

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 14 January 2020 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, P Gregson, J McDonagh, N Oldroyd,
E Robertson, M Stevens, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 14 members of the public, Gordon McOmish, City of Edinburgh
Council, PC Paula Smith, Sgt Sandra Watt,
Apologies: R Beavis, J Forbes, B Knowles, N Macdonald, H Whaley, 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

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance. He congratulated Christine Jardine, MP on her re-election.

2. Flood prevention management

The Chairman invited Gordon McOmish, City of Edinburgh Council Flood Prevention team leader, to describe the role of his team.

G McOmish explained that after the flooding on the Water of Leith near Baird Drive and Baird Grove in June 2019 he had met local residents on two occasions to talk about the deployment of the floodgates there. He felt there was a need to explain how his team operates. He intended to produce a factsheet explaining the team's responsibilities and procedures and post it on the Council's website.

G Mc Omish explained that his team comprises six people including himself. Their role in managing flood risk covers three categories of operation:-

- (a) Inspection and maintenance of the reservoirs, floodgates, watercourses, Queensferry piers, coastal waters, estuaries and gullies,
- (b) Emergency response, and
- (c) Strategy.

The Water of Leith is covered by a telemetry system which records and transmits readings from various instruments. Locally there is a gauge behind the Murrayfield Kwik Fit and a level at the Ice Rink bridge. The Water of Leith and the smaller watercourses have monitoring systems. At Roseburn and Colinton there are level and pressure sensors with alarms in the water. The volumetric flow is measured in cubic metres per second (cumecs) and the water level in metres.

The Flood Prevention team liaises closely with SEPA, whose flood warnings are usually very accurate.

- (a) The floodgates along the Water of Leith are inspected and tested every month. The reservoirs are inspected weekly. G McOmish explained that the team manages the reservoirs but, once the reservoirs are full, they cannot control them. In addition to the outpipes and valves the reservoirs now have a three

metre wide notch which allows the water level to drop more quickly. The walls of the Flood Prevention Scheme are inspected annually.

- (b) There are always two members of the team on standby who are in close contact with the SEPA team. There are sandbags stored in six fire stations across the city.
- (c) The Flood Prevention Scheme was designed to cope with a 1 in 200 years event. The allowance for climate change then was 12%. Since the scheme was designed this allowance has been increased to 40%. Consultants are currently assessing whether the Scheme now meets the 1 in 200 years standard. SEPA have made a practice of objecting to any proposed development along the Water of Leith because of this uncertainty.

A Flood Risk Management Plan linked to a map based information system is in place.

G McOmish reported that the trigger for deploying the Baird Drive floodgates has been reduced from 30 cumecs to 26 and a new level gauge will shortly be installed at the Baird Drive bridge.

E Robertson asked how confident the Flood Prevention team is about their ability to cope with future events, given the perceived acceleration of climate change.

G McOmish acknowledged that the graph on climate change is “going straight up”, but he considered 40% a very high allowance. He said that, if the consultants report that the Scheme does not meet the 1 in 200 years standard, various options would have to be considered including raising the height of the Scheme walls. In practice the difference in terms of wall height between a 1 in 100 years and a 1 in 200 years scheme is approximately 200 mm.

A resident of Baird Drive acknowledged that the Scheme is effective and has improved the amenity of his area. He suggested future proofing the Scheme now by raising the height of the walls where the coping stones can be removed.

A Roseburn resident reminded the meeting that when the Flood Prevention Scheme was being installed one of the Council’s officers had said that the wall at Roseburn Crescent would be raised when the Council had the money to do this. G McOmish admitted that parts of the Scheme had had to be completed on a reduced budget and some things, such as a pumping station, had been omitted. He explained that the Council has a promoted flood protection order in place for the full Scheme. Should funds become available, consideration will be given to completing sections yet to be constructed.

A Murrayfield resident asked whether his team is involved with the Belford section of the Water of Leith Walkway which was closed by a landslip several years ago. G McOmish replied that they are not, but he is aware that the difficulty lies in identifying who is responsible for fixing the problem. The bank which slipped is privately owned. The Council’s Structures team and Scottish Natural Heritage are the agencies involved.

He explained that some of the money from the Roads Improvement Plan is currently being directed towards bridge maintenance and repair. The flood team are working towards including flood assets in the next Roads Improvement Plan to attract funding for maintenance.

In reply to a question from N Oldroyd, G McOmish confirmed that his team covers gullies.

There followed a discussion on blocked gullies in the Murrayfield area.

G Mc Omish explained that road sweeping and gully clearing are not the responsibility of the same department and are not always dealt with together.

J McDonagh asked the Baird Drive resident whether he and his neighbours were now happy that their issues had been addressed and the resident confirmed that he is - at the moment – but does not represent the neighbourhood.

3. Community Policing Report

3.1 PC Paula Smith provided statistics on different categories of crime for the period from 1 November to 31 December 2019 and compared them with the same period in the previous year. She reported that there had been a reduction in reported crimes from 69 to 45. There had been a marked reduction in thefts and a slight increase in house breakings and incidents of disorder and antisocial behaviour. PC Smith recommended increasing the security of sheds containing bikes or other desirable items as they have been targeted recently.

The Chairman referred to a recent discussion with Sam Davison of the Community Policing Team (“CPT”) about changing the format of the CPT report to MCC. It was proposed that the crime statistics be provided in advance of the MCC meetings and that the meetings concentrate on recent issues and initiatives.

J McDonagh, M Stevens and others requested that statistics for a longer period, perhaps annual, be provided as a more meaningful basis of comparison.

3.2 Sgt Sandra Watt told the meeting that she is the CPT sergeant for the area stretching from Queensferry and Ratho to Corstorphine and Murrayfield. Future initiatives will be:-

(a) A crime prevention talk at the MCC meeting in June preceded by a half hour session with officers from the Preventions, Interventions and Partnerships team who will offer advice on improving home security,

(b) Adding crime prevention information to the MCC website, (She reminded the meeting that the Police still offer individual crime prevention surveys.)

(c) Restarting drop in clinics at Costa Coffee, 145 St John’s Road and in conjunction with Cllr Scott Douglas’s constituency surgeries (on the first Monday of the month at Murrayfield Parish Church and Corstorphine Library),

(d) Bike marking events – details to be confirmed,

(e) Advertising MCC meetings on Twitter,

(f) Rugby Internationals – cycle patrols before the matches and Police officers in attendance at the SRU meetings with local residents, and

(g) A partnership with the Roads Policing team targeting speeding and other Road Traffic offences.

N Oldroyd and a Roseburn resident referred to the undesirable behaviour, particularly urinating in the street and in private gardens, of football and rugby fans before matches at BT Murrayfield. **Sgt Watt undertook to relay their concerns to the Events Planning team and PC Smith offered to highlight this issue to the Licensing Board.**

4. Apologies and MCC personnel

Apologies were noted as above.

The Chairman referred to the fact that the nominated representative of Murrayfield Parish Church has had to resign from MCC because of work commitments. R Brown confirmed that a replacement has not so far been put forward.

The Chairman advised that the post of Secretary has still to be filled but that he is monitoring emails sent to the Secretary’s email address and progressing them as far as possible. MCC also still lacks a youth representative.

He also reported that a former member of MCC, Hamish Ross, who is currently based in Jordan, is assisting with MCC's website and other social media outlets and can be contacted via email.

N Oldroyd informed the meeting that she had attended the recent induction training for new Community Councillors run by the Council at which it had been stated that the role of Engagement Officer is optional. She reminded the meeting that the various parts of the role can be split between different people.

Cllr Gloyer reminded the meeting of the suggestion made at the previous meeting in November 2019 that a "job spec" for the role of Engagement Officer be drawn up.

She confirmed that MCC can appoint a Vice Chairman from among their number at any time and the Chairman confirmed that J Forbes will continue in this role.

5. Councillors' Reports

5.1 Cllr Gloyer reported that, after much toing and froing the head of the Council's Road Safety team, Andrew Easson, had admitted that, contrary to what she had previously been told, no assessment of the proposed crossing at the east end of Ellersly Road, known as Ben's Crossing, had ever been done. The assessment is now on the list for this year.

Cllr Gloyer repeated her advice that MCC apply to the Western Neighbourhood Environmental Programme for funding for the widening of pavements on Ellersly Road. **The Chairman undertook to contact Elaine Lennon to progress this.**

5.2 The meeting discussed the trading licence which had been granted to Jack Fraser, a well known street trader, permitting him to sell Christmas trees on the Old Colt Bridge between 27 November and 24 December 2019. The Chairman explained that the licence application had not been advertised and there had been no opportunity to object. Members of the public were not entitled to object and even the Police could not stop the grant of the licence. When he had passed on to the local Councillors the concerns of a number of nearby residents, the Lord Provost, Cllr Frank Ross, had replied referring to the problematic nature of the temporary licensing process and the lack of public consultation, and had suggested that MCC apply for a non-food licence for the area for the whole of 2020 at a cost of £215 in order to block any repetition of this event. At the Chairman's request J McDonagh had attempted to do this.

J Mc Donagh reported that he had been unable to complete a licence application. The licensing officials required dates of planned events, details of staffing so that background checks could be done, a risk assessment and a wind management assessment. He had had to disclose the reason for the attempted application and the fact that MCC is not actually planning any events. An application in his own name as agent was also unacceptable. He had been advised to make representations to the Licensing Committee in order to get conditions attached to any future licence, but he had no confidence that any such conditions would be enforced.

A number of local residents referred to the fact that the large planters which normally prevent vehicles from accessing the bridge had been moved aside to make way for the trader and had not yet been returned to their correct positions. They also spoke about the disruption caused by delivery vans and purchasers' cars, the trader's vans parked on the bridge with their engines running all day, the perpetual noise of the generator and the unsightly signage erected above the parapet of the bridge.

J Mc Donagh said that he had complained about the noise of the generator and the signage and had been told by the Licensing officials that, as these were not

mentioned in the application, no conditions relating to them had been attached to the licence.

The trader was understood to have offered several local residents £300 and a Christmas tree for the use of their private electricity supplies. The Council's Senior Public Safety Officer had confirmed that, if such an arrangement had been made, it would have raised safety issues. He had raised other concerns about safety with the Licensing Committee but these had been ignored.

The trader was said to have used abusive language and threatening behaviour towards at least one local resident. A member of the public pointed out that the trader had breached many of the Council's Standard Conditions of On Street Trading. Residents had been told that, even if action were to be taken against the trader, he could not be moved for 28 days. Cllr Gloyer thought that this was not correct.

A resident had been told that the planters would be returned to their original positions within the next two days. Cllr Gloyer asked to be informed if this was not done.

Cllr Gloyer recommended that MCC send a report to the Licensing officials, copied to the Police, objecting to the grant of the licence and requesting that conditions be attached to any future licence.

It was agreed that the Chairman would invite the Council's Senior Public Safety Officer, John McNeill, to the next MCC meeting.

The meeting discussed briefly the possibility of MCC's organising its own Christmas events on the Old Colt Bridge. The Chairman pointed out that, as the licence application had been made in September 2019, MCC would have to take action before September this year.

5.3 Cutting back vegetation – N Oldroyd reported that, since the last MCC meeting in November 2019, she had drafted a standard letter (to be hand delivered) requesting the owners of trees and shrubs which overhang pavements to cut them back. She was pleased to report that she had used the letter in the neighbourhood of Stair Park on three occasions and had also spoken to one owner and in all cases the owners had taken the required action.

She mentioned that action is still required by some owners in Abinger Gardens. A resident of Campbell Avenue complained about properties in Murrayfield Road and Ormidale Terrace.

The Council has cut back ivy on Corstorphine Road by the Corstorphine Hill Nature Reserve.

5.4 Low Emission Zones consultation – The Chairman summarised the proposal as banning, not charging, polluting vehicles. Cllr Douglas referred to the fact that the bus companies are not happy about the proposal as they will have to replace vehicles and some services may be cut.

Cllr Gloyer said that the main issue is where the boundaries of the inner and outer zones are to be drawn. Cllr Douglas reported that the Council was considering the responses to the consultation and a report would be presented to the Transport and Environment Committee on 16 January 2020. He understood that some people could not afford to replace their vehicles within the proposed time frame while others were in favour of a faster pace of change. The City Mobility Plan considers ways of moving people in and out of the city without using cars. The proposed tramline utilising the former railway line, now a cycle track, between Roseburn and Granton is again being considered.

R Smart made a plea for more attention to be paid to walking facilities in the city.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 5 November 2019

6.1 These were approved. Prop: N Oldroyd; Sec: E Robertson.

6.2 Matters Arising

6.2.1 *SRU issues*

N Oldroyd reported that she had attended an SRU residents' meeting ahead of the Edinburgh Rugby v Glasgow Warriors match on 28 December 2019. The meeting had been constructive. The SRU had agreed to provide more toilets in Roseburn Street and Riversdale Crescent. They had used Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders to provide parking for supporters' buses at Roseburn and on Corstorphine Road. The next SRU meeting would be on 22 January before the start of the Six Nations Championship.

It had been confirmed that the sound checks before BT Murrayfield concerts did not breach the permitted decibel level.

N Oldroyd said that SRU issues can be raised direct with Graham Law of the SRU or through her.

6.2.2 *South Beechwood – Care UK dilapidations*

There was no one present who could provide an update.

6.2.3 *Campbell Avenue Woodland Owners' Association*

R Smart had nothing new to report, the next meeting being scheduled for later that week.

7. Planning and Licensing

7.1 J Forbes had tendered his apologies and had provided the following report by email:-

30 CORSTORPHINE ROAD (TOR), REVISED SCHEME. It is understood the revised proposal by AMA will be on the DMSC agenda for 22 January. The Planning Officer's report should be available about a week in advance of that date. MCC submitted a "qualified support" response to consultation. Of 22 public comments submitted, 19 objected to the revised proposal.

37 CORSTORPHINE ROAD, DEVELOPER'S APPEAL. So far the Reporter has not issued a decision, but one is expected soon.

9 KINELLAN ROAD, POSSIBLE REVISED SCHEME. Following withdrawal of the original application for a development of 19 houses, a modified proposal is anticipated but has not yet appeared. The Planning Department has refused to make a Tree Preservation Order on the sequoia adjacent to the site (at 7 Kinellan Road). Unauthorised tree work was once again observed at 9 Kinellan Road on 30 November, and a notice of suspected breach of planning regulations was submitted. The acknowledgment received on 10 December promised a response "within 20 working days".

7.2 The Chairman had perused the following domestic planning applications detailed in the Planning Weekly List:-

- (a) Exterior lighting of Murrayfield Parish Church,
- (b) 8A Easter Belmont Road – extension of existing building envelope within existing roofline, new upper and lower terraces, new window,
- (c) 5 Belgrave Road – single storey rear extension and first floor side extension,
- (d) Removal of damaged poplar tree at Murrayfield Golf Club.

He reported that the following planning applications had been granted:-

- (a) Dormer windows at 3 Belmont Park,

(b) Two storey extensions at 26 Ravelston House Park.

8. CCWEL and Rejuvenating Roseburn

P Gregson confirmed that the Reporter's report on his enquiry into the objections to the TRO and RSO for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL is not now expected until at least March 2020.

There was nothing to report regarding the Rejuvenating Roseburn project.

9. Other Traffic and Transport issues

9.1 The Chairman reported that he and J Forbes had attended a discussion hosted by the Council on the proposal to introduce all day bus lanes across the city. He could find nothing wrong with this proposal. R Smart disagreed and said that it was unnecessary for bus lanes to operate in the middle of the day when the traffic volumes are less.

9.2 Baird Drive/Balgreen Road junction markings – N Oldroyd confirmed that no change to these markings has yet been made – there are white zig zag lines next to the kerb and white "Keep clear" lettering on the road; there is no cross-hatched yellow box.

10. Roseburn Park recent developments

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

10.1 Toilet block - £10,030 has been raised from crowdfunding plus £1,602 from HMRC in respect of Gift Aid, making a total of £11,632. The target is £78,000.

FoRP are now seeking funding for the balance and expect it to take many months to get responses;

10.2 Cherry trees - two to come down and two replacement trees to be planted as part of the Ian Shiels Memorial with a grant from the DAFS cricket club;

10.3 Catering Van Concession at Riversdale – FoRP have asked the Council to grant only a two year lease in case FoRP succeed in raising sufficient funds to have the toilet block refurbished;

10.4 Vandalism - poles have been stolen from the Park's cricket square;

10.5 Water fountain – enquiries about refurbishment are ongoing;

10.6 FoRP's grant application to Sustrans for a grant of £5,000 for a study into problems between cyclists and pedestrians in the Park was turned down, but they can reapply if they can get Council support for implementing infrastructure changes in the Park.

A member of the public suggested that the separation of cyclists and walkers in the Park should be extended. P Gregson explained that this had been tried, but had been unsuccessful, as the relevant section of the path was too narrow, and the markings had been removed.

11. Treasurer's Report

Prior to the meeting the Treasurer had circulated a report on MCC's finances detailing the regular expenditure on website hosting and support, hall rental and photocopying. The closing balance at 31st Dec 2019 was £1,376.43 and he was confident that MCC's future costs were adequately covered.

The Chairman requested that exceptional items of expenditure be flagged up in future reports.

12. Any Other Competent Business and Questions from the Floor

12.1 N Oldroyd expressed concern about the beggars who sit outside the Tesco at Roseburn. She felt that they sit so close to the automatic door that some customers feel intimidated by them. They have been observed being dropped off and picked up each day and are believed to belong to an organised group. J McDonagh said that he had been told by a Regional Manager at Tesco that the organisers of such groups attempt to get Tesco to pay them to stay away from Tesco's shops.

The Chairman undertook to add this issue as an item for the Police on the Agenda of the next MCC meeting.

12.2 A member of the public recommended that local residents check whether their grit bins are fit for purpose, as the grit in many of them is so hard it cannot be used.

12.3 R Smart suggested that MCC discuss the Council's proposals for the city centre, as detailed recently in the Scotsman, on the ground that the far reaching changes will affect everyone and not just the city centre. N Oldroyd and a member of the public referred to proposed changes to bus services and plans to reduce the number of bus stops in the city.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the City Centre Transformation Team had given a presentation to the MCC meeting on 25 June 2019.

It was agreed that this item would be added to the Agenda of the next MCC meeting.

12.4 Repairs to Coltbridge viaduct - A member of the public complained that cyclists are ignoring the "Cyclists dismount" signs on the section of the cycle track which crosses the viaduct. It was suggested by R Brown that in the first instance he contact the contractor, Barhale, before trying to involve the Police.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 25 February 2020

Subsequent meetings: 7 April, 19 May, 30 June, 1 September, 6 October, 10 November and 15 December 2020.

Minutes approved at meeting of 25 February 2020.