

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 18 January 2022 at 7.30pm by Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Beavis, R Brown, D Dawson, J Forbes, P Gregson,
B Knowles, J McDonough, N Henderson, M Stevens, H Whaley,
J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, E Catterall on behalf of
Foyso Choudhury, MSP,
In attendance: 8 members of the public,
Apologies: N Macdonald, E Robertson, Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Claire Miller,
Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair Rankin, Cllr Frank Ross, Jeremy
Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, 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. (Corstorphine Community Council held a meeting the same evening and Cllrs Douglas and Gloyer joined the MCC meeting later.)

2. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14 December 2021 and Matters Arising

2.1 Christmas tree at Roseburn - The Chairman summarised a report from Heather Raeburn on the Council Christmas tree and associated events on the Old Colt Bridge at Roseburn. The tree (decorated by St George's School pupils) had been sparse and had dropped its needles early. The Bridge banner painted by Roseburn Primary School pupils had been much admired, had been stored and would be used again. It was hoped that the Council would provide a "splitter" to enable lights to be added to the Bridge display in future. Only the last of the five events due to take place on the Bridge had had to be cancelled and the Schools, Church of the Good Shepherd and Gilbert & Sullivan Society were all keen to participate again. Scotmid and Buna had provided free mince pies, children's gifts and hot drinks for the events. Scotmid offer grants for community purposes and may be applied to for help with the cost of lights for the Bridge.

H Raeburn expressed her thanks to everyone on MCC who had helped to make the Christmas tree project a success. She and her small team will take things forward with the Council, local shops and community groups with a view to repeating last year's success this year.

J McDonough explained that the tree had been installed very early at the start of November and the loss of needles was not surprising. J McNeill, formerly of the Council, had sourced reasonably priced lights for the Bridge, should funding and a splitter be forthcoming.

The Chairman undertook to make application to the Council for permits and permissions for this year's Christmas tree.

He commented that the sale of Christmas trees by a trader at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue had not caused any issues.

2.2 BT Murrayfield match day road closures – The Chairman had been in touch with Andy Smith at the Council, who had undertaken to provide the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order with details of the road closures and parking restrictions for the Six Nations matches on 5 and 26 February as soon as the details have been finalised. MCC will endeavour to publicise these as widely as possible on MCC’s website and noticeboards and on social media. A Smith had recommended following Edinburgh Travel on Twitter. N Henderson said that Edinburgh Travel also post on Facebook. She suggested providing the information to the Evening News and local shops and GP surgeries. Someone had posted details of the restrictions for previous events on the Roseburn and Murrayfield Village Blether Facebook page.

2.3 “Road Closed” signs re 2.2 – Cllr Ross had undertaken at the last meeting to look into ensuring that these were secured if left on site between matches.

2.4 “No Right Turn” into Murrayfield Gardens – N Henderson pointed out that the sign painted on the main road is very worn and the single signpost is not always seen by motorists. Her husband had narrowly missed being run down at the foot of Murrayfield Gardens by a car turning right into the Gardens from the main road. Although this junction will be remodelled as part of the City Centre West to East Link (“CCWEL”) project, the work will not be carried out for some time and she was worried about an accident happening in the interim.

2.5 Parking at Murrayfield Court – One of the residents of Murrayfield Court said that J Forbes had suggested at the last meeting that the residents contact PC Sam Davison to report the problems caused by parked vehicles belonging to the workmen engaged on the Tor development. The Chairman reported that he had emailed PC Davison, who would be happy to hear from the residents.

J Forbes reiterated that “obstruction” is the key word to use when contacting the Police. The resident said that she would contact PC Davison.

N Henderson reported that on several occasions she had contacted the Council, the Police and the developer, AMA, about the same problem in Stair Park but with little success. She had been advised to contact the foreman at the gatehouse. N Henderson undertook to mention Murrayfield Court the next time she emails AMA and copy the resident in to her email.

2.6 Community Council reform – The Chairman was awaiting an update from Steve Kerr, Chair of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (“EACC”).

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: J McDonough.

3. Councillors’ Reports

3.1 Hole in Henderland Road – In reply to the Chairman’s comment that Cllr Ross was to investigate why there was a dangerous hole in the pavement of Henderland Road following completion of the recent gas mains work by SGN, J Forbes clarified that the hole pre-dated that work and was not the responsibility of SGN.

3.2 CCWEL start date – H Whaley explained that it is City Fibre, and not the Council, who are currently carrying out work on Roseburn Terrace. They hope to finish before the first Six Nations match on 5 February. Work on the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL is due to start on 7 February.

3.3 Transport Scotland consultation on “pavement parking” – The Chairman said that he and J Forbes would look at this to see whether MCC should respond.

3.4 Transport Scotland and COSLA consultation on Route Map for 20% Reduction in Car Km by 2030 – H Whaley reported that he had not yet considered this in detail, but it appeared to contain “more carrot than stick” to encourage a change in behaviour.

3.5 Water of Leith Walkway – A local resident had received a reply from the Council’s Natural Heritage officer explaining why there had been a delay in repairing the iron railing between Roseburn Cliff and the Coltbridge Viaduct which had been broken for some time. The Chairman reported that on a recent visit to the Walkway he had noticed another breach in the railings below the Gallery of Modern Art, the removal of the handrail on the steps to Douglas Crescent and the closure of the walkway at Bell’s Bridge owing to the deterioration of the timber parapet below the Britannia Hotel.

A local resident asked whether in the last case the Bridge could be re-opened to allow walkers to exit via the Hotel car park while the Walkway beyond the Bridge remains closed. **The Chairman undertook to raise this suggestion with the appropriate person.**

P Gregson reported that the contractor engaged in repairing the landslip near Sunbury Place has removed all the trees on the slope. **D Dawson undertook to contact the Chair of the Water of Leith Trust about this.**

3.6 Compliance with new requirement for interlinked fire alarms – The Chairman, N Henderson and R Beavis all referred to the new regulations requiring that all domestic properties have interlinked fire alarms installed by 1 February 2022. M Stevens added that the alarms have to be powered by sealed batteries which will require replacement after 10 years.

3.7 Council elections on 5 May 2022 – **The Chairman undertook to contact Steve Kerr to find out whether the EACC intended to organise hustings.**

3.8 Low Emission Zones - Cllr Gloyer reported that the introduction of Low Emission Zones, which it was thought had been postponed until after the Council elections, might well be considered by the Transport and Environment Committee before 5 May.

3.9 Low Traffic Neighbourhoods - Cllr Gloyer reported that a change to the legislation governing Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders has altered the timeline for implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. The Corstorphine scheme will be implemented in June/July 2022 and will be assessed using noise and air pollution monitoring after 6 and 12 months.

3.10 Roseburn Gardens – Cllr Douglas reported that Rurighd McMeddes of the Council had confirmed that Roseburn Gardens will not be made one way for vehicular traffic until the Roseburn Terrace/Russell Road junction has been remodelled as part of the CCWEL.

3.11 33 Roseburn Terrace – Cllrs Douglas and Gloyer have both been pursuing objections by neighbours to the construction without planning permission of a flat measuring 37 square metres at the rear of this property. Several objections have been lodged to the application for retrospective planning permission and the application should go to Committee.

4. Traffic and Transport

4.1 Ellersly Road/Kinellan Road – J Forbes reported that the Council had said that a combined scheme for pavement widening and traffic calming measures on Ellersly and Kinellan Roads cannot be delivered until 2024/25 unless additional funding can be identified. It was not clear who would look for this funding. The Council had provided estimates “for discussion only” of the cost of pavement widening in Ellersly Road, reconfiguration of the Kinellan Road junction and raised tables on Kinellan Road. J Forbes was hopeful that a site investigation would be undertaken before long. He asked that Cllrs Douglas, Gloyer and Ross lobby and/or intervene as appropriate to keep the project on the front burner.

J Forbes proposed strategically placed planters as a temporary traffic calming measure. Cllr Gloyer warned that such a measure would require a Traffic Regulation Order which would normally take at least a year. Cllr Douglas was no more optimistic but both encouraged J Forbes to pursue his proposal.

4.2 SEStran Regional Transport Strategy – The Chairman referred to the sizeable housing developments being built on the outskirts of Edinburgh which will result in an increase in traffic into the city owing to insufficient public transport alternatives. He noted that while SEStran supports provision of a new railway station at Winchburgh, there is no mention of one at <https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects-in-development>.

The Chairman undertook to respond to the consultation on the Strategy.

5. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

5.1 Kebab shop, 49 Roseburn Terrace – As agreed during a recent email exchange, he had drafted a letter on behalf of MCC commenting on the application for a late hours licence but not objecting to it. He was not in favour of submitting the letter. He had referred to the incident last year in which N Henderson had been caught up, when the staff failed to protect customers during a fight in the shop. The Police had been informed and had visited the shop later to speak to the manager. As far as he knew, this was an isolated incident and, while it was right to bring it to the attention of the Council, the application was likely to be more relevant to neighbouring residents. The application was for permission to trade until 2am on Fridays and Saturdays and 1am on other days.

N Henderson expressed reservations about whether there would be any customers at 2am.

It was agreed that Roseburn Terrace needed viable businesses and MCC should not put obstacles in their way. The meeting agreed not to submit the letter.

Cllr Gloyer informed the meeting that she believed the Council’s default position on tenement properties is not to grant licences for trading after midnight. She pointed out that the benefit of a licence is that there are ways to control a licensed property. [Cllr Gloyer subsequently sent an email clarifying that the Council’s midnight deadline applies to deliveries from commercial premises in a tenement, not trading hours.]

5.2 9 Kinellan Road – The planning application for a residential development of 14 units in the West Murrayfield Conservation Area is still awaiting assessment. Regrettably, recent press coverage had focused on personalities

rather than the serious environmental, natural heritage and water management issues involved.

5.3 37 Corstorphine Road – His further representation to the DPEA on behalf of MCC, making the case that the development proposed at this address would not be permissible under NPF4 (contrary to submissions from the applicant and the Planning Department), was not accepted by the Reporter as being "too late". The representation has, however, been placed in the file and the Scottish Ministers' attention will be drawn to it so they may take it into account.

5.4 65 Ravelston Dykes – The applications for planning permission and Listed Building Consent for the proposed extension to this listed building are still awaiting decision.

5.5 J Forbes and M Stevens reported on three developments at Haymarket as follows:-

5.5.1 Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace – The application for demolition of the existing office building and construction of an 8 storey office building attracted much opposition from local shops and has been refused, principally on the ground of potential harm to the setting of the listed Station building.

5.5.2 Student accommodation at 22 Haymarket Yards – The application for this development has been granted. The information from Cllr Mowat that it had been withdrawn appears to have referred to its temporary withdrawal from the DMSC for clarification/discussion with the unhappy owner of the neighbouring building.

5.5.3 Elgin House, 20 Haymarket Yards – A detailed planning application for demolition of the former HMRC office building and construction of a larger office building with ancillary ground floor uses and an adjacent hotel is expected in the spring.

6. Community Policing Report

The Chairman summarised the report which PC Sam Davison had emailed prior to the meeting as follows:-

6.1 A number of cars have been broken into at the industrial estate on Russell Road. These crimes are connected to a string of similar crimes in Dalry. A male has been arrested and charged with 25 offences.

6.2 There have been reports of illegal off-road motorbikes being driven in an anti-social manner in the area. Enquires are ongoing to trace those responsible. Any sightings should be reported to 101. Information on the owners/riders can be reported confidentially to CrimeStoppers.

6.3 Officers will be taking part in a winter road safety campaign. Advice on winter road safety is available at <https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/road-safety/winter-road-safety>.

7. Friends of Roseburn Park update

7.1 B Knowles reported that the cherry trees donated as part of the Sakura Project have been planted. R Beavis explained that he had assisted the Council officer. They had planned to have an avenue of trees but underground cables had made this impossible. 15 trees have been planted near the ice rink, 11 near the new play park, 3 near the old play park, which it is hoped will become a

quiet area, and one near the cricket pitch. The trees should produce a variety of blossom in the spring.

7.2 B Knowles advised that the tenders for the redevelopment of the toilet block as a cafe have all come in over budget. A cost checking and value engineering exercise is under way. The contractor has not yet been chosen.

8. Treasurer's Report

8.1 J McDonaugh reported that at the start of December 2021 MCC had £2,135 in the bank and, after paying for the plinth for the Charles H Mackie plaque, closed the year with £2,045.

The website provider, Albany Support, had invoiced MCC for the usual annual fee of £120 plus a surcharge of a further £120 to upgrade the website. He had arranged for the surcharge to be spread over two years.

8.2 The Chairman intimated that MCC is mentioned in a new book by Bruce Keith about Scottish mileposts. The plaque to be installed at Ravelston Elms is in production and J Forbes is seeking listed building consent for a plaque to commemorate the horse-tram terminus. George Douglas has suggested a plaque to mark the site of John Jeffrey & Co. Ltd.'s Heriot Brewery on Roseburn Terrace. R Beavis informed the meeting that a small stone at the Maltings refers to the brewery.

9. Social Engagement

D Dawson commented that MCC's membership and activities are still centred on a small part of the MCC area. With a view to widening participation he had spoken to the Chair of Saughtonhall Residents' Association ("SRA") about distributing MCC's Minutes to their members by email and publishing them on SRA's website.

M Stevens sounded a cautionary note about email addresses and compliance with GDPR.

J McDonaugh undertook to contact Hamish Ross about whether MCC's website could be linked to SRA's.

The Chairman explained that SRA used to have a representative on MCC but that had not been the case for some time. R Brown added that the Chair of SRA is on her distribution list and does receive the Minutes and Agenda.

D Dawson repeated the familiar plea for youth involvement.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1 J Forbes was pleased to inform the meeting that a number of pavements had been swept in the last few days and the bin collections had also been dealt with efficiently over the festive period.

10.2 He had emailed the three local Councillors recently about a discharge of noxious effluent from a disused garden gate on Ellersly Road (belonging to 5 Kinellan Road), over the north pavement of Ellersly Road opposite number 33. He asked to whom this should be reported. **Cllr Gloyer undertook to report it in the first instance and to try to find the appropriate Council contact.**

11. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Subsequent meetings: 29 March, 10 May, 28 June, 30 August 2022.

Minutes approved at meeting of 22 February 2022.