

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 10 November 2020 at 7.30pm
by Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
N Macdonald, J McDonough, N Oldroyd, E Robertson, M Stevens,
H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Frank Ross (Lord Provost and Lord
Lieutenant), Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 8 members of the public,
Apologies: Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair
Rankin, 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

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance to the third meeting of MCC on Zoom. He mentioned that the issue of flood defences would be dealt with under Councillors' Reports.

The Chairman congratulated N Oldroyd, J McDonough and John McNeill of the Council on procuring the Christmas tree which had already been delivered to the Old Colt Bridge. N Oldroyd confirmed that the Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time would govern what community events could be held in the run up to Christmas. She reported that Heather Raeburn has contacted Roseburn Primary School and arranged for the pupils to decorate the base of the tree and the lower branches. The pupils are keen to be involved in carol singing round the tree and N Oldroyd has emailed the Scottish Government for clarification on whether singing will be allowed. N Oldroyd will record the switching on of the tree lights and will broadcast the event on Facebook Live.

In reply to a question from the Chairman N Oldroyd said that she thought that the trader who sold Christmas trees from the Old Colt Bridge last year is unlikely to get a licence this year because selling trees would encourage people to congregate in breach of the Covid-19 restrictions.

R Beavis asked whether, if live singing is not permitted, MCC could record the Roseburn Primary School pupils singing carols and play the recording on the Bridge, suitable equipment and power supply permitting. N Oldroyd undertook to discuss this with J McNeill at her meeting with him on site the following day.

2. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 6 October 2020

These were approved. Prop: N Macdonald, Sec: E Robertson.

The Chairman said that the Agenda covered all matters arising from the Minutes.

3. Community Policing Report

3.1 The Chairman reported that prior to the meeting PC Sam Davison had emailed a report in a new format comprising two parts – a Divisional report and his own additional comments.

There had been an increase in break-ins to garages with thieves targeting bicycles and a decrease in housebreaking.

In October there had been a campaign to enforce road safety measures in Roseburn, Maybury, Ellersly and Ravelston.

The Police are running an autumn campaign focussing on crime prevention during the darker nights and a winter “Be Bright, Be Seen” safety campaign.

There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour linked to breaches of the Covid-19 restrictions.

3.2 Rogue traders – A resident of Ormidale Terrace reported that the same stonemason who had sought work in her street last year had reappeared recently and she was concerned that he was taking advantage of some residents. She described his conduct as persistent and aggressive. She suggested that other local residents alert their own neighbours via their local WhatsApp groups. She also asked whether the Council or the Police provide window stickers discouraging cold calling. N Oldroyd advised that the Council’s Trading Standards department provide these stickers.

3.3 Damaged cars in Kew Terrace – The Chairman intimated that a resident of Kew Terrace had informed him of an incident in which two cars in Kew Terrace had had their windows smashed. As the resident concerned was not at the meeting the matter could not be discussed further.

3.4 Beggars in Roseburn – The Chairman reported that another local resident, who was not at the meeting, had asked whether the beggars who had recently established a pitch outside the Roseburn Tesco, were being exploited. Cllr Gloyer said that the Police had investigated this issue last year. She had consulted an agency which looks after rough sleepers and been told that the beggars belonged to a large family who shared accommodation and a van.

N Macdonald, E Robertson and a member of the public attested to the fact that this is not a new problem, but that it is new to Roseburn.

R Beavis reported that the convenience stores between Roseburn and the West End had all been targeted by beggars since the easing of the lockdown. He had noticed that the same vehicle collected money from the beggars at these locations at different times during the day.

N Oldroyd had heard that the girl who sits outside Scotmid at Roseburn had been trying to sell drugs to teenagers, but she had not witnessed this herself.

J McDonough said that the Chairman had notified the Police via PC Sam Davison. He asked whether MCC or the City Councillors could do anything else.

Cllr Ross confirmed that this is a matter for the Police rather than the Council and that, as long as the beggars are passive, there is little that can be done.

Cllr Douglas confirmed that, as begging is not illegal, the Police will not remove beggars. They will check that they have passports and are not being trafficked.

The Chairman suggested that the situation be kept under review.

3.5 Advertising near Roseburn Bar – The Chairman reported that two unauthorised adverts for roofing companies had appeared on the railings near the Roseburn Bar. He had told the Police but nothing had happened. He had turned round the advert which had been in the eye line of motorists heading west, but was not able to remove either.

J Forbes reported that there is a similar problem at Western Corner.

Cllr Ross confirmed that unauthorised adverts are a Council matter and should be reported to the Environmental Wardens. He suggested using Twitter -

@edinhelp – to report incidents to the Council Helpdesk.

4. Councillors' Reports

4.1 Flood defences – The Chairman reported that at previous MCC meetings Gordon Sharpe had stated the concerns shared by him and a group of his neighbours about the shortcomings of the Flood Defence Scheme and MCC had attempted to summarise these concerns on their website. G Sharpe felt that the summary was unfair. The Chairman concluded that MCC had taken this issue as far as they could and he felt that it was now for G Sharpe to continue the discussion with the Council and central government.

Cllr Ross confirmed that he had met G Sharpe on site on 13 March 2020, had seen the areas of concern and had taken photos. He had spoken to a senior Council officer about carrying out a site visit and an assessment with him. The pandemic had resulted in the redeployment of the relevant officers to the Spaces for People team and nothing further could be done until things return to normal. He reassured G Sharpe that the issue had not been forgotten.

G Sharpe said that he had written to all of his neighbours in the last couple of days and they strongly support his stance.

4.2 Coloured markings on pavements – A resident of Ormidale Terrace asked what the plethora of recently applied coloured markings on the pavements signify.

Cllr Ross said that the only new infrastructure project of which he was aware was a £75m-£100m investment by a City Fibre/Vodafone joint venture in installing 1gigabyte fibre across the city.

M Stevens reported that in the course of the Stanhope Street consultation with the Council he had been told that the markings in fact relate to the utilities along the route of the CCWEL.

4.3 Charging points for electric vehicles – The same resident of Ormidale Terrace asked whether the Council had any plans for introducing on-street charging points for electric vehicles. She commented that several of her neighbours were interested in changing to electric vehicles but converting their front gardens into driveways to enable charging points to be installed would not be a popular or desirable development.

Cllr Douglas stated that a report had been submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee last year and there are plans to increase the number of on-street charging points in locations across the city, but none is planned for Murrayfield. He explained that the policy of moving lamp posts further away from the pavement edge to increase accessibility means that charging cables would have to cross the pavement and would constitute a hazard. Infrastructure would have to be added to the current lamp posts to enable them to support charging points.

Cllr Ross confirmed that the charging point at the Murrayfield Curling Hall had been installed as part of an environmental upgrade.

Cllr Gloyer assured the meeting that the proposal for more charging points has not been forgotten and is discussed at the Climate Change and Sustainability Group to which she belongs. The scheme could be expanded as and when revenue from the initial charging points comes in.

4.4 Spaces for People – Cllr Ross reported that he had spoken to Council officers about Roseburn Primary School. It is their intention to have a plan for every school. A report will be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee this week. Roseburn Primary School will be in the second tranche. A plan will be formulated and submitted for consultation with the parents before implementation.

4.5 Pansy Walk – Cllr Ross reported that he had spoken to Council Officers about returning the former allotment site to its original use. It is designated as open space in the Local Development Plan, but the Housing Department view it as a windfall housing site. There had been a problem with contamination from a chemical or oil spillage but he believed the site was now clear. He was in favour of allotments and suggested that a joint campaign from MCC, Gorgie/Dalry and Sighthill Community Councils, Balgreen Primary School and the local City Councillors was required.

Stuart McKenzie, the Chairman of the Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Associations, stated that the current model for new allotments is DIY. He suggested identifying people on the allotment waiting list with the relevant postcodes and motivating them to form a group and apply for grants. **S McKenzie undertook to speak to the Allotment Officer at the Council, try to involve local people and report back on progress to MCC.**

Cllr Ross undertook to talk to the four City Councillors for Gorgie/Sighthill, who he believed would be supportive of the proposal, and ask them to persuade the Head Teacher of Balgreen Primary School to write a letter of support.

The Chairman undertook to contact the Stenhouse, Saughton Mains & Whitson and the Gorgie-Dalry Community Councils to ask them to support the initiative to return the Pansy Walk site to allotment use.

4.6 Strategic Review of Parking - Cllr Gloyer confirmed that the proposed extensions of the Controlled Parking Zones do not include Murrayfield. The only local areas affected are the Roseburn side of the A8, Saughtonhall and Corstorphine. Informal consultations on Phase 1 (Gorgie, Shandon and Leith) took place in late 2019 and consultations on the other three phases (including the A8 corridor) will begin in January 2021. A full report will be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee that month setting out details of the revised timescale and the results of the Phase 1 consultation and will seek a decision on the next steps for that proposal.

5. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

5.1 Former Royal High School - The Scottish Ministers have refused both planning permission and Listed Building Consent for the redevelopment of the former Royal High School as a hotel. He felt that the formal dismissal of all appeals was good news for the city as a whole.

5.2 37 Corstorphine Road - The Scottish Ministers have extended the period for review to 17 November 2020. Their primary concern will be SEPA's objection but MCC have also raised the issue of insufficient provision of green space.

5.3 9 Kinellan Road – There has been no real progress since the last MCC meeting and no change regarding the failure to provide affordable housing on site. The application for planning permission is still awaiting assessment.

The proprietor of an adjoining property reported that the Council's planning portal discloses a new report from the Roads authority which recommends the reduction in parking spaces from two to one per property and a report from the Water authority which contains an analysis of the impact of the proposed development on run off and drainage. (The application was withdrawn on 11 November.)

5.4 Vodafone equipment at BT Murrayfield – MCC had received pre-application notification of a proposal for additional telecoms equipment on the south side of BT Murrayfield. He did not think it was cause for concern.

5.5 6 Corstorphine Road – The owner of 37 Corstorphine Road had drawn MCC’s attention to the application for planning permission for a shed in the front garden of this property. As it is a minor domestic application, MCC would not normally get involved. It was agreed that **the Chairman would respond** to that effect.

6. Traffic and Transport

6.1 Bus lane camera - Notice of the installation of a bus lane camera at the foot of Murrayfield Gardens has been placed on MCC’s notice boards.

N Oldroyd pointed out that the sign at the foot of Murrayfield Road alerting drivers to the camera is hidden behind another sign. **Cllr Douglas** asked N Oldroyd to email him the details and **undertook to take this up with the appropriate person at the Council.**

6.2 CCWEL consultation – The Chairman reported that a survey of residents on the impact of the CCWEL is being undertaken by SYSTRA. He had been asked to provide MCC’s views and had done so. M Stevens reported that he had been asked to do the same for the Donaldson Area Amenity Association (“DAAA”). The Chairman, M Stevens and a local resident all criticised the survey for failing to ask for a respondent’s address, asking about the anticipated impact of the CCWEL on streets which will not in fact be affected and asking meaningless questions about priorities.

6.3 Stanhope Street – M Stevens reported that the Council’s consultation with residents on changes to the road layout in connection with CCWEL had just finished. The DAAA residents had all been encouraged to make their views known. Cllr Ross asked about the outcome regarding the proposed removal of a bus stop. M Stevens replied that this had not formed part of the consultation.

7. Old Colt Bridge Christmas licence and impact of Covid-19 rules

This had been dealt with at Item 1.

8. Friends of Roseburn Park and outcome of AGM on 28 October 2020

B Knowles reported as follows:-

8.1 FoRP recently held a delayed AGM by Zoom. They are still short of one Trustee on the Committee.

8.2 The drainage scheme and upgrade for the west playing fields will take 30 weeks and was to have started in December. It is now likely to start early next year as the tender documents have yet to be issued. J McDonough thought it might be delayed beyond the start of 2021.

8.3 The water supply from the Pavilion for the refurbishment of the drinking fountain has been tested and is free of lead or any other contaminant. This means it is fit for public consumption. Additional funding of £1,500 has been received from the Evelyn Drysdale Foundation.

8.4 To get the new mural designated as a War Memorial a formal ceremony is required and FoRP are seeking the help of the Lord Lieutenant. Cllr Ross asked the Chairman to resend his email requesting the Lord Lieutenant’s help.

8.5 Both the ice rink and the curling rink have been closed due to Covid regulations. The curling rink may re-open in January. It is unclear when the ice rink will re-open.

Cllr Ross added that the ice rink has furloughed staff but there are concerns about the impact of the closure on the rink’s long term viability. A decision

will be made in mid December about whether the curling hall will re-open this curling season.

- 8.6 A member of the public raised concerns about teenagers climbing on the roof of the toilet block. She felt that it was not secure and the Council, as owner, might be liable if someone were injured because it had not been secured against intruders. J McDonough thought that climbing on the roof did not constitute an intrusion. **Cllr Ross undertook to raise the matter with the Parks team.** P Gregson intimated that FoRP had raised and spent £700 on strengthening the roof a couple of years ago.

9. Treasurer's Report

9.1 The Treasurer reported that there had been no income or expenditure in the previous month and MCC has approximately £2,000 in hand.

9.2 At the previous meeting he had suggested identifying several micro projects on which MCC could spend some of this money. R Beavis had agreed to be involved. There are currently four possible projects:-

(a) A contingency reserve of £200 to cover expenses in connection with the Christmas tree and compliance with Covid-19 regulations.

(b) A plaque at Murrayburgh House to mark the centenary of local artist, Charles H Mackie – The Chairman is leading this project and has asked the factor of Murrayburgh House to seek landlord's consent for a plaque. The estimated cost is £145 plus £50 for installation.

(c) Work on the Beechwood milestone – J Forbes is leading this project but is less enthusiastic since being advised by John Riddell that cleaning the stone is not recommended. It was agreed **that J Riddell would investigate the cost of a repair** in the form of an invisible patch and, in the event that that proved too expensive, J Forbes would look into the installation of a plaque above the milestone.

(d) A plaque at 15 Ormidale Terrace to mark John Lennon's association with the house. He used to visit his aunt and may have written "Rain" there. **E Robertson undertook to pursue this** by contacting the owner of number 15 and carrying out some research on the internet.

J McDonough confirmed that there is a budget of approximately £250 for each project and asked how a decision should be made on which projects to pursue. He suggested asking for additional proposals via MCC's website.

After much perseverance from M Stevens in trying to establish the process for putting forward new projects, it was agreed that anyone with a suggestion should email a synopsis and cost estimate to secretary@murrayfieldcc.org.uk, ideally at least one week before the next MCC meeting on 15 December 2020, and the Chairman would circulate the synopses and estimates before the meeting. A notice to this effect would be displayed on MCC's website. J McDonough reassured M Stevens that, if a decision could not be made on 15 December, the matter could be rolled over to next year.

N Oldroyd proposed a new MCC notice board at Western Corner. J Forbes, who looks after that notice board, thanked her for the suggestion, but said that, while it is not as good as the new Roseburn notice board, he felt that replacing it could wait a year or two. The Roseburn notice board had cost a lot more than expected. J McDonough suggested that funding could be sought for a new notice board.

10. Social engagement

At the previous MCC meeting R Beavis had offered to give some thought to improving MCC's engagement with the community. He reported that, while now is not a good time to hold social engagement events, it is a good time to plan them and he had several ideas. As the exhibition in the City Art Centre to mark the centenary of Charles H Mackie has been postponed until next year, he proposed approaching local schools to ask them to produce artwork inspired by Mackie, the Colourists and the Impressionists over the winter and exhibiting the artwork as part of the centenary celebrations. Prizes could be offered. He proposed asking someone like Mackie's biographer, Pat Clark, to go into the schools to inspire the pupils.

J McDonough was enthusiastic about this idea and suggested that the artwork could be exhibited at Murrayfield Parish Church. On the basis of his experience with local schools and clubs he recommended approaching the Head Teacher of a primary school and the Head of Curriculum of a secondary school. He offered to speak to local businesses about sponsoring prizes.

E Robertson recommended approaching the Head of the Art Department at Craigmount High School.

R Beavis mentioned the value to community engagement of the local schools, rugby, cricket and tennis clubs, churches and other assets, in particular, Roseburn Park. He said that he has a number of other ideas for events for spring, mid-summer and autumn and would like to establish a small group of MCC colleagues to help him to whittle down the ideas to a manageable few. In response to a request that someone from FoRP join the group, the Chairman suggested that R Beavis might fill the vacancy for a Trustee of FoRP. R Beavis agreed to discuss this with P Gregson.

B Knowles mentioned that FoRP are proposing to engage the community in naming trees in the Park.

It was established that R Beavis's idea of a summer gala in Roseburn Park fitted FoRP's plans for a Fun Day, which this year had had to be cancelled. It was agreed that R Beavis, J McDonough, and P Gregson would get together to discuss ideas.

11. Any Other Competent Business

11.1 Cllr Ross reported that Roseburn Primary School pupils have been asked to design the Lord Provost's Christmas card.

11.2 J Riddell asked about the Council's policy on graffiti removal and was told by Cllr Ross that the Council remove graffiti from Council property only if it is considered offensive. If it is on property belonging to, say, a utility company, the company is notified and requested to remove it. He confirmed that, while many might consider graffiti on a listed building as automatically offensive, that is not the Council's policy. Cllr Ross mentioned that in the past Corstorphine Community Council had undertaken graffiti removal with kit provided by the Council. The Chairman remarked that FoRP had done the same. Providing alternative structures for the graffiti artists to use had also met with some success.

11.3 At the request of Cllr Ross **J Riddell undertook to send him his report on historic milestones.**

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Subsequent meetings: 12 January, 16 February and 30 March 2021.

Minutes approved at meeting of 15 December 2020.