

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 2 May 2023 at 7.30pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, D Dawson, J Forbes, B Knowles,  
N Macdonald, J McDonough, D MacLennan, M Stevens, H Whaley,  
J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Fiona Bennett, Cllr Euan Davidson,  
In attendance: Rurighd McMeddes, The City of Edinburgh Council, Scott Ritchie,  
Balfour Beatty, 13 members of the public,  
Apologies: P Gregson, S Macpherson, E Robertson, Cllr Margaret Graham,  
Cllr Finlay McFarlane, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Jeremy  
Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Foysoyl  
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 Chair referred to the preceding AGM at which the Chair and Secretary, Vice Chair and Treasurer had been re-elected. He mentioned that D Dawson had resigned as Social Engagement Secretary but, in the absence of a candidate to succeed him, would continue in that role informally meantime. The Chair welcomed those in attendance and made special mention of newly elected City Councillor Fiona Bennett.

2. CCWEL update

R McMeddes reported that work on the Roseburn section of the CCWEL was drawing to a close with a few weeks' work, including landscaping, installation of traffic lights at the Roseburn Bar and surface repairs at Wester Coates, Balbirnie Place and the foot of Roseburn Cliff, yet to be completed. He had met Jane Geddes to discuss future care of the planters and hoped to acquire a tree planter from colleagues working on the Newhaven tram extension.

In answer to questions from N Macdonald and J Yellowlees he confirmed that the existing planters will probably be replaced by a single new planter at either end of the Old Colt Bridge near the new street lights. The tree planter will be used to overcome the problem that a tree cannot be planted in the ground because of underground utilities.

S Ritchie confirmed that final finishing and snagging works, which would not be intrusive, would be carried out to the north of the Old Colt Bridge and at Wester Coates. In answer to a question from A Anderson he confirmed that a small gully is being considered to remedy the ponding outside "Dine" in Murrayfield Place.

A member of the public complained about the number and size of the bollards along Roseburn Terrace between the cycleway and the carriageway. S Ritchie explained that there are a couple of bollards additional to those originally planned, but the number and size are necessary to prevent vehicles from

pulling onto the cycleway. The addition of reflective strips is being considered. In relation to a request made by S Macpherson before the meeting for an additional bollard on the new paved area where the visiting fishmonger used to park, **R McMeddes** stated that the parking of vehicles on this area would be monitored.

He also **undertook to check the video evidence which he had been sent of vehicles executing the illegal left turn out of Roseburn Gardens**. He had monitored this junction for an hour before the meeting and seen no vehicles executing this manoeuvre.

J McDonagh mentioned that in driving west from Haymarket recently he had experienced the very short green phase of the new traffic lights. R McMeddes confirmed that the operation of the lights will be monitored with a view to tweaking the timing.

He also confirmed that further signage will be installed to delineate the shared parts of the new paved areas.

A member of the public made the point that under the Highway Code cyclists are required to defer to pedestrians.

In reply to points made by a member of the public and J Forbes R McMeddes agreed that the ivy should be removed from the lights on the bridge over the main road and from the bridge itself and the bin on the south side should be moved so that it does not obscure the commemorative plaque.

J Yellowlees made the point that one of the lights on the bridge is never on and one is on all the time.

A Anderson raised the impediment of access to the roundabout in Murrayfield Avenue, from Murrayfield Place, caused by cars parking in front of the old police box.

R McMeddes confirmed that new lines will be added on the west side of Murrayfield Avenue to delineate parallel parking where vehicles used to park "end on". He confirmed further that the pedestrian and cyclist areas on Russell Road would also be delineated. He admitted he did not know how the extended pavement was to be shared.

R McMeddes and S Ritchie answered questions raised by D MacLennan as follows:-

1. The materials used in laying the now damaged surface at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace are still being tested. Responsibility for the surface deterioration is a commercially sensitive issue.
2. The bollards to be installed at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace have not yet been delivered.

M Stevens received answers to his questions as follows:-

1. There will be a shelter for the West Coates eastbound bus stop on the old footway, not the new island.
2. Hatching will be added near the island to prevent westbound motorists from mistakenly using two lanes. Additional arrows may also be added.
3. Removing the bollard near the left turn out of Stanhope Street will be considered.
4. The storm drain near Osborne House has been reinstated.
5. The pedestrian crossing at Stanhope Street, at which poles have been erected, will be completed.

In reply to a member of the public R McMeddes confirmed that a Council team is monitoring and evaluating the CCWEL scheme. Reviews will be carried out 6, 12 and 24 months after completion of the Haymarket section, which is scheduled for January 2024.

A member of the public, who complained that the speed bumps on Murrayfield Avenue are now flat and ineffective, was advised to report this as a road defect on the Council's website.

The Chair asked R McMeddes and S Ritchie to attend the next MCC meeting.

3. Ellersly/Kinellan Roads traffic calming and pedestrian improvements

3.1 The Chair reported that he and J Forbes had attended a site meeting with a Council officer who had told them that no new projects would be referred to him until the selection process for the Neighbourhood Environment Programme had been agreed. They had been told that Ellersly Road was in the capital programme and other things were in the project bank for 2024/2025. He was unsure what this meant.

J Forbes explained the history of this matter, which encompasses two separate but interconnected issues, as follows:-

1. For the past nine years he has been trying to persuade the Council to widen the pavement on the north side of Ellersly Road. It is too narrow to be safe for older and other less able pedestrians. At the site meeting he had been told that the pavement would only be widened as part of carriageway resurfacing, which might be in the roads programme for 2024-25.
2. Speeding on Kinellan Road and Ellersly Road at peak times has been causing anxiety for some time. Two years ago a traffic survey proved that 85% of vehicles on Ellersly Road exceed the speed limit. The numbers on Kinellan Road are lower but the speeds reached are greater. The Council's Road Safety team promised an action plan in the last financial year but this promise was not kept. J Forbes asked Cllr Davidson whether he had any up-to-date information on an action plan. He added that in reply to a freedom of information request a local resident had been told that Andrew Easson at the Council had been in touch with Cllr Davidson and believed no further action was required. **Cllr Davidson** refuted this and **undertook to pursue the matter further by email.**

3.2 On a positive note J Forbes reported that the Council had reacted promptly to a request for the phasing of the traffic lights at the foot of Ellersly Road to be looked at and the "green arrow phase" had been extended.

3.3 No progress had been made on the proposal for a pedestrian crossing on Murrayfield Road, which had come to be referred to as "Ben's Crossing" and which had the support of the three City Councillors who were in office at the time it was first proposed. MCC had been told that the location did not meet the criteria for a crossing.

4. Councillors' reports

Cllr Beal reported as follows:-

4.1 The 41 bus service along Queensferry Road is to be merged with another service for commercial reasons.

4.2 A number of trees in Saughtonhall have been felled. The marked trees in Saughtonhall Drive are being looked after by the Council.

4.3 The Police had investigated a campervan which had been parked for a long time in Lennel Avenue. It was not in fact parked illegally.

4.4 A new power line is being installed on Saughtonhall Drive and along Corstorphine Road to Murrayfield Road.

Cllr Bennett reported as follows:-

4.5 She had been contacted by constituents on a wide variety of issues including the felling and replacement of trees.

4.6 She had had some success in getting broken street lights mended.

Cllr Davidson reported as follows:-

5.7 He had met with the owner of Pape's Cottages about the bin hub at the foot of Roseburn Cliff and hoped to get it moved away from Pape's Cottages to the other side.

A member of the public, who expressed satisfaction with the new design of food waste bin, requested a quieter glass recycling bin and for such bins to be located away from houses, particularly the bedrooms.

5. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 7 March 2023 and Matters Arising

5.1 The Chair congratulated Corstorphine Community Centre on obtaining Council approval for the community buy out of Westfield House.

5.2 The Chair told the meeting that D Dawson's email address has been added to the Council's telemetry system to give Saughtonhall residents early warning of flooding.

5.3 D Dawson confirmed that the additional traffic wardens deployed at the Six Nations matches had improved the parking problem in the Riversdale area.

5.4 D Dawson reported that Scottish Rugby has given MCC two tickets for each of the forthcoming concerts at BT Murrayfield, the first of which is the Beyonce concert on 20 May. The tickets cannot be raffled or sold. It was agreed that local residents should be invited to nominate individuals and the winning recipients chosen by a ballot of the nominees. **D Dawson undertook to put this proposal to Scottish Rugby.**

5.5 In response to a complaint made by a member of the public D Dawson undertook to ask Scottish Rugby to provide portaloos at the Roseburn Place entrance to Roseburn Park for future events.

5.6 The Chair drew the meeting's attention to the Council's consultation hub. Cllr Beal said that the transport consultation on five Action Plans is the most important one and runs until July. The Chair suggested that **MCC should consider this consultation before the next MCC meeting on 27 June.**

5.7 The Chair reported that he had written to Sue Webber, MSP in support of the proposed re-opening of the railway station at Winchburgh and had received a reply from Angus Robertson, MSP asking how he could help.

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

6. Friends of Roseburn Park update

J McDonagh reported as follows:-

5.1 The rumour that the contractor engaged in the conversion of the toilet block to a cafe had gone bust was untrue.

5.2 Building Control had inspected the work on the café and had raised six minor points. FoRP's own Project Manager had raised a further six points

resulting from variations to the contract. All of these points should be signed off next week ready for fit out and opening.

5.3 FoRP want to engage consultants to advise on the issue of cycling and pedestrian safety and want to put a business case to Sustrans for funding to carry out a feasibility study. Sustrans have said they will fund a study only if the Council commit to carrying out any works recommended by the consultants. **J McDonough undertook to seek the Councillors' support for the feasibility study.** He asked whether they could get the Council's cycling officers on board with this proposal.

5.4 A member of the public pointed out that the signs in the Park give conflicting advice to cyclists about which side of the shared path to use.

J McDonough emphasised that FoRP are not against cyclists. They want both cyclists and pedestrians to be safe. He said that the café owner may install a mirror to improve safety at the corner near the café.

A member of the public recommended signs urging cyclists to use their bells.

## 7. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

7.1 37 Corstorphine Road – The planning portal still shows the status of this planning application as “unknown”. The time limit for an agreement on a commuted sum for affordable housing expired in March. He assumed it had been extended.

7.2 13 Ravelston Park – Planning permission for a two storey extension to this villa in the Dean Conservation Area was granted by the Development Management Sub-Committee on 21 March 2023.

7.3 Elgin House - Just outside the MCC area, planning approval has been granted for demolition of Elgin House and development of a major hotel and office complex on the site. M Stevens agreed that no significant direct impact on the nearby Donaldson Area is anticipated.

7.4 Campbell Avenue woodland - The strip of woodland on the south side of Campbell Avenue is part of the West Murrayfield Conservation Area and has additional protection under a Tree Preservation Order (“TPO”). J Forbes welcomed a proposal for a programme of arboricultural work, including pruning or removal of dead, decaying or unhealthy limbs and crowns, cutting of ivy and planting of new trees.

J Forbes lamented the fact that the arboricultural work carried out recently on the Abinger Gardens woodland had been mostly destructive and, despite his encouragement, had involved no new planting.

A member of the public asked about the process for obtaining a TPO and whether there was support for applying for one for Roseburn Park. He was advised that the process was similar to a planning application; he should consult the Forestry team at the Council; Roseburn Park is not in a Conservation Area and FoRP already have a strong relationship with the Forestry team.

B Knowles explained that work sometimes has to be done to trees at short notice if they develop disease or voids or die back. There is an assumption by the Council that trees in public places like parks are already protected. They therefore do not need a TPO. It is assumed that the Council is a responsible

public body. Some of the trees in Roseburn Park are very old and she hoped that a tree replacement plan for the Park could be agreed with the Council .  
**Cllr Beal undertook to ask the Forestry team about their plans for the Park.**

A member of the public said that she wished to donate two trees to the Park.  
**B Knowles undertook to arrange for a Tree Officer to inspect the trees to check their suitability.**

A member of the public, who walks her dogs regularly in the Park, said that there is a dangerous hole where a tree near the new play park has been removed.

8. Police Report

The Chair summarised the Police Report, which had been received by email before the meeting, as follows:-

8.1 The number of crimes was well down on the same period last year. It detailed a number of vehicle thefts, a housebreaking on Ravelston Dykes and the setting on fire of a vehicle on the Roseburn Path. The report omitted reference to the arrest for assault in Balgreen on 26 March.

8.2 There will be a Police presence, including PC Davison himself, at the concerts to be held at BT Murrayfield on 20, 26, 27 and 30 May.

A member of the public complained about bins in Roseburn Park overflowing with dog poo bags.

Another mentioned two pipes discharging effluent in the Park and was asked to provide the City Councillors with a video. The discharge has been reported to SEPA and checked by Scottish Water, who have said that it was in order.

9. Treasurer's Report

9.1 The Treasurer reported that the opening balance at the start of March was £1,867.93. In March and April MCC had received no income and had incurred expenditure of £45 on hiring the Church hall for the by-election hustings event and £84 on the annual Zurich Insurance renewal premium, leaving a closing balance at the end of April of £1,738.93.

9.2 The Chair reported that the residents of Ravelston Garden had decided against allowing MCC to erect a plaque celebrating the buildings' Art Deco heritage. Expenditure would be required for a plaque commemorating Murrayfield Station. P Gregson is pursuing a plaque to commemorate John Lennon's association with Ormidale Terrace.

10. Social Engagement

The Chair lamented the fact that Saughtonhall Community Association and Roseburn Maltings no longer send representatives to MCC meetings.

He referred to the database of local organisations which, thanks to D Dawson, has been added to MCC's website.

11. Any Other Competent Business

The Chair intimated that:-

11.1 the garden at Redcroft on Murrayfield Road will be open on 13 and 14 May.

11.2 a few Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders are in place to facilitate street parties to celebrate the Coronation.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 27 June 2023

Subsequent meetings: 29 August and 3 October (in person), 7 November and 12 December 2023 (online).

Minutes approved at meeting of 27 June 2023.