Enquires are still ongoing. Edinburgh City Council along with Police Scotland endorse the Edinburgh Trusted Trader Scheme, which can be found at:-

www.trustedtrader.scot or 0131 513 9921 Please be aware and look out for neighbours and report anything suspicious.

3.2 Acquisitive crime - A series of garages were broken into or attempted to be entered. Please be vigilant and secure your property at all times. Community officers are available to offer crime prevention advice to persons who request a visit or simply contact over the phone. Please also see our website for advice on home and personal security advice:-

www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe

The Chairman commented that three of his neighbours' garages in Roseburn Cliff had been damaged. They had been pleased with the Police response. The Police had attended and handed out leaflets.

3.3 Pavement cycling - The increase in cycling, walking and running is bringing more persons into friction with one another on our paths and as ever enforcement alone will not solve the issues. Changing behaviour and education will help. Police Scotland supports the Councils "Paths for everyone" campaign, the code of conduct of which can be found with the following link:-

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/25685/code-of-conduct-for-off-road-paths>

Corstorphine Community officers are currently working with the Council to see what more can be done to educate all users.

If any person wishes to report either a particular time and location where persistent cycling on a pavement (not declared as shared use) is occurring, or indeed an identifiable person, please get in touch so that officers can intervene. Over and above this officers always tackle this behaviour when seen on normal patrols.

3.4 Murrayfield stadium - The first set of fans have been in attendance at a recent match at the stadium, albeit in low numbers. No issues have been brought to Police attention surrounding the match.

3.5 Community e-mail - You may be aware that the Corstorphine Community team is now contactable at a new group e-mail address:-

EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk

3.6 Speeding - Community officers have organised days of action in October to tackle speeding with the support of the Police Traffic unit.

Monthly stats have not been provided, but can be to send out with the Minutes. Please let me know of any issues you wish to raise and I will respond."

The Chairman commented that no mention had been made of bicycle thefts, which he had thought might have increased during the Covid-19 lockdown.

A member of the public complained about cyclists on pavements particularly at the entrances/exits to and from the Roseburn cycle path. The Chairman suggested that the Police concentrate on Russell Road and Balbirnie Place.

4. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Douglas reported as follows:-

4.1 37 Corstorphine Road – The Development Management Sub-Committee approved the planning application (for demolition of the existing house and erection of a block of flats). He had raised a number of issues with the Planning Officer and would forward the response when received.

The Chairman asked whether the fact that two of the Committee members had been unable to cast their votes because of technical issues with Skype had a bearing on the legitimacy of the narrow vote of 5:4 in favour of the grant of planning permission. Cllr Douglas replied that there had been a quorum present and the vote was therefore valid.

4.2 Flooding - The recent heavy rainfall had caused flooding on the same stretch of Corstorphine Road. Blocked drains had caused water to pool in gardens and basements had been flooded. A new drain had been installed at the bottom of Coltbridge Terrace and other drains had been cleared, but the inadequacy of the City's drainage system, which was not built to deal with a once in 20 years event, will be a long term problem for the Council.

4.3 Baird Drive – The Council's Flood Prevention team leader, Gordon McOmish, has said that there are no plans to build up the riverbank next to Baird Drive. This is contrary to what he had previously told Cllr Ross.

The Chairman mentioned that shortly before the meeting Gordon Sharpe had tendered his apologies and had forwarded his recent email correspondence with Cllr Ross on the subject of the flood defences at Baird Drive.

(Cllr Ross joined the meeting at 7.55 pm.)

Cllr Ross responded that he had met G Sharpe on site on 13 March 2020 and they had discussed four or five issues of concern. Cllr Ross had met Council officers a few days later but shortly afterwards these officers had been deployed to different positions during the Covid-19 lockdown and some had not yet returned to their original positions. He had arranged a meeting in a couple of weeks, but on receipt of G Sharpe's email, had requested that that meeting be brought forward. A new date has not yet been set.

Dave Dawson reported that the recent torrential rain had been preceded by flood warnings from SEPA, but the rain had not been heavy enough to trigger the flood defences and no flooding had occurred. He made the point that many of his neighbours are fairly happy with the existing flood defences and there was a difference of opinion in the area as to their adequacy. He did not recognise G Sharpe's reference to a local group called RAFTS - Residents Against Flood-Plain Transferral to Saughtonhall.

4.4 Safe Spaces for cyclists and pedestrians – These measures have been put in place by the Council in response to the pandemic but without consultation and are not universally popular. The most controversial one is in East Craigs. Cllr Douglas offered to forward any views on the matter to the appropriate Council team.

Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

4.5 Roseburn Park rugby pitches – The news that £150,000 was to be spent on upgrading two pitches had caused him some concern. It was a condition of the planning permission granted to Scottish Rugby for the mini stadium for Edinburgh Rugby that local facilities were improved. His concern was that the investment of such a large sum might be conditional on the pitches being

removed from the common good, but he had been told that this was not the case. Murrayfield Wanderers are to take a long lease of the pitches from Edinburgh Leisure.

In reply to a question from P Gregson he stated that he had asked Edinburgh Leisure what percentage of playing time will be available for booking outside the hours set aside for Murrayfield Wanderers.

The Chairman referred to an email from Cllr Gloyer in which she had said that the work on the two pitches would take 30 weeks and would not alter the fact that the Park and the pitches are a floodplain.

P Gregson reported that the Friends of Roseburn Park had asked the public for comments on the proposed work to the pitches and had themselves raised queries about the use of glysohate weed killer and works access from Roseburn Court. Cllr Ross replied that in the last 12 months the Council has reduced glysohate use by 90%. Light pollution and hours of work will be dealt with in the conditions of the Building Warrant which will be required for the work.

4.4 Cllr Ross commented that Spaces for People had been developed from a list of places submitted by members of the public. He asked whether any changes regarding access had been made around Roseburn Primary School. No one knew the answer or whom to contact. Cllr Ross said he would have to take a look himself. He mentioned that certain changes had been made at Carrick Knowe, Gylemuir and Corstorphine Primary Schools to provide additional protection for the children at the beginning and end of the school day.

The Chairman mentioned that Balgreen Primary School has a similar project.

The Chairman went on to comment on the following topics:-

4.6 The residents of Abinger Gardens had responded to a request to cut back the vegetation overhanging the pavement on Corstorphine Road.

4.7 Cllr Gloyer had intimated in an email that she had raised an enquiry about double yellow lines in Coltbridge Terrace near St George's School and Abinger Gardens and awaited a reply.

4.8 There was a rumour that the Tattoo was to be relocated to BT Murrayfield. Cllr Ross replied that as Vice Patron of the Tattoo he could confirm that this had not been discussed. The Esplanade is the home of the Tattoo and if any change were to be discussed Murrayfield residents would be the first to know.

4.9 Return of Pansy Walk works depot to allotments - **Cllr Ross** confirmed his support for this proposal. He stated that the site is zoned for housing in the Local Plan, but there are issues with oil contamination, access and noise. There is a shortage of allotment spaces and the proposal would fit well with outdoor education for the local primary school and dealing with food poverty.

He undertook to kickstart the reallocation process again and report to the next MCC meeting.

4.10 Storm Francis – The Chairman asked whether public funds were available to cover the cost of removing trees damaged by the storm. Cllr Ross said that he was not aware of any public funds for the treatment of privately owned trees.

4.11 29 Roseburn Drive – The Chairman had been contacted by a neighbouring proprietor complaining that the garden at this let property was full of rubbish and weeds, the tenants were abroad and could not return, the owner lived abroad and the owner's letting agents had failed to deal with the issue

despite repeated requests. The Chairman suggested that the advice to be given to the neighbouring proprietor was as follows:-

The Letting Agents Registration Scheme and Code of Practice are designed for landlords and tenants, not neighbours. The affected neighbouring proprietors should get together to put pressure on the owner of the offending property. They should write to her setting out the timeline of the problem, the letting agent's failure to deal with the problem on her behalf and the consequences to their neighbouring properties. They should say that they hold her responsible and, if she cannot guarantee that the rubbish will be removed and the garden tidied up so that it does not damage their gardens within, say, 28 days, they will have no option but to instruct the work themselves and recover the cost from her.

The fact that the owner is abroad is an undeniable problem and recovery of the cost could well be impossible.

Cllr Ross added that, if any rodents had been seen at the property, the Environmental Wardens would have to be involved.

5. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

5.1 30 CORSTORPHINE ROAD (TOR)

- Final approval given on 11 August 2020 following submission by the developer AMA of a required legal document.
- Notice of intention to begin work filed by AMA on 12 August.
- Tree removal, including the "signature" tulip tree, took place on 14 August.
- He tried to propagate the tulip tree from suckers at the base but they failed to root.
- It is now time to draw a line under this matter.

5.2 9 KINELLAN ROAD (ROCKSHIEL)

- Current status: "awaiting assessment". MCC submitted a further objection to the corrected application admitting the plans included 19, not 17, homes.
- Despite several requests by Planning, the developer/owner has shown no commitment to addressing the requirement for at least 25% of the proposed homes on the site to be affordable.
- Archaeology response states "the ornamental pond is considered to be of archaeological significance" and is an "important landscape feature". MCC's submission further noted its scientific importance and drew attention to the fossil tree.
- A TPO (Tree Preservation Order) has been made on the entire property. Objections to the TPO were due by 8 July, none was submitted to his knowledge. The TPO followed repeated complaints by MCC and concerned neighbours about unauthorised tree felling. Unfortunately the TPO came too late to prevent loss of several fine specimen trees on the proposed development site.

- A request for a TPO was refused for the spectacular sequoia at 7 Kinellan Road, close to planned works that would almost certainly disturb its roots.

The Chairman commented that deer had recently been spotted at the site. J Forbes mentioned 11 ducklings and their mother and said that the site is as valuable a wildlife habitat as anywhere on the Water of Leith.

5.3 37 CORSTORPHINE ROAD (THE ORIGINAL LAMP ACRE)

- As mentioned at Item 4.1, DMSC approved the proposed demolition and development on 12 August, over opposition by MCC and neighbouring property owners.
- Request by two Ward Councillors for a hearing was denied.
- Approval was by 5 votes to 4, 2 Committee members being unable to cast their votes because of connectivity problems.
- The matter is now before the Scottish Ministers, as DMSC's decision was in face of an "in principle" objection by SEPA citing flood risk.
- J Forbes had raised the issue of the Planning Officer's presentation of misleading/erroneous information on greenspace provision, that might have swung the close vote. As mentioned above, Cllr Douglas had also brought this to the attention of the DMSC Convener and the Planning Officer, requesting a response.

In answer to a question from M Stevens about the voting at the DMSC meeting, Cllr Ross explained that all Committee members have the mobile phone number of the Clerk and could text their votes.

J Forbes asked whether MCC should make representation to the Scottish Ministers. He informed the meeting that the period for consideration by the Ministers ends on 22 September and is extendable if they need more time. In reply to a question from J Forbes Cllr Ross said he understood that the Scottish Ministers will only look at the SEPA objection, which is not specific to this planning application but applies to the whole of the Water of Leith, notwithstanding the fact that £45m have been spent on flood defences. Cllr Ross felt that the lack of greenspace was a bigger issue. The DMSC Convener had said that the definition required further consideration. J Forbes was more concerned about the mistakes in calculating the amount of greenspace. After discussion about whether MCC should align themselves with the SEPA objection or concentrate on the issue of greenspace, it was decided that **J Forbes should draft a submission concentrating on the latter**. Cllr Ross said that the submission should be sent to the Planning Minister, Kevin Stewart. The Chairman suggested that it be copied to the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division of the Scottish Government ("DPEA") in Falkirk.

J McDonough added that a group of local residents are lobbying "the powers that be". He pointed out that the SEPA objection did have some specific application to that stretch of the Water of Leith.

5.4 49 CORSTORPHINE ROAD (CHINESE CONSULATE)

- An application for "railings" surmounting the stone wall to a height of 3 metres closed on 14 August.
- The "railings" proposed are actually an unsightly palisade-style security fence.
- The matter was drawn to MCC's attention too late for a timely submission on the planning application. Three objections were filed in time but have not been shared with MCC.
- The application is misleading in pretending that the existing south wall is already surmounted by such a palisade to a height of 2 metres. In fact the south wall has decorative railings totally unlike what is proposed. The palisade will detract from the continuity of the traditional stone wall along Corstorphine Road.

J Forbes asked whether MCC could assume the Planning Officer would notice the discrepancy or should MCC bring it to their attention?

Cllr Ross asked whether the Consulate is within the Conservation Area and was told by J Forbes that it is just outside it, being on the wrong side of the road. Cllr Ross said he was not aware of any security issue at the Consulate in the last 5 years and the Consulate should be required to justify the need for a palisade. He suggested that MCC should point out that it is adjacent to the Conservation Area. It was decided that **J Forbes should draft a letter to the Planning Officer.**

6. Traffic and Transport

6.1 CCWEL – The Chairman reported that the TRO and RSO for the Roseburn to Haymarket section have been approved by the Council and Scottish Ministers respectively.

6.2 Stanhope Street – M Stevens reported that the Council's original proposal to remove egress from Stanhope Street and make it one way had been seen off by residents two years ago, but had been resurrected in conjunction with the proposal for a new crossing over the main road at Donaldson's. The Council are to consult residents again on two options – a crossing for pedestrians and cyclists with the partial closure of Stanhope Street or a crossing for pedestrians only with no closure of Stanhope Street. The consultation was to have taken place this summer but will now be delayed until later in the year.

H Whaley asked whether the consultation has to be finalised before work on the CCWEL can begin. M Stevens replied that he understood that another TRO will be required and work will not begin until that has been done.

6.3 Lighting on the Old Colt Bridge – The Chairman had noticed new standard lighting being installed recently and had asked Rurighd McMeddes at the Council whether this precluded the installation of the heritage lighting which had been designed as part of the Rejuvenating Roseburn Project. R McMeddes had replied that he was not aware of the new lighting but did not rule out the installation of heritage lighting as part of the Project in mid 2021.

6.4 Coltbridge Viaduct – The Chairman was pleased to report the completion of the repair and refurbishment of the Viaduct, including the steps down to the Water of Leith and the exit mill lade, which he considered a notable

achievement for the community. The suggestion had been made that it might be appropriate for the Lord Provost to unveil a plaque

6.5 Bus timetables – The Chairman noted that these had largely been restored to pre-Covid levels.

6.6 A Murrayfield resident referred to the report in the February Minutes that double yellow lines were to be installed at the corner of Ormidale Terrace and Kingsburgh Road. She said that the residents did not want these and asked who or what had prompted this decision. N Macdonald thought that the lines are necessary as cars parked right up to the corners make visibility difficult. The resident disagreed and thought the junction of Murrayfield Gardens and Kingsburgh Road more dangerous.

Cllr Douglas thought that residents had asked for the double yellow lines.

The Chairman proposed carrying this matter forward so that it could be investigated.

E Robertson pointed out that parking is a widespread problem in Murrayfield. Henderland Road is used by the parents of St George's pupils, the Tennis Club, people going into the city centre to work and shop and people parking there for the airport, the last group often leaving their cars there for weeks. She felt that the permit system is not working and residents need more parking provision both during the week and at weekends.

N Oldroyd commented that parked cars on Murrayfield Road cause visibility problems.

Cllr Ross explained that an extension of the parking zones was agreed about 15 months ago and will begin in the north east of the city. Murrayfield residents voted on their preferences 3 or 4 years ago and will not get the chance to do so again for many years. He **undertook to present a summary of the current position to the next MCC meeting.**

6.7 Parking permits – The same Murrayfield resident asked when the parking permits purchased by residents in May would be issued and when it would be possible to purchase visitors' permits.

Cllr Douglas confirmed that the Council offices are still closed, but that, as the traffic wardens have electronic access to permit information, it is not necessary to display a permit. Permits would be issued as soon as possible.

6.8 J Forbes welcomed the Police campaign on speeding scheduled for October. He reported that speeding on Ellersly Road and Murrayfield Road is a problem apart from during the rush hour, when the traffic is gridlocked. At other times there is virtually no observance of the 20 mph speed limit.

7. Old Colt Bridge Christmas licence

N Oldroyd reported that she had been in touch with Heather Raeburn at Pape's Cottages and John McNeill at the Council. They have approval for a Christmas tree on the Old Colt Bridge. The plan is to have it lit on 1 December involving as many local groups and schools as possible in carol singing and collections for charities benefiting groups such as NHS workers and hospitals. She accepted that Covid-19 restrictions might prevent the planned activities from taking place.

N Oldroyd also reported that J McNeill had received a phone call from the trader who had sold Christmas trees from the Bridge last December asking if he could do the same again this year. J McNeill had informed him that a

“community initiative” would prevent this. There is concern that he might approach the owner of 37 Corstorphine Road and H Raeburn is worried that the trader might use the MCC Christmas tree as a selling point for his own business.

Cllr Ross suggested contacting the Rotary Club as they often get involved in similar initiatives. He **undertook to give N Oldroyd contact details**.

8. Any Other Competent Business and Questions from the Floor

8.1 The Chairman commented that the work on the east stand at BT Murryafield was due to be completed by 4 September. N Oldroyd thought that depending on the weather it might take a couple of extra days.

8.2 E Robertson asked where the Council now sends plastic refuse for recycling. She explained that when she had enquired a couple of years ago she had been told that it was sent to landfill. **Cllr Ross undertook to find out**.

8.3 A Murrayfield resident commented on the fact that a number of the local Just Eat cycle racks have been badly vandalised. H Whaley said that Just Eat are good at responding when damage is reported.

8.4 N Oldroyd reported that Dine, who run the restaurant at the Traverse Theatre, are to take over the premises in Murrayfield Place formerly occupied by the Leopardo restaurant in October.

The Chairman asked whether the new restaurant would stay open late and was told by a local resident that it was likely to close around 10 pm.

8.5 The Chairman reported that he has emergency contact details for JC Decaux if there are any issues with the advertising hoarding at Roseburn. He had contacted them about the recent fly tipping there and the gate had been secured and the Council asked to remove the rubbish.

8.6 J McDonagh confirmed that MCC has received its annual grant of £842 from the Council.

9. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 6 October 2020 – AGM and Ordinary Meeting

Subsequent meetings: 10 November and 15 December 2020.

Minutes approved at meeting of 6 October 2020.