

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 13 August 2019 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, C Harker, N Macdonald, R Smart, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
In attendance: 14 members of the public, PC Paula Smith,
Apologies: S Holland, B Knowles, M Stevens, D Whitelaw, Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair Rankin, Cllr Frank Ross, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Ruth Davidson, MSP, Neil Findlay, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Gordon Lindhurst, MSP, Andy Wightman, MSP, Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Introduction, apologies and elections

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman introduced and welcomed Clive Harker as the nominated representative of Murrayfield Parish Church on Murrayfield Community Council (“MCC”).

The Chairman noted with disappointment that the young person who was due to join MCC had not so far attended a meeting.

The Chairman intimated that the Community Council elections are due to take place in September 2019 and, if the number of nominees exceeds the number of seats, there will be an election for the first time in MCC’s history. R Brown confirmed that the nomination period runs from 9 to 30 September 2019. In answer to questions from the floor P Gregson confirmed that there are 12 ordinary seats on MCC and anyone wishing to stand requires a proposer and seconder. R Brown intimated that the local interest groups (for which there are 6 seats) have to repeat the process of registering with the Council and nominating a representative.

2. Community Policing Report

2.1 PC Paula Smith introduced herself as a new member of the Community Policing team for Corstorphine and Murrayfield. She informed the meeting that PC Euan Sinclair is currently on secondment and PC Sam Davison is working on Arran. PC David Campbell is a temporary member of her team.

2.2 PC Smith reported on the period from 1 June to 31 July 2019 as follows:-

There had been 14 attempted and actual housebreakings, 24 thefts including shoplifting and thefts from vehicles, 5 assaults, 2 incidents of anti-social behaviour, 2 acts of vandalism, 5 road traffic offences, 3 miscellaneous crimes and no hate crimes. The number of housebreakings was double the number for the same period last year, but the numbers for all other types of crime were down on last year’s.

Of the 55 reported crimes 9 had been solved and investigations were ongoing regarding the others.

PC Smith explained that 4 of the break ins had been to business premises on Roseburn Terrace and reflected a citywide increase in such crimes. The attempted break ins were largely unsophisticated and opportunistic.

PC Smith reminded the meeting of the importance of lighting secluded areas, setting burglar alarms as a matter of course and CCTV if available, and of not leaving potential aids to burglary such as garden tools and loose rocks lying around.

2.3 R Beavis spoke about the 5 recent burglaries at Roseburn Maltings. The Maltings comprise 17 blocks of flats, some with lifts, and had been thought of as safe and secure. He explained that he had invited PC Heather Clark of the Crime Prevention team to advise the residents there. She had spoken at a residents' meeting, carried out a thorough survey of the Maltings and visited a number of the flats. She had issued a helpful report and distributed a useful "Home Security Guide". He said that most of the recommended security measures are relatively low cost and simple. R Beavis expressed his thanks for PC Clark's help and recommended the service offered by the Crime Prevention team.

A Anderson added advice that neighbours should have reciprocal arrangements to put out and take in each other's bins so that there are no telltale signs of absence.

R Beavis reminded the meeting that entry to premises can be gained very quickly by using a credit card or applying a screwdriver to the barrel of a lock.

2.4 J Forbes reported that he had emailed Euan Sinclair about the recent vandalism of 4 cars in Kinellan Road. The owners of 3 of the cars had been out of the country at the time. J Forbes had been impressed by the Police response. PC Smith said she was aware that there had been 12 such incidents in all. She said that the thefts were opportunistic and not much of value was taken. She recommended leaving nothing on show in a car, parking under a light where possible, closing gates if using a drive and installing a dashboard camera.

2.5 PC Smith reported that Scotmid at Roseburn had suffered several incidents of shoplifting.

There had been one incident of "theft by finding" when a mobile phone had been left in the back of a taxi.

PC Smith warned that thieves go to some trouble to effect the theft of expensive bikes and, if they have been padlocked to railings, will cut the railings if the padlock is too strong.

2.6 A Roseburn resident complained about the failure by the Police officers on duty after the Liverpool FC v SSC Napoli football match at BT Murrayfield on 28 July to reprimand the drivers who found that they could not get their cars out onto the main road because of the usual road closures and who sat in their cars repeatedly sounding their horns. She reported that phoning 101 had produced no response either.

The Secretary asked whether the road closures were different from those put in place for rugby matches. A resident of Stair Park felt that priority is given to rugby matches and the arrangements for football matches and concerts at BT Murrayfield are less good.

In reply to a question from A Anderson PC Smith confirmed that it is an offence to sound a horn except in an emergency.

A member of the public, who had narrowly avoided having his car lifted and towed away, complained about the lack of notice of the changes in parking restrictions prior to the match.

The Secretary undertook to raise these issues at the next meeting between the SRU and local residents.

3. Councillors' Reports including budget engagement and Neighbourhood Networks
There were no Councillors present.

3.1 The Chairman reported that the Council had organised a series of meetings to encourage budgetary participation. The Secretary confirmed that the next meeting is in the City Chambers on Tuesday, 27 August 2019 and referred anyone interested in attending to the Council's website for further details.

3.2 P Gregson reported that (1) he had spoken to the Personal Assistant of Ruth Davidson, MSP about the recent risk of flooding in Riversdale and Baird Grove on the occasion of the recent flash floods and the delay by the Council in closing the necessary floodgate; and (2) the residents in Murrayfield Place had also been concerned about flooding and had used the sandbags left by SGN to protect the shop premises.

R Smart complained about the inadequacy of the Council's policy of clearing gullies only once a year.

Two members of the public informed the meeting that blocked gullies can be reported to the Council online and sending photos is an effective method. H Whaley advised being precise about the location of the problem.

3.3 P Gregson raised again the Council's failure to replace the three trees outside Murrayfield Medical Practice which had been removed at the time of the flood prevention works.

3.4 The Chairman reported that he had volunteered to serve on the virtual funding panel of the Western Neighbourhood Network and Steve Kerr, the Chairman of Corstorphine Community Council, had put himself forward to represent the Network on the North West Locality Community Planning Partnership.

3.5 A resident of Roseburn Drive asked whether the Council could be asked to locate a proposed bike shelter somewhere other than the corner of Roseburn Drive outside the retirement complex, as there are already five communal bins there. H Whaley said that bike shelters are normally installed at requested locations, but was told that this one had not been requested.

The Secretary agreed that the proposed location is not suitable for a bike shelter and **undertook to raise the issue with the local Councillors.**

3.6 P Gregson informed the meeting that the petition started by G Rendall of Art et Facts on Roseburn Terrace calling on the Council to carry out modelling of the likely effect of the City Centre West to East Link project ("CCWEL") on air pollution in Roseburn Terrace had 32 business signatures and 296 individual signatures

He reported that he, G Rendall and three members of MCC had had a meeting with Council officers on 17 July 2019. The Council's air pollution expert had been present but J Lamb, the retired SEPA expert who had been advising the Roseburn Vision group, had not been able to attend. He was of the opinion that the modelling which the Council had carried out and which showed a projected 9% reduction in pollution was incorrect. P Gregson explained that the Council had used a different method to that which is usually used in Edinburgh and throughout Scotland. A further meeting with the Council and its expert, at which J Lamb could also be present, had been requested. P Gregson suggested that the group might have to fund its own air pollution study and this would cost about £5000.

H Whaley stated that pollution was a citywide problem and it was wrong to focus in isolation on Roseburn Terrace.

4. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 25 June 2019 and Matters Arising

4.1 The Chairman informed the meeting that the hearing to be held on the objections to the TRO and RSO for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL had been postponed until November.

4.2 Cllr Douglas had reported on 25 June that the proposal for “Ben’s crossing” at the junction of Ellersly Road and Murrayfield Road is not regarded as a priority by the Council. The meeting was unanimous in agreeing that the community’s view is that the crossing is a priority.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: R Beavis, Sec: N Macdonald.

5. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

5.1 9-11 Corstorphine Road – The planning application for the redevelopment of two Victorian cottages to form two three storey houses had been rejected by the Planning Department and the developer had appealed. MCC had made representations to the Reporter who was to carry out a site visit on Monday, 19 August 2019 at 3pm. J Forbes confirmed that he would attend the site visit and intimated that others could do the same, although only as observers.

5.2 Osborne House – The Reporter is “minded to allow” the developer’s appeal against refusal of the original planning application for the redevelopment of Osborne House as a hotel. The consent will be subject to certain conditions which J Forbes considered to be relatively trivial and which do not address MCC’s concerns. The effect of the Reporter’s decision is that the developer’s second application, which did address some of MCC’s concerns, will not proceed.

5.3 9 Kinellan Road – The application for the development of this site has been withdrawn, perhaps because of the planners’ concerns over the density of the proposed development or its environmental impact. It is anticipated that a modified proposal will be put forward by the developer.

5.4 Former Tor nursing home, 30 Corstorphine Road – The Reporter had rejected the developer’s appeal against the refusal of planning consent. A fresh application is expected.

5.5 33 Pinkhill – There was no up to date information.

5.6 37 Corstorphine Road – The Development Management Sub Committee had rejected the Planning Officer’s recommendation for approval of the application for demolition of the existing house and the construction of a block of 20 flats. A revised proposal for fewer units may be put forward. The Planning Convener, Cllr Neil Gardiner, had suggested that less parking and more amenity space would make a difference. SEPA had objected to the application because of concerns about flooding, but a smaller development might raise the same issues.

6. CCWEL TROs, RSOs, air pollution and Rejuvenating Roseburn

The Chairman reported that Jane Robertson of the Scottish Government’s Planning and Environmental Appeals Division had contacted those who had lodged objections to the TRO and RSO for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL advising them that the Reporter will be holding hearings in early November and requesting that they lodge a statement of their objections by 20 August 2019. The Chairman understood that P Gregson on behalf of the Roseburn Vision group, local resident Penny Housley and MCC had been invited to appear at the hearings.

R Smart suggested that MCC should press again for Option B and point out the damage which Option A will cause. He advised that MCC will be required to provide evidence to back their case.

The Chairman felt that MCC could not go over the same ground again, but that there was new evidence regarding air pollution which should be brought forward.

A resident of Stair Park suggested that MCC should hold separate meetings about the CCWEL because in her view too much time is devoted to it at ordinary meetings.

7. Traffic and Transport

7.1 R Smart pointed out that the recent work carried out at Roseburn by SGN had damaged the roads and pavements.

A Roseburn resident remarked on the fact that Scottish Power have chosen the last week of the long school holidays in which to start work outside Roseburn Primary School.

7.2 Haymarket Depot – R Beavis reported that there has been no improvement in the situation regarding noise and air pollution. Six diesel engines are kept running all through the night and the pollution has been worse over the summer when residents want to keep their windows open. The promised shore supply to be installed with Scottish Power has still not begun. The latest date for it is 17 August. The residents of Roseburn Maltings have contacted their Councillors, MSP and MP for help.

7.3 Airlink 100 bus – P Gregson reported that the Airlink 100 bus no longer stops at West Coates. This change was made without warning or consultation, apparently with a view to speeding up the service to and from the airport, but disadvantages a number of hotels and guest houses on West Coates as well as local residents.

It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Transport Edinburgh to complain about the lack of consultation or forewarning.

R Beavis said that he intended to write a letter of complaint.

R Brown said that she had been told that the fares for passengers not travelling to or from the airport are to be increased to discourage the use of the service by people who could use the ordinary Lothian Buses services.

7.4 **Ellersly Road and Ben's Crossing** – As there were no Councillors present to provide an update, **it was agreed that these items be added to the Agenda for the next MCC meeting.**

8. Roseburn Park forthcoming events

In the absence of B Knowles of the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") P Gregson reported as follows:-

8.1 The mural will be painted on the Armoury at the end of August and will be officially unveiled by the Lord Provost, Cllr Frank Ross, on Sunday, 1 September 2019 at 2 pm.

P Gregson appealed for help with the preparatory painting of the Armoury on 17 and 18 August.

The launch of the mural will be followed by FoRP's annual Bake Off.

8.2 FoRP will hold their AGM in the Dove Lounge of Murrayfield Parish Church Centre on 11 September 2019 at 7.30 pm.

8.3 The cycle markings to the west of the pavilion have been removed as it was established that there was no need to split the path at this point. The markings by the toilet block remain, since this is a blind corner. FoRP are submitting an

application to Sustrans for £5,500 for a feasibility study on other measures to reduce conflict between cyclists and pedestrians in the Park.

8.4 It is estimated that the Council will charge rent of £5,000 per annum for a pitch in the Park for a snack van.

8.5 The cage round the plant-watering tap has been vandalised.

8.6 FoRP would like MCC's help to fund a feasibility study into renovating the drinking fountain. FoRP have identified a company which could carry out the work.

9. Any Other Competent Business

9.1 The Chairman invited two residents of Baird Grove to introduce themselves. Dave Dawson and Gordon Sharpe explained that they had been involved in negotiations with the Council on two issues:-

(1) The delay in shutting the floodgate at Baird Grove on the occasion of the flash flood on 24 June 2019 - G Sharpe explained that, because the SRU have raised the level of their flood defence, Baird Grove is now at greater risk. Following a meeting on 8 August with the Council's Senior Flood Engineer, Cllr Douglas and residents of Baird Grove, it had been decided that the Baird Grove floodgate would be closed and the situation monitored.

(2) The difficulty the same residents experience in exiting their estate because of three pedestrian crossings, the speed of cars on the main road and cars parked at Balgreen tram stop - Cllr Douglas had undertaken to consider raising an order for a cross-hatched yellow box or a white "Keep clear" box at the junction from Baird Drive towards the tram stop and a white "Keep clear" box has since been installed. G Sharpe made the point that the experience of the Baird Grove residents proved the effectiveness of concerted action. He hoped that they could count on MCC's support in future. The next issue is likely to be the construction of the mini stadium behind BT Murrayfield.

R Smart suggested that the Baird Grove residents nominate someone to join MCC.

9.2 A Anderson asked if the reservoirs serving the city are being actively managed. G Sharpe said that a letter in the Evening News from a water engineer had suggested that they are not, but this had been denied by the Council's Senior Flood Engineer, who had said that they were actively managed by his own team.

9.3 A resident of Stair Park asked who is responsible for dealing with trees which overhang a pavement. J Forbes replied that they are the owner's responsibility, but if the owner fails to act, the Council will serve a notice on the owner and, if the owner still fails to act, will deal with the trees and bill the owner.

9.4 P Gregson raised the issue of the outstanding snagging items from Phase 2 of the flood prevention works, including ponding in Roseburn Park, which are the responsibility of the contractor, McLaughlin & Harvey. The main contact at the Council, Darren Wraight, has now left the flood prevention project. D Dawson and G Sharpe agreed that concerted efforts should be made to persuade the local Councillors to help.

10. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

11. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 24 September 2019

Subsequent meetings: 5 November and 10 December 2019.

Minutes approved at meeting of 24 September 2019.