

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 11 May 2021 at 7.30pm
by Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, D Dawson, J Forbes, P Gregson,
N Macdonald, J McDonough, N Oldroyd, E Robertson, M Stevens,
H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 10 members of the public, Steve Kerr, Chair of the Edinburgh
Association of Community Councils,
Apologies: R Beavis, B Knowles, Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Frank Ross, Cllr
Karen Doran, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair
Rankin, 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 Chairman welcomed those in attendance. He named the eight MSPs representing Edinburgh Central and Lothian Region following their election to the Scottish Parliament on 6 May (see above).

2. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 30 March 2021 - Matters Arising and Approval

The Chairman reported as follows:-

2.1 Cafes and beer gardens were now open and there would be further relaxations of the Covid related restrictions the following week.

2.2 At the previous MCC meeting the City Councillors had been asked whether books of visitors' parking permits would be valid for three years, as previously promised. **Cllr Gloyer** confirmed that that was her understanding, but **offered to double check**.

2.3 The eastbound bus stop on Roseburn Terrace had been reinstated.

2.4 MCC would continue to press for the litter bin on the New Colt Bridge to be moved so as not to obscure the plaque explaining the history of the bridge.

2.5 MCC had been invited to comment on the decision by the West End Medical Practice, whose patient numbers have increased significantly, to decline to accept new patients from Roseburn Street, Terrace and Gardens.

N Oldroyd, who works for a medical practice in Stockbridge, understood the need for this step and said that the Murrayfield Medical Practice in Riversdale Crescent is not currently accepting new patients.

E Robertson explained that lack of GPs is a Scotland wide problem with some practices accepting only five new patients per week. She advised that anyone wishing to register with a GP should contact their local health board who will assign them to a GP for an initial three months, but they will then have to look elsewhere.

2.6 Under Scotland's Gardens Scheme the garden of Redcroft, 23 Murrayfield Road will be open on Saturday and Sunday, 15 and 16 May from 11am to 5pm.

2.7 He had responded to a request from Murrayfield Lawn Tennis Club to provide a letter of support to assist their bid for funding for new LED floodlights.

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

3. Presentation by S Kerr, Chair of EACC

The Chairman introduced Steve Kerr, Chair of Corstorphine Community Council and Chair of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (“EACC”), to speak about proposals by the Edinburgh Partnership to improve community planning.

S Kerr explained that, as the Chair of the advocacy body of the city’s 44 Community Councils, he attends the Edinburgh Partnership board meetings. The Edinburgh Partnership (Home – Edinburgh Partnership) is the community planning partnership for the city and brings together the public, community, voluntary and business sectors to deliver a better quality of life in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Partnership membership includes the EACC, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC), Higher Education sector, Further Education sector, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, Scottish Enterprise, South East of Scotland Transport Partnership, and the City of Edinburgh Council.

The current framework for community planning in Edinburgh is principally delivered through Locality Community Planning Partnerships and Neighbourhood Networks. Following a critical report by Audit Scotland on the performance of the Edinburgh Partnership in community planning Steve was asked to join a Working Group which has now drawn up recommendations in the following areas: -

- Governance to deliver outcomes (including plan to deliver the 20-minute neighbourhood model).
- Ways of working and strengthening the role of the community and voluntary sector (including operationalising community anchor organisations and delivering the Community Wealth Building agenda).
- Community Empowerment (including strengthening and enhancing the Community Empowerment plan, strengthening the resourcing and capacity to support Neighbourhood Networks and the LCPPs, and developing a framework for collaboration with the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils).

S Kerr believes that the implementation of the reform recommendations is potentially transformational for Community Councils and the third sector.

Steve had formed an EACC Steering Group composed of 8 Community Councils representing geographic areas of the City. Preparatory to meeting with relevant City Council officers this Steering Group had met twice to deliberate on community engagement, community empowerment and advocacy and governance.

1. Community engagement – It was acknowledged that the Neighbourhood Networks had not worked well. It was proposed that they are empowered to enable them to function more effectively. At the next level up the Locality Community Planning Partnerships are responsible for oversight of the Local Improvement Plans and represent an opportunity for community engagement at a strategic level. It

was felt that the Council had improved its public consultation but there was room for improvement in listening to the responses from consultation.

2. Community empowerment – A broad brush approach to this issue involved the allocation of Council funds to local organisations – Community Councils, third sector organisations and “anchor organisations” – to empower them to assist in the delivery of community planning and commission work on behalf of the Council and the Edinburgh Partnership. The definition of “anchor organisations” has yet to be agreed.

3. Advocacy and governance – Edinburgh has the fewest number of CCs per head of population (44) of any Local Authority area in Scotland. Local Authorities with a high degree of rurality such as Scottish Borders (67), Dumfries & Galloway (107) and Highland (157), have significant numbers of CCs who work collaboratively on service and infrastructure delivery. More telling comparisons are Glasgow (101) with a slightly higher residential population and Fife (105) with a lower residential population than Edinburgh but over twice as many CCs.

A message that has come across strongly from several CCs as part of the reform agenda is -

- reviewing CC boundaries in the light of City expansion.
- capping the number of residents included in a CC area and
- making a direct link between CC boundaries and City Council Wards.

As an example, New Town and Broughton CC has 12 City Councillors within its boundary.

Based on 2011 Census figures the average number of residents in an Edinburgh CC area was 10,400. Drumrae CC was 12,400. Murrayfield CC was 9,500. Corstorphine CC was 23,400, surpassed only by Leith Central CC's 25,000. Given that these figures are 10 years old it is reasonable to assume that the numbers for Corstorphine have increased and is now the largest CC in Edinburgh. Additionally, it is necessary to consider the significant expansion of the City in the West.

In addition to retaining Corstorphine CC the proposal is to promote and establish two new local CCs –

‘Gyle’ (Wester Broom, North & South Gyle, Gogar Loch etc) and

‘Craigs’ (Craigmount, East Craigs, *West Craigs* etc).

Both are recognised community areas with community activists and resident associations.

S Kerr reported that he had provided the Chairman with a Best Value Audit report and would also circulate the reform implementation plan which the Working Group had drafted once it had been finalised. The implementation plan for the Group's proposals is to be agreed at the next meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership board on 22 June 2021.

The Chairman commented that MCC had engaged with the Western Neighbourhood Network with some success. Having neither much local authority housing nor a State secondary school within its area MCC was perhaps unaware of some of the issues which S Kerr had highlighted. While some residents owned property they were not necessarily cash rich and the area certainly had experience

of social isolation and loneliness. The Chairman asked what EACC was looking for from MCC. S Kerr explained that EACC is asked to participate in a number of groups such as the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board which looks at healthcare across the city. He would be very pleased, for example, to find someone with expertise in this area to provide a perspective on health and social care issues across the city.

He proposed that, once there is a clearer idea of the timeline for implementation of the Working Group's recommendations, he attend a future MCC meeting to discuss what MCC can contribute.

J Forbes expressed a concern that adjusting Community Council boundaries according to population could become a "numbers game", whereas a Community Council should represent a real community defined by shared facilities, services and interests.

S Kerr reassured him that the first principle of a Community Council is about place and an identifiable community. The Edinburgh Partnership talks about "20 minute neighbourhoods" as an aspiration. These would be focussed around areas designated as town centres such as St John's Road, Corstorphine. It would also be preferable in some cases to have a better correlation between the City Council Wards and the Community Council areas.

The Chairman commented that the MCC area, which includes the Donaldson Area, is no longer aligned with the City Council Ward boundaries, but it does not seem to matter.

M Stevens, Chair of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA"), explained that the Donaldson Area is represented by West End City Councillors but would not wish to be transferred to the West End Community Council area, as it has far more in common with Murrayfield than the West End.

4. Community Policing Report

The Chairman reported that the latest Police Report identified no new trends. He referred to the various Police operations – Operation Agora targeting break ins to sheds and garages and associated thefts of bikes, Operation Epanodos dealing with the policing of green spaces during the lifting of Covid-related restrictions and Operation Proust to tackle attacks on Lothian Buses – and complimented the Police on their imaginative names.

5. Councillor's Report

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gloyer for explaining at the last MCC meeting the process by which the results of the recent consultation on the introduction of new Controlled Parking Zones would be handled.

5.1 CPZ proposals – Cllr Gloyer confirmed that a report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee ("T&EC") on **17 June 2021**. The report will be available on the Council's website five working days before the meeting.

D Dawson reported as follows:-

5.1.1 As a new MCC member he had been speaking to residents in Saughtonhall about the CPZ proposals and had realised that many people were unclear about MCC's role. He welcomed MCC's recent initiative to improve social engagement.

5.1.2 He had been told by the secretary of the T&EC that a request for a deputation to the 17 June meeting could only be made by an official body and he hoped MCC would make such a request on behalf of the Saughtonhall residents.

5.1.3 He and another Saughtonhall resident will put together a presentation once the report is available. They are also organising the printing of a flyer advertising the T&EC meeting and providing the contact details of the T&EC Councillors. The flyer will be distributed to the Saughtonhall residents by volunteers. The Saughtonhall Community Association (“SCA”) will put out the flyer as a pdf document to their 1500 members.

5.1.4 Dave Whitelaw of SCA is concerned that the introduction of a CPZ would result in the loss of parking outside SCA’s hall and a consequent loss of revenue from groups who normally hire the hall.

N Oldroyd suggested that the flyer should be distributed to the whole MCC area. D Dawson and another Saughtonhall resident explained that there are insufficient resources to do so and the flyer is a local Saughtonhall initiative rather than an MCC one.

Cllr Gloyer suggested that it would send a powerful message to the T&EC if MCC and SCA both requested a deputation.

In reply to questions from a member of the public she confirmed that the meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams and that there is no prospect of a return to physical meetings before the end of the school summer holidays.

Cllr Gloyer explained the procedure at the meeting - Council Officers will submit their report; the deputations will have been allocated a time slot within which to give their presentations and may be questioned by the T&EC members; the opposition parties are likely to put forward amendments; the amended proposals will be debated and then a vote will be taken.

The T&EC can require the proposals to be considered at a full Council meeting if at least one third of the membership agrees. This is not necessarily an advantage to deputations, as there is an opportunity for Council Officers to be questioned at a T&EC meeting, but that is not really practical at a full Council meeting.

Cllr Gloyer recommended looking at a webcast of a previous meeting for guidance. In reply to a question from D Dawson she confirmed that until recently deputations had to make their case in writing but can now do so verbally in a virtual meeting. Ward Councillors can attend and speak and can therefore be asked by interested groups to put specific questions.

E Robertson asked how she and her neighbours, who are in favour of the CPZ proposals for their street, could put their case to the T&EC. Cllr Gloyer recommended writing to the individual members whose names and contact details are available on the Council website.

S Kerr cautioned that, as the 17 June meeting will also discuss Spaces for People and will attract a number of deputations on that topic, allocation of time will be an issue.

5.2 “20 minute neighbourhoods” – Cllr Gloyer reported that a draft strategy will be submitted to the Policy and Sustainability Committee at the start of June. It focusses on areas designated as town centres such as Corstorphine, areas of deprivation such as Wester Hailes and Craigmillar and rural areas such as Currie, Balerno and Kirkliston. It does not include Murrayfield or Roseburn, but that does not mean that place making will not be done in these and other areas. She encouraged MCC to think about making a case for place making in parts of the MCC area.

5.3 Roseburn Primary School road safety measures – The Chairman reported that he had received an email from the Chair of the Roseburn School Parent Partnership who had discussed the issue of road safety at their meeting on 10 May.

The issues raised were:-

- General anxiety about road safety in the area of the school with cars travelling fast and using various streets as ‘rat runs’
- Specific concerns about Roseburn Street which does not have a crossing guide
- The blue badge space being used by non-blue badge permit holders
- The lack of success in persuading the Council of the need for more crossing guides – something which the school management continue to raise through their management lines.

Three suggestions made by the parent community were:-

- Progress planned changes to Roseburn Street in spite of the delay to the CCWEL
- Adapt the road next to the school (perhaps under the Spaces for People rules) so that the crossing guide who is there could be redeployed to Roseburn Street
- Support the call for more resourcing of crossing guides for this area.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Cllr Ross has been pursuing this issue but has been told by Council Officers that the changes will have to await the CCWEL.

A Roseburn Primary School parent who had been at the Parent Partnership meeting explained that there is now only one crossing guide instead of the original five guides. The most dangerous street is in fact Roseburn Place which is used as a “rat run” by more and more cars, the size and speed of which present a particular danger to small children. She suggested that, instead of waiting for the delayed CCWEL, that part of it which involves changing Roseburn Gardens to a one way street could be done now at little cost. H Whaley agreed. Others suggested that Roseburn Gardens could simply be closed with “No Entry” signs, but P Gregson felt that doing away with parking there would be unpopular with local traders. Cllr Gloyer recommended requesting the change to a one way street through the Spaces for People scheme.

In answer to a question from N Oldroyd Cllr Gloyer confirmed that the post of crossing guide (“lollipop person”) is a paid Council post which is difficult to fill because it is very part time. She agreed that seeking volunteers might be a solution.

S Kerr reported that he had been told by Dave Sinclair, the lead Officer on Spaces for People, that the measures which are most likely to be retained are those relating to schools. He suggested that MCC put the Roseburn Gardens request direct to Dave Sinclair.

5.4 Pansy Walk allotments – The Chairman reminded the meeting that Cllr Ross has been pursuing the proposal to return the former works site at Pansy Walk to allotments and that clearing and cleaning the site would be a prerequisite. The alternative proposal for affordable housing has been dropped because of the risk of flooding and the noise from the nearby railway line. MCC has received almost 90 expressions of support for the allotments proposal.

Richard Napier, Principal of Balgreen Primary School, confirmed that he is keen to encourage a love of gardening in his pupils and supports the proposal to return this large, secure site to allotments.

5.4 Garscube Terrace and Wester Coates surface repairs – The Chairman reported that photographs of the problem areas in Garscube Terrace taken by A Anderson have been passed to Council Officers. A Anderson reported that minor patching with tar has been carried out but further work is required. She also referred to flooding outside 6 Henderland Road and asked whether pressure could be put on Scottish Water to investigate this. **The Chairman offered to send his contact at**

Scottish Water photos of the problem and A Anderson undertook to provide photos.

5.5 Ellersly Road pavement widening – The Chairman had received no reply from Scott Donkin to his enquiry about Neighbourhood Partnership funding for this.

6. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

6.1 22 Haymarket Yards - A pre-application notification has been received for a proposed development of student accommodation at 22 Haymarket Yards, just outside MCC's area but very close to Devon Place. A public consultation event is proposed in May or June. He has requested that DAAA (through Mike Stevens) be added to the communication list.

M Stevens confirmed that planning consent has already been granted for this development but it does not include the steps which give direct access to Devon Place. The new application to amend the consent includes these steps. It is not clear whether the developer has now acquired the steps or rights over them, but direct access to and from the student accommodation would increase pressure on parking in Devon Place and is of concern to DAAA.

6.2 Telecoms mast at Beechwood Mains – In the absence of Cllr Douglas J Forbes had no information as to whether the Transport Officer has now inspected the site.

6.3 37 Corstorphine Road – He had not received a reply from Planning Aid Scotland to his inquiry about the pressure which was being put on the DPEA Reporter to proceed without the updated Arup report on flood risk. He understood that Planning Aid Scotland had provided support to local residents.

6.4 SRU Licence application – An application from the SRU for a variation of their existing licence appears not to involve any significant change from the status quo as far as any community impact is concerned.

6.5 Tree felling in Murrayfield Avenue – He had just been made aware of a TCA (Trees in a Conservation Area) application made and granted by the Council concerning 19 trees in Murrayfield Avenue, 6 of which are to be felled for valid arboricultural reasons. He was concerned that the Council expressly propose not to replace the felled trees, and that numerous previous tree removals on the east side are already marked by stumps rather than replacement trees. **Cllr Gloyer** agreed that felling trees without replacing them is inconsistent with the Council's stated Million Tree City policy. She **undertook to check to whom MCC should write to register their concern.**

7. Traffic and Transport

7.1 Spaces for People – H Whaley confirmed that the Spaces for People consultation had generated a large number of responses, the report on which will be considered at the T&EC meeting on 17 June.

7.2 CCWEL – The Chairman reported that the tender price for the CCWEL has come in higher than expected. Council Officers are currently working on revising the designs in order to minimise costs and ensure a cost-effective project delivery. The start of the scheme will be delayed until late 2021.

7.3 Spaces for People – A Anderson expressed the view, supported by a local resident, that the temporary cycle lane along Queensferry Road is dangerous, particularly for vehicles turning right coming out of Craighleith Retail Park and the hatching at the first junction after the garage is misleading. Cllr Gloyer confirmed

that the Inverleith City Councillors, in whose Ward this is, have been heavily lobbied on these issues and she was sure that the T&EC is well aware of them.

8. Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”) update

P Gregson reported as follows:-

8.1 The Cricket Club have provided funds for the Ian Shiels memorial bench and two new cherry trees on the south side of the Park.

8.2 Five barbecue slabs have been laid.

8.3 The slabs for three new benches have been laid and the benches are awaited.

8.4 Thanks to Cllr Ross a new bench is to be installed at the footbridge leading to the Medical Centre.

8.5 The bark is coming off the log bench and he has re-varnished it.

8.6 Rosie Bell’s walking guide is now available on the websites of FoRP and MCC and is referred to on Facebook.

8.7 The western playing fields have been seeded and await germination.

8.8 The contractor has removed the chicane at the Ice Rink bridge.

9. Treasurer’s Report

9.1 As the Treasurer’s microphone was not working, the Chairman confirmed that MCC’s insurance with Zurich has been renewed.

9.2 J Forbes reported that Listed Building Consent is awaited for the milestone plaques at Beechwood Mains and the former railway bridge at Roseburn and a decision should be made by 29 May.

The quotations for these plaques and the proposed Peploe plaque are within budget. The Chairman added that the owner of the house at Devon Place where the Peploe plaque is to be placed is in touch with the maker of the plaque to ensure that it is acceptable.

The Chairman expressed the view that the refusal by the owner of Murrayburgh House of consent for a plaque commemorating local artist, Charles H Mackie gave MCC the opportunity to consider a better location such as Roseburn Park. He reminded the meeting that the exhibition on Charles H Mackie in the City Art Centre runs from 15 May to 10 October 2021.

10. Social Engagement

10.1 The Chairman reported that Rebecca Eccles had produced a flow chart for FoRP to indicate how links work between Facebook, Instagram and similar, and the use of closed groups. MCC needs to sort out links to the FoRP website and needs someone to manage its Twitter account proactively.

10.2 R Brown reported that the Murrayfield and Roseburn Village Blether Facebook page set up by Jane Alliston now has 500 members and is working well.

10.3 The Chairman informed the meeting that Old Quad, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh Academy sports ground and the Botanics will provide socially distanced venues for this year’s Festival.

11. Any Other Competent Business

The Chairman said that there is little prospect of physical public meetings in the near future. J Forbes reminded the meeting that the AGM would normally be held in May and suggested that it should be held at the first physical meeting.

N Oldroyd said that, if MCC are able eventually meet in the Church Hall but without members of the public, she could live stream proceedings via Facebook Live. Members of the public would be able to put questions to MCC even though not physically present. The live stream could also be recorded on Facebook.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 29 June 2021

Subsequent meetings: 31 August, 5 October, 9 November and 14 December 2021.

Minutes approved at meeting of 29 June 2021.