

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 15 December 2020 at 7.30pm
on Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
J McDonough, N Oldroyd, E Robertson, M Stevens, H Whaley,
J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas,
In attendance: 7 members of the public,
Apologies: N Macdonald, Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, 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.

2. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10 November 2020

These were approved. Prop: J Forbes, Sec: R Beavis.
There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3. Christmas trees

The Chairman described the large Christmas tree which the Council had put up on the Old Colt Bridge at Roseburn as a triumph. He reported that a trio of musicians from St George's School had performed beside the tree the previous day.

N Oldroyd expressed her thanks to everyone who had helped her to bring this about. She reported that she had received fantastic positive feedback from the community. The Roseburn Christmas tree is now on the Council's list of community trees and will be provided annually. MCC will not have to apply for a permit for it, but will require a permit for events on the Bridge. She plans to start this process in January with the help of Heather Raeburn of Pape's Cottages and John McNeill at the Council. It is hoped that next year there will be carol singing, mince pies and mulled wine and other community events.

The Chairman reported that the Christmas tree salesman who had sold trees from the Old Colt Bridge last year had established a different pitch this year. He suggested that the new pitch was causing fewer problems because it was not in front of a house. N Oldroyd agreed that apart from parking on double yellow lines, the salesman was not proving problematic.

The Chairman listed MCC's successes in 2020 as follows :-

- (1) The Tor development – J Forbes agreed that persistence by MCC and other objectors over several years had resulted in a good compromise with which the immediate neighbours were reasonably content so far.
- (2) Rosie Bell's walking guide to the Roseburn area had been a timely production at the start of lockdown.
- (3) J McDonough had emphasised the value to the local community of Roseburn Park during the lockdown and beyond.
- (4) H Whaley referred to the making of the Traffic Regulation Order and Redetermination Order which were required for the first phase of the CCWEL to proceed.
- (5) M Stevens had been instrumental in achieving a reversal of the Council's unpopular decision to make Stanhope Street one way in order to accommodate the CCWEL.
- (6) The repair to the Coltbridge Viaduct and associated works had been a significant benefit to the local community, and
- (7) The Council's monitoring of speed limit infringements in Ellersly Road had also been appreciated.

4. Community Policing Report

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

There had been a decrease in crime generally and house breaking in particular and a decrease in both serious and minor road traffic injuries in the current period compared with the same period last year. There had been a significant increase in thefts of pedal cycles and an increase in anti-social behaviour, both of which were assumed to be attributable to the pandemic. The report did not mention beggars or rogue traders.

4.2 A member of the public asked whether there was any information about the attack on a teenage boy outside the Tesco at Roseburn on 18 November at around 8 pm.

A member of the public, J Alliston, mentioned an attack on a teenage girl near the Scotmid in Corstorphine on 7 November at around 6.40 pm.

The Chairman undertook to pursue both matters with PC Davison.

5. Councillors' Report

5.1 Water of Leith Flood defences – At the Chairman's invitation G Sharpe went over his recent email to the three local Councillors (copied to the Chairman) about the flood warnings from SEPA, the flooding of the footpath at Pansy Walk and the deployment of the nearby floodgates on 4 December. He reported that a number of residents from the Saughtonhall, Riversdale and Balgreen areas had gathered to witness the flooding and had appeared seriously concerned. The Chairman reminded the meeting that at the last MCC meeting Cllr Ross had reported that he had spoken in March to a senior Council officer about carrying out a site visit with him, but the Covid-19 pandemic and redeployment of Council staff meant that this proposal was currently on hold. As Cllr Ross was unable to attend the current meeting, an update could not be obtained.

Cllr Douglas reported that he had forwarded G Sharpe's email to Gordon McOmish, Senior Engineer, Flood Prevention. He suggested that, as the Flood Prevention team maintain that they have done all that is required to protect the residents, he and G Sharpe meet to discuss the next steps towards resolving this impasse. G Sharpe agreed.

G Sharpe was unable to answer a local resident who asked why the floodgate on the Baird Drive Bridge is flimsier than the others. His understanding was that the Council had run out of available funds to complete the planned Phase 2 works.

5.2 Electric vehicle charging points – The Chairman referred to Cllr's Gloyer's earlier reassurance that the provision of charging points for electric vehicles is still on the Council's agenda.

Cllr Douglas confirmed that the subject had been raised at the recent full Council meeting. He conceded that Edinburgh is one of the worst cities in Scotland in respect of the number of charging points per head of population. The Council's current proposal has been delayed by the pandemic but it still intends to have the planned charging points up and running by the start of 2022. Electric vehicles, however, are not a priority, the Council's focus on responding to climate change targets being on bikes and public transport.

5.3 Bus lane camera signs – N Oldroyd confirmed that she had emailed Cllr Douglas about the bus lane camera sign at the foot of Murrayfield Road being obscured by another sign and the problem had been fixed within 48 hours.

5.4 Public Spaces Management Plan – The Chairman explained that this plan aims to prevent areas of high amenity being spoiled by over use by events such as markets and festivals. He and B Knowles had attended an evening workshop arranged by the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils and chaired by Steve Kerr. He felt that with many events going online during the pandemic and some, such as the Book Festival, announcing the intention to continue at least partly online, most of the discussion was out of date. The only sensible suggestion to come out of it was that a tourist tax might pay for hardstanding to lessen the impact of such physical events as there are in future.

B Knowles reported that the Glasgow Film Festival is to visit other parts of Scotland next year and she felt that the concentration of events on Edinburgh would be less in future. The Plan is not particularly relevant to Roseburn Park, as the Park is heavily booked for rugby and cricket and there is limited opportunity for events to be held there. The Friends of Roseburn Park may not make a submission to the Plan consultation.

5.5 Allotments for Pansy Walk – The Chairman reported that he had received a good response from Gorgie-Dalry Community Council to his email about a joint campaign for the return of the works site to its former use as allotments. Stuart McKenzie, the Chairman of the Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Associations, had tendered his apologies. He had reported by email that he had been unable to obtain data on the local allotment waiting list from the Allotments Officer at the Council because of data protection, but he had obtained a map showing the level of demand in different areas of the city. He suggested that a local Facebook group could be formed to mount a campaign. It was agreed that **MCC could post details on its website.**

5.6 Cllr Douglas reported that when the Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed to allow the resumption of sporting activities in schools, the private schools had

been quick to resume such activities, but the Council schools had been hampered by the Council's requirement that all sporting activities be run by teachers. He was happy to report that the Council had now agreed to allow professional coaches to be involved.

5.7 Cllr Douglas said that he had been receiving numerous calls about blocked drains and confirmed that residents should report these to him, Cllr Ross or Cllr Gloyer.

6. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows :-

6.1 The Tor - A new application for Listed Building Consent for the main house and stable block has been submitted with comments due by 8 January 2021. He did not think there was anything of concern but would look at the detail and advise.

6.2 37 Corstorphine Road - The Scottish Ministers have noted "the proposed development's potential conflict with national policy on flooding" and consider that further scrutiny by Ministers is required. The application has been referred to a Reporter at DPEA who has yet to be appointed.

J McDonough confirmed that the Reporter will concentrate on the SEPA objections but will also consider other comments.

6.3 9 Kinellan Road - The application was withdrawn by the developer the day after MCC's last meeting. That does not preclude the submission of a new (third) application. The Development Management Sub-Committee has confirmed a Tree Preservation Order on the whole site.

Through Cllr Douglas he had asked if the developer would now be required to undertake replacement planting for the trees that had been felled without authorisation. Cllr Douglas had been advised that:

1. the Tree Officer handling the case is on extended sick leave but work will begin on a Tree Replacement Order (TRO) in his absence;
2. it would be helpful if any details of post-17 April 2019 tree felling not already brought to the Planning Department's attention were now submitted;
3. it is not clear at present whether the TRO will be available for public comment due to data protection considerations;
4. the TRO should be filed once the planning case is "determined", and a fine legal point may exist as to whether withdrawal constitutes determination.

On point 2. Campbell Brogan, whose property adjoins the site, has prepared a list of his reports to Council officials of unauthorised tree work on the site, to which J Forbes has added his submissions on behalf of MCC.

J Riddell commented that in his experience planning officers can consider withdrawal not to constitute determination.

7. Traffic and Transport

7.1 CCWEL - H Whaley confirmed that the latest Update from the CCWEL team states that work will begin in May 2021.

7.2 Just Eat bikes - The Chairman mentioned that J Riddell had raised the incident in which a Just Eat bike had been thrown over the Coltbridge Viaduct into the garden of a house below. The Chairman shared the contents of an email from the head of Transport for Edinburgh to the Lord Provost in which the

former outlined the problems with the theft of bikes and vandalism of the docking stations which the Just Eat initiative has encountered. He stated that there are few spare docking stations and no budget for replacing those which have been damaged. It has been decided that the number of bikes on the street will be reduced over the winter and the most vulnerable docking stations will be closed. The current 3 year concession comes to an end in September 2021 and no decision about a renewal has yet been made.

J Riddell criticised the cycle hire scheme for encouraging over eating and the promoters for failing to learn lessons from similar schemes elsewhere. He felt that the viaduct incident was extremely serious and should not be overlooked. H Whaley reported that the scheme had generated 230,000 separate bike journeys. He acknowledged that there are significant problems with theft and vandalism, some of the original locations for the docking stations were unsuitable and the stations themselves needed to be stronger. He had learned that the docking stations at Balgreen, Corstorphine, Logie Green and Murrayfield (presumably Riversdale) were to be closed completely and that others, including the one at Roseburn, were going to be closed until next spring. He considered the scheme to be a valuable facility in a city.

A member of the public asked if the Transport team at the Council could be asked to confirm that the closed docking stations will be removed.

Cllr Douglas said that he had been assured that they would be removed in line with the Council's policy of reducing street furniture.

J Alliston reported that she had forwarded the Just Eat announcement about permanent and temporary closures on social media to her Corstorphine group and had received a significant response from people who were enthusiastic about the scheme but acknowledged that it was not working. She felt that if the Council is prioritising bikes over electric vehicles, it cannot ignore the problems with the scheme.

Rosie Bell made the point that the Just Eat bikes at Roseburn had been well used over the summer and not just by tourists. They were useful to parents who wanted to take their children out on bikes but did not own a bike themselves, to people who did not have storage for a bike and to those who needed a bike as part of a commute.

7.3 Tor workmen – N Oldroyd reported that there were problems with the workmen at the Tor development driving aggressively, parking inconsiderately and dumping rubbish near the site.

J Forbes undertook to provide contact details for Dr Afshar of AMA Developments and it was agreed that N Oldroyd would raise the issue on behalf of MCC.

7.4 Condition of Garscube Terrace – A Anderson reported that a section of Garscube Terrace has been repaired with tar but this has been badly applied and the rest of the road is still in a very poor state.

The Chairman suggested that she take photos and undertook to pass these on to the three local Councillors.

8. Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP")

B Knowles provided the following update :-

8.1 FoRP have two new Board Members – Cllr Frank Ross and Roy Beavis. The Chair is now Jim McDonough. The Treasurer (J Yellowlees) and Secretary (B Knowles) remain the same.

8.2 The feasibility study for refurbishment of the drinking fountain has been completed. The total cost is likely to be around £20,000 including VAT. There are a number of funders already assembled but there is likely to be a shortfall. Formal approval from the Council is being sought, as the fountain will need to be adopted by the Council for maintenance. A funding and promotional package is currently being put together.

8.3 The tender for the drainage works for the western playing field has still not been issued. It is hoped to commence works in early 2021, perhaps as early as February. As the contract will take 30 weeks, the works may not be completed until August.

8.4 More information on the conversion of the old toilet block to a cafe is expected in February. Meantime FoRP are getting a water test done on the toilet block.

The Chairman introduced a new local resident, Jane Geddes, who confirmed that her great grandfather had been the engineer responsible for the drainage works which created the Park.

J Riddell said that he had information, including maps, on the old mill lades in the Park and he undertook to pass this information to FoRP. P Gregson confirmed that he had an old OS map showing one of the mill lades.

9. Treasurer's Report

9.1 The Treasurer reported that he had paid the annual fee of £115 for MCC's website hosting and support service. No income had been received and the current balance at credit of MCC's account is £1890.

9.2 The Treasurer asked those who were sponsoring potential micro projects to provide an update on each one.

9.2.1 Milestone 2 - J Forbes detailed 3 options for dealing with Milestone 2 close to Beechmount House on Corstorphine Road:-

(1) repairing the damage to the stone with a sandstone patch costing between £375 and £395, (Refreshing the lettering was not now thought to be a good idea. He thanked J Cunliffe for her input.)

(2) installing a plaque referencing the Edinburgh/Glasgow turnpike on the wall adjoining the milestone, and

(3) doing nothing.

J Forbes, J Cunliffe and J Riddell discussed the pros and cons of cleaning the sandstone which would affect the patina, patching the stone which would damage the "E" of "Edinburgh", and raking out the joint between the milestone and the wall.

J McDonough asked what the benefit to the community would be from the expenditure of roughly £400. He suggested that in the absence of a clear benefit, MCC could seek funding elsewhere. J Riddell said that he might consider funding the work himself.

It was agreed that this project would be set aside for the time being.

9.2.2 Charles H Mackie – **The Chairman** reported that he had received no reply from the factor of Murrayburgh House to his request for the owner's consent to the installation of a plaque to commemorate local artist, Charles H Mackie.

As M Stevens had established a strong connection between artist Samuel Peploe and 7 Devon Place and had obtained initial favourable responses from the current owners in that case, he proposed that a plaque to commemorate Peploe's connection with 7 Devon Place be pursued instead. He **undertook to circulate M Stevens' proposal and to meet with him to discuss the next step.**

J McDonough suggested putting details of the proposal on MCC's website and inviting comments.

9.2.3 John Lennon – E Robertson reported that she had researched the connection between John Lennon and the house in Ormidale Terrace which had belonged to his aunt and had found that there was a longstanding and strong connection which she felt was worth commemorating. She had approached the owners who were considering the proposal and would get back to her.

The Chairman mentioned that G Douglas, former Chairman of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA"), was researching the history of a horse drawn tram which had run to Coltbridge and an example of which was preserved in Fife. It was decided to leave that aside meantime.

10. Social Engagement Issues

R Beavis went over the proposals which he had outlined at the previous MCC meeting for increasing community engagement:-

10.1 The proposal to ask the local schools to produce artwork inspired by Charles H Mackie, the Scottish Colourists and the Impressionists, which could be exhibited locally, would only be enhanced by linking Peploe to it. He intended to contact the schools in January.

10.2 He would like to work with J McDonough and P Gregson to organise seasonal events in Roseburn Park which would bring the community together, such as rolling Easter eggs in spring, a summer fete, pumpkins in October and Christmas events. He proposed a meeting in January to begin discussions.

10.3 He intended to contact all the local sports clubs and, if they do not already have one, persuade them to hold open days to encourage families, in particular, to get involved.

10.4 He felt strongly that newcomers to the area struggle to find information on local activities and groups. His own residents' association which covers 200 households has a Community Liaison Officer, provides a welcome pack and produces a regular newsletter. M Stevens confirmed that the DAAA also produces a newsletter and commented that community engagement is easier in smaller communities such as theirs.

P Gregson mentioned that the Murrayfield Grapevine is always happy to publish information on local groups.

R Beavis felt that it was important to link MCC with local events and suggested that the Grapevine be asked to publicise the community Christmas tree and associated events next year. He also felt that MCC's website needs more photos and local information.

11. Any Other Competent Business

11.1 Rosie Bell informed the meeting that "Dine" in Murrayfield Place has now opened.

11.2 The Chairman reported that the Murrayfield Bar is about to re-open. J McDonaugh and N Oldroyd added that this opening will be on the basis of a temporary management agreement and a change of name to "Colts". It is thought that Heineken will seek a permanent tenant when the temporary agreement ends in April/May 2021.

11.3 Jane Geddes, who has recently moved to Coltbridge, commented on the fact that the Old Bridge is overgrown with ivy and there is other vegetation which needs cutting back. J Riddell informed her that the Council had made a very bad job, in his view, of reducing the ivy, which was also affecting the heritage lights on the main bridge. He referred to the annual Water of Leith clean up and advised her to contact the Water of Leith Conservation Trust if she wished to help in maintaining the area. He has a key to the area of ground adjoining the bridge.

The Chairman pointed out that improvements to the bridge area will be made as part of the Rejuvenating Roseburn project, which will be a by-product of the CCWEL.

11.4 N Oldroyd reported that, as no rugby matches with spectators are currently being held at BT Murrayfield, she had had no contact with Scottish Rugby.

J McDonaugh reported that Scottish Rugby are lobbying the Scottish Government to allow up to 22,000 spectators to return. The start of the Six Nations championship might be delayed by a few weeks in the hope of coinciding with a reduction in Covid related restrictions.

11.5 J McDonaugh offered MCC's congratulations to Cllr Douglas on receiving his party's nomination to contest Ruth Davidson's seat of Edinburgh Central at the Scottish Parliament elections next year.

11.6 H Whaley drew the meeting's attention to the message which J Alliston had left in the Zoom Chat box before leaving the meeting. She reported that she had been contacting local traders with a view to setting up a Facebook chat group similar to the Corstorphine group to share business news and other items of interest.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 12 January 2021

Subsequent meetings: 16 February, 30 March, 18 May, 29 June, 31 August, 5 October, 9 November and 14 December 2021.

Minutes approved at meeting of 12 January 2021.