

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 23 January 2024 at 7.30pm
by Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, D Dawson, P Gregson, B Knowles,
J McDonaugh, D MacLennan, E Robertson, J Yellowlees,

Ex officio:

In attendance: Five members of the public,

Apologies: J Forbes, N Macdonald, S Macpherson, M Stevens, Cllr Alan Beal,
Cllr Fiona Bennett, Cllr Euan Davidson, Cllr Margaret Graham, Cllr
Finlay McFarlane, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Jeremy
Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Foysol
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 explained that Cllrs Beal, Bennett and Davidson were attending a Liberal Democrat meeting about the Council's budget, but one of them might be able to join the MCC meeting later.

2. Matters Arising

The Chair reported that:-

2.1 Corstorphine Community Council may cease to exist if the secretary's post cannot be filled. Drum Brae Community Council has already suffered this fate. In these circumstances he questioned the purpose of the current consultation on the review of Community Council boundaries;

2.2 he had responded to the consultation on the City Plan 2040; and

2.3 he had submitted the application form for permission to hold Christmas events at Roseburn to the Council.

3. Bins at Murrayfield Avenue

The Chair reported that on 15 January local residents, Cllr Beal and three members of MCC had met Andres Lices and two of his Council colleagues at the new bin hub at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue to discuss the request by residents to have the bins removed. Three options were identified :-

(1) Remove the hub altogether if the review framework allows,

(2) If the hub is required, move it outside 9 Coltbridge Avenue,

(3) If less additional capacity is required, expand the current bin hub outside 12 Coltbridge Avenue.

A Lices has since advised that bin hubs are designed to serve 50/55 households. He has been informed by a resident of Murrayfield Place, who attended the site meeting, that Murrayfield Place contains only 38 residential properties. It is hoped that this will make option (1) easier to adopt. A decision is expected in the Spring.

Complaints about the commercial bins in Murrayfield Place have been referred to Street Enforcement.

The same resident advised the meeting that a bin hub can be up to 100 metres distant from the properties it serves. He reported a steady flow of vehicles from outside the area continuing to use the new bins for fly tipping and repeated the residents' call for the bins to be removed completely.

The Chair suggested sending the photographic and video evidence of fly tipping to the Council and urging that the decision on the bins be brought forward.

In answer to a question from another resident the Murrayfield Place resident confirmed that the bottle bin is emptied regularly but the volume of fly tipping results in overflow bottles being left beside the bins.

4. CCWEL completion

The Chair advised that prior to the meeting the Council's project manager, R McMeddes had sent a comprehensive report by email.

The current position is as follows:-

- Murrayfield Avenue Planters: The planters are now filled with good quality compost mix. Balfour Beatty's Social Impact Advisor is meeting with a local social enterprise to source planting in liaison with Jane Geddes with regard to appropriate species etc.
- Monitoring of Russell Road and Roseburn Street: With regard to the ongoing concerns around queuing traffic, on Roseburn Street especially, he had commissioned traffic counts and queue length monitoring which would take place later that week. This will provide a post-implementation point of comparison with equivalent monitoring carried out in 2018 and will allow the CCWEL team to consider any requirements for mitigations.

D Dawson asked if R McMeddes could clarify what "equivalent monitoring" means.

The Chair referred to correspondence received from residents angry about the increased traffic congestion. One had reported seeing vehicles wrapped round the bollard which had been installed at the junction of Roseburn Place and Roseburn Street.

D MacLennan reported that at 4.30 pm the previous day there had been a tailback of traffic on Russell Road from the Roseburn Street junction to the railway bridge. One of the residents who had emailed MCC complained about regular tailbacks as far as Roseburn Primary School and a lack of response from the Council to her request for information on where to send questions about pollution levels.

- Additional signage in Russell Road: The design team is currently considering options for improvements to the signage at this location.
- No right turn sign on A8 into Murrayfield Gardens: Before the last MCC meeting Virginia Munoz Rucian of Anturas Consulting had requested information on whether there were regular sightings of this right-turn ban being abused.

Two local residents confirmed that this abuse happens regularly. One reported that photographs of a recent incident had been posted on the Facebook page of the Roseburn and Murrayfield Village Blether.

- Litter bins missing: The project team had met with the Waste and Cleansing department at the Council and were undertaking a review of the bin locations at the A8. They have purchased new bins which are due to be installed shortly on site.
- Ponding at Old Colt Bridge: Balfour Beatty carried out remedial works here in December but have undertaken to review this again following comments that it remains an issue.
- Globe light off at the Old Colt Bridge: This fault has been passed onto the Council's Street Lighting team. This may now have been resolved.
- Balbirnie Place dilapidation surveys: He had been informed that this matter had been resolved over emails and it had been agreed that there is no evidence of significant damage having been created by CCWEL at this location.

A local resident pointed out that during the CCWEL works when the right turn from Roseburn Terrace into Russell Road had been suspended, eastbound vehicles had regularly used Balbirnie Place to execute U-turns, causing additional wear and tear to the road surface.

Remedial works and minor snags to be carried out in the coming weeks:-

- Hopscotch slabs and horseshoe slabs will be installed on the extended pavement at Murrayfield Place shortly.
- A gully that is failing will be set back in Roseburn Terrace (at crossing in front of Old Colt Bridge) requiring a mini contraflow during the nightshift for 4 nights at the end of January.
- Cycleway surfacing remedial works will take place in West Coates under the railway bridge via temporary lights during nightshifts at the end of January.
- Wester Coates Road raised table remedial works are underway.

D MacLennan informed the meeting that every place where the new slabbing beside the cycle track abuts the old stone walls requires repointing. This is not just the one metre referred to in emails but approximately 30 metres.

The Chair reported that J Riddell expected the milestone under the railway bridge at Roseburn to be repointed with lime mortar as soon as the weather permits.

B Knowles reported that she had slipped on ice on the Old Colt Bridge and had emailed the Roads department at the Council to complain about the loss of the grit bin there and had copied R McMeddes in to her email.

The Chair complained that the globe light on the New Colt Bridge is still out of action after many months.

In answer to a question from the Chair P Gregson reported that Cllr Cammy Day's personal assistant had confirmed that she would be passing the request from the Roseburn traders, via George Rendall, for hanging baskets on Roseburn Terrace to the relevant Council officials.

5. Ellersly/Kinellan traffic calming

In the absence of Don Page, John Bishop and Jim Forbes the Chair reported that Cllr Bennett had told Don Page that this location was "on the list for site

investigation". MCC had been told the same in 2021. Cllrs Beal, Bennett and Davidson had written to Angus Robertson, MSP confirming their support for the traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures for which the local residents and MCC were pressing. Don Page had made a Freedom of Information request for the number and locations of automated speed display signs in Edinburgh.

The Chair reported that after the last MCC meeting he had written to the Chair of the Transport and Environment Committee, Cllr Scott Arthur, requesting that Cllr Arthur meet him and J Forbes, but he had received no response.

A resident of Craighleith Drive complained that the narrow former railway bridge there presents a similar road safety issue which requires traffic calming measures. He has written to the three City Councillors and Angus Robertson, MSP, but nothing has happened. The "20" road markings have disappeared. More commercial vehicles use that route since the introduction of the 20 mph speed limit on Queensferry Road. A survey has been carried out and concluded that the speeds on Craighleith Drive were not excessive. He disagreed.

6. Relations with Scottish Rugby

The Chair reported that Scottish Rugby had organised a letter drop in the area adjacent to the stadium inviting local residents to provide their email addresses for inclusion on Scottish Rugby's database of persons with whom they would communicate about forthcoming events. Those on the database had been invited to a meeting on 31 January between 4 and 5.30 pm.

D Dawson confirmed that he normally attends such meetings but could not attend that one. J McDonagh said that Graham Law had promised to circulate the Minutes. **The Chair undertook to attend.**

D Dawson said that he had not received a letter but others in the Saughtonhall/Baird area had. He had put a copy of the letter on social media but he did not know the precise area covered by the letter drop.

D Dawson reported that he had attended the recent match between Edinburgh Rugby and Glasgow Warriors which had attracted a crowd of 40,000 and had been held in the main stadium. He made the point that the Edinburgh Rugby matches cause the same problems for residents as the international matches. J McDonagh advised that the person to contact at Edinburgh Rugby is Ruaridh Pye.

The Chair reported that the Donaldson Area Amenity Association had lodged a complaint about the lack of response from Scottish Rugby to their request for information on the outcome of the multi-disciplinary review into the road closures for last summer's concerts.

7. Councillors' reports

In the absence of the three City Councillors the Chair highlighted the following matters for their attention:-

7.1 Baird Drive/Balgreen Road, congestion caused by parking for tram stop – Cllr Beal was to investigate. See below.

7.2 "Right of way" signs at St George's School – Cllr Beal was to investigate sources of funding.

7.3 Pansy Walk allotments – return of works site to its former use. This change was mooted some time ago and supported by former Lord Provost, Frank

Ross. MCC had received approximately 90 expressions of interest from members of the public. It was understood that the unsuitability of the location for housing had been recognised owing to its proximity to the river and railway. Cllr Davidson was to contact the Allotments team to find out the current position.

7.4 Bus trackers – MCC wished to emphasise the concern that the new trackers show only the timetable and not real time information on Lothian Buses' services, although they do track other bus services.

The business of the meeting was concluded early. Cllr Beal did attempt to join the meeting after it had ended. He sent the following report by email after the meeting:-

Roseburn Street/Russell Road traffic build up – He and his colleagues are aware of the widespread concern over traffic build up at peak times. He welcomed the imminent installation of monitoring equipment.

Baird Drive/Balgreen Road – He had been in touch with the relevant Council officers and the process for the installation of yellow lines had been started. TRO23/33 is being prepared for public consultation.

Ormidale Terrace/Murrayfield Drive – The process for the installation of yellow lines here had been started.

Maiden Craig Crescent, vehicular access to Roseburn Path – He had passed the query about closing the gate to prevent vehicular access to his Inverleith colleague, who is investigating. There is a question over whether there is a post there which would stop the traffic – locals are doubting that cars could get through it.

Roseburn House, replacement of sewer – Scottish Water have sent letters to the residents of Roseburn House notifying them of the requirement to close the entrance to the car park. They will be provided with another letter nearer the time once exact dates have been confirmed. He has asked for a copy of this letter.

8. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12 December 2023

8.1 D Dawson reported that he had received two quotes for the production of 1,200 MCC leaflets to be distributed in the Saughtonhall/Baird/Riversdale area and had passed these to the Treasurer. He thanked P Gregson for confirming the number of properties involved. He had received a good response to his email asking for volunteers to deliver the leaflets.

D Dawson confirmed that the Saughtonhall Community Recreation Hall ("the Rec") had been booked for MCC's meeting on 16 April, which would have to start slightly later at 7.45 pm. He asked whether MCC expected to pay for the hall. The Treasurer said he expected the hall to be made available at no cost as proof of Saughtonhall Community Association's commitment to fostering closer relations with MCC. P Gregson pointed out that MCC would not be incurring the normal cost of hiring the Murrayfield Parish Church hall and could afford to pay for the Rec as proof of MCC's commitment. **The Treasurer undertook to pursue this matter.**

8.2 Balgreen Tunnel art project – The Chair reported that Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network has been advised that the application from Edinburgh Art Fair for funding for this project has had to be withdrawn because they were unsuccessful in securing matched funding from South

West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network owing to some confusion over boundaries. The Chair has agreed to attend a meeting with Edinburgh Art Fair. There is a proposal to ask Edinburgh Trams to support the project.

The Treasurer suggested that MCC could support the project by providing either a small grant for the purchase of anti-graffiti kits or a donation contingent on the project team securing the rest of the required funding.

8.3 P Gregson observed that the Council has money to appoint solicitors Harper Macleod to investigate the formal complaint against him, but not to provide financial support to the Roseburn traders. The Chair confirmed that he had been contacted by Harper Macleod.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: D Dawson.

9. Friends of Roseburn Park update

9.1 B Knowles reported that the operator of the Rosebean Café was pleased with the first three months' trading and expects trade to be even better when the warmer weather arrives. He is considering opening for one additional day (Wednesday) for the next month or so and six days a week in the Spring.

9.2 B Knowles reported that the path through the Park near the ice rink was frozen recently and asked who was responsible for gritting it. J McDonaugh advised that that section of path is outside the Park. There is a grit box at one of the bridges. He suggested asking the **City Councillors to investigate who is responsible for gritting there.**

A Murrayfield resident pointed out that during the icy weather parts of the cycle track and different parts of the adjoining pavement in Roseburn had been gritted, but it looked as though the gritter could not manage to grit both sections together.

9.3 The Chair said that the appearance of the Rosebean Café had been improved by the addition of coloured panels on the exterior.

10. Planning update

Prior to the meeting J Forbes had supplied the following planning update by email:-

37 CORSTORPHINE ROAD: Nineteen months after the Scottish Ministers gave "Notice of Intention" to grant planning permission, the Council's legal team have still not been able to conclude the development agreement. **MCC awaits via Cllr Davidson a promised update from the Planning Officer.**

1A COLTBRIDGE TERRACE: Planning permission for conversion of a garage to residential use has been REFUSED. No fewer than 5 reasons were cited for refusal, namely loss of amenity to neighbouring properties, disruption of the spatial character of the area, damage to the character of the Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Area, inadequate greenspace provision and harm to the setting of a Listed Building. MCC had not submitted comments as this was a householder application.

PROPOSED "ECO-HOUSE" BY 42 SAUGHTONHALL AVENUE: By Committee decision on 19 December the application for a new residential property adjacent to the Water of Leith flood wall was REFUSED. The proposed house was designed on highly sustainable, environmentally sound principles, but its location on a "functional floodplain" (SEPA's term) was found unacceptable.

The application was said in the Committee decision “to fail to demonstrate that the site was not at risk from flooding”. In J Forbes’s view it is hard to see how the proposed development of 20 homes at 37 Corstorphine Road would be at any less risk.

11. Licensing update

D MacLennan reported that after much delay he had received details of the general and special conditions attached to the alcohol licence for the Murrayfield Hotel. He suggested that MCC take up the offer of a meeting with the new manager of the Hotel. He would attend the meeting.

A resident of Ormidale Terrace, who had expressed concern over the behaviour of football fans congregating at the Hotel before matches, particularly the Hibs v Hearts matches, was very much in favour of informing the manager of these concerns. **J McDonagh** suggested inviting the manager to an MCC meeting, but after discussion it was agreed that he **would speak to the manager about meeting one or two MCC delegates in private initially.**

D MacLennan repeated his complaint that the Council is not fulfilling its statutory obligation to make full details of licences available to the public either at Council offices or online.

12. Police report

The Chair reported as follows:-

12.1 The West End Police station is being considered for closure, as are a number of other stations.

12.2 After eight years as the Corstorphine/Murrayfield Community Police Officer based at Corstorphine, PC Sam Davison has moved to CID. He is replaced by PC Susan Fulton. PC Davison had recently introduced his successor to the Chair and the Minutes Secretary.

12.3 The report received by email from PC Fulton before the meeting was as follows:-

House breakings:-

Coltbridge Avenue – 13 December – Overcoming the security of the garage with intent to steal.

Blinkbonny Crescent – 27 - 29 December – Attempting to gain entry into garage

Saughtonhall Drive – 10 January – Housebreaking with intent. MO Drilling out lock on patio door.

Ellersly Road – 12 January – 2 x theft of pedal bikes and electric bike from shed.

Ormidale Terrace – 14 January – Theft of bike and golf clubs from a lock up.

Roseburn Drive – 22 -29 December – Theft of motor vehicle.

No crimes of violence.

Craigleith Crescent – Report of youths banging on doors.

Balbirnie Place – 7 January, male seen trying property door handles.

Roseburn - Time spent monitoring “No entry” at Roseburn Gardens. This will continue.

D MacLennan referred to the recent setting alight of a vehicle on the section of the Roseburn Path adjoining Wester Coates Terrace. He asked whether the Police knew where the vehicle had entered the Path and whether an extra bollard could be installed at the entrance to the Path at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace.

13. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the opening and closing balances for December 2023 were £1,856.88, there having been no income or expenditure during that month. MCC would receive no income in January 2024 and would incur expenditure of £46.77 for 3 months of Zoom fees. MCC would also incur charges of £40 for 3 months' website support to the end of March, when Albany would cease trading. He informed the meeting that MCC's webmaster, Hamish Ross, was in discussion with an alternative web design company.

The Treasurer anticipated expenditure on the leaflets mentioned at Item 8.1.

14. Social Engagement

There was nothing to report.

15. Any Other Competent Business

The Chair intimated that the next meeting of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils would take place on Thursday, 25 January at 6.45 pm via Microsoft Teams. It would be led by the Vice Chair and new Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, which provides strategic planning, resourcing and operational oversight of a wide range of health and social care services.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 5 March 2024 at Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

Subsequent meeting: 16 April 2024 at Saughtonhall Community Recreation Hall.

Minutes approved by email subsequent to meeting of 5 March 2024.