

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 27 February 2018 at 7.30pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, S Holland, N Macdonald, R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Gillian Gloyer,  
In attendance: 7 members of the public, Rurighd McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council and Anna Rowell, Sustrans and City of Edinburgh Council,  
Apologies: H Ross, D Whitelaw, Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair Rankin, Cllr Frank Ross, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Ruth Davidson, MSP, Kezia Dugdale, 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. Order of Business

This was approved subject to the addition before Councillors' Reports of a discussion of the Tor Nursing Home planning application.

3. Community Policing Report

As there was no Police representative present, the meeting proceeded to the above mentioned discussion.

4. Planning Application for redevelopment of the former Tor Nursing Home

J Forbes reminded the meeting that MCC had lodged an objection to this planning application. The deadline for objections was 29 December 2017. Eight objections had been lodged by then and a further objection had been lodged by Dan Teague of S1 Developments after that date. The application was still categorised as awaiting assessment. Cllr Gloyer thought that the delay might be due to staff shortages.

J Forbes requested Cllr Gloyer's help in ensuring that the Planning Committee has the opportunity to review the application if it is approved. **Cllr Gloyer explained that she could not insist upon a review but undertook to request both a review and a site visit by the Planning Committee.**

5. Police matters

5.1 The Chairman reported that Portobello Community Police Officers are seeking the help of secondary school pupils to catch graffiti artists. He had emailed PC Sam Davison to ask whether such an initiative might be appropriate in Murrayfield if there is a recurrence of graffiti there.

A member of the public reported that after the recent Hibs v Hearts match she had witnessed Hibs supporters committing several graffiti offences She was sure of their allegiance because they had used the "Hibs Ultra" tag and much of the graffiti referred to Ann Budge and Wallace Mercer. Those particular examples and

others including swear words had been removed promptly by the Council, but many other examples remained. She asked whether the cost of removal could be recovered from Hibs. **Cllr Gloyer undertook to look into this**, but she did not think the cost would be recoverable.

5.2 The Chairman reported that the Rolling Stones are to hold a concert at BT Murrayfield on 9 June 2018.

5.3 M Stevens reported that the obstruction caused by a red motorcycle, which is regularly parked on the pavement opposite the Bible Society premises on West Coates and which he had reported at the last meeting, still persists. He had photographed the motorcycle that evening and would send the photo to PC Sam Davison. Cllr Gloyer confirmed that the Police will act only if such a vehicle is causing an obstruction.

5.4 In answer to a question from the Chairman the Secretary confirmed that the Police would take no further action regarding the incident in which a coach from St George's School had hit her parked car. As the incident had been reported, no crime had been committed.

## 6. Councillor's Report

Cllr Gloyer reported as follows:-

6.1 The Council's Budget process involves each political party presenting its own budget and a budget has to be accepted or rejected in its entirety. Although a majority of Councillors was opposed to the proposal to introduce a charge for garden rubbish collections, the proposal went through as part of the Coalition's budget. Certain exemptions will be allowed. In answer to a question from P Gregson she said that she believed the charge was to be £25 per annum.

The Budget consultation process had been shorter than usual and the level of participation disappointingly low. In response to public opposition the proposals to reduce library opening hours, cut funding to Edinburgh Leisure and limit the operation of the Noise Team to weekdays had all been dropped. 10% of the funding for transport will be allocated to cycling.

6.2 The four new Locality Committees have just held their first meetings. Some of the money authorised in the Budget will be spent by them.

The Chairman reported that at the first meeting of the North West Locality Committee Cllr Aldridge had been elected as Chairman.

Cllr Gloyer confirmed that the Locality Committees will operate alongside the Neighbourhood Partnerships, but no one is sure how this arrangement will work. The Locality Committees are designed to provide the democratic oversight of local administration which has been missing until now.

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Locality Committees are to meet every eight weeks, probably in the evening, and meetings are to be open to the public.

H Whaley asked whether MCC should be giving the North West Locality Committee a wish list of things to which MCC would like funds allocated. The Secretary thought that it would be a good idea for MCC to think about its priorities. She informed the meeting that she is to attend Council training on budgetary participation and should know more about the process after that.

6.3 S Holland asked whether further staff cuts were to be made at the Council. Cllr Gloyer thought that the worst of the staff cull was over and further cuts would be made through natural wastage.

R Beavis reported that his neighbours at Roseburn Maltings think that service delivery has suffered because most of the experienced staff have left the Council.

6.4 Edinburgh Rugby - The Chairman advised that the Evening News had carried a report that a smaller stadium for use by Edinburgh Rugby is to be built behind the main BT Murrayfield stadium. He clarified that Edinburgh Rugby is a professional team, whereas Edinburgh Wanderers are amateurs. Cllr Gloyer stated that the Chairman of Edinburgh Rugby had requested a meeting with the three local Councillors and she would know more when this had taken place.

6.5 The Chairman reported that he had been asked by Mount Florida Community Council in Glasgow, who are concerned about the proposed future use of Hampden by the Scottish Football Association, what issues were of concern to MCC in connection with the same proposal for BT Murrayfield. He had replied listing the issues which MCC regularly raises with the SRU in connection with rugby international matches, rock concerts, the Hearts matches and Edinburgh Wanderers. The Secretary had been amused to see that the logo of Mount Florida Community Council is “MoFloCoCo”!

6.6 S Holland reported that he and the Secretary had attended a recent meeting with the SRU, as had Cllr Gloyer, but nothing new had been discussed. The closure of the main road on rugby international match days had been reduced from 3 ½ hours to 3 hours at the last match. It had been explained that a lengthy closure was required to accommodate the diversion round Haymarket Terrace while it was closed for the Scottish Water works on the sewer.

6.7 P Gregson asked for an update on the consultation regarding proposed changes to the West Edinburgh school catchment area. Cllr Gloyer replied that the consultation period has been extended to the end of March. The Parent Council of Roseburn Primary School had issued a questionnaire to all parents and, although various views had been expressed, there was a clear majority against changing the secondary school from Craigmount to Tynecastle. The first meeting of the Education Committee after the end of the consultation period will be in May and a decision will be made then.

7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9 January 2018

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: N Macdonald.

8. Matters Arising

8.1. *Ellersly Road quick wins and streetscape project*

8.1.1 J Forbes reported that Peter Keggie from the Council had said in January that the “quick wins” would be completed in 4-6 weeks, i.e. by mid March. The estimated completion date is now the end of the financial year.

**Cllr Gloyer undertook to chase Peter Keggie about the quick wins.**

8.1.2 Cllr Gloyer reported that Peter Keggie is also dealing with the proposed streetscape project, but she will refrain from pressing for progress on this until the quick wins have been done. J Forbes expressed uncertainty about how to progress a proposal to the stage of having plans drawn up and a budget and timetable agreed.

8.1.3 It was reported that Ellersly Road and Saughtonhall Drive are to be closed and traffic diverted for eight weeks from 8 March 2018 to enable the resurfacing of the road at Western Corner to be carried out. H Whaley informed the meeting that this work includes removing the traffic island at the foot of Ellersly Road which currently divides traffic turning left from that going straight on. J Forbes confirmed that the changes to the traffic

management had been embodied in a Traffic Regulation Order (“TRO”) and advertised.

8.2. *Tree policy*

The Chairman reported that he and two other Community Councillors had attended a seminar by the Planning Department earlier that evening which had included a presentation on the Council’s policy on and management of privately owned trees. A distinction is made between TCOs (trees in Conservation Areas) and TPOs (trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order). In the former case the process is one of notification of proposed felling or other works, not application for approval. The only power the Council has is to impose a TPO. In the second case application for approval is required and the Council can grant or refuse consent and can require replacement planting. In neither case is there provision for neighbour notification, public consultation or third party objections.

The Chairman intimated that the Council would like the current Planning Bill to include the power to refuse consent to proposed TCO works. The arboriculturist who gave the presentation was asked whether Community Councils could become statutory consultees in this process and replied that the Planning Department does not have the manpower to deal with the extra work which that would entail. M Stevens pointed out that the statutory consultee process is embodied in primary legislation, whereas the Planning Officers operate under delegated powers, and any change would require a change to the primary legislation.

J Forbes referred to a recent TPO application for consent to fell a stand of holly trees in Campbell Avenue without replacing them. He pointed out that MCC has no power to intervene and asked for help from R Smart, a resident of Campbell Avenue, in requesting that the felled trees be replaced. R Smart stated that the trees overhang the neighbouring gardens and in his view, which J Forbes did not share, they are “scrappy” and of no value as screens. R Smart felt that over the years the Campbell Avenue owners had managed these and the other trees well. This opinion was not challenged.

N Macdonald asked whether any grants are available to help with the cost, estimated at several £1000s, of felling a diseased Dutch elm in Campbell Avenue. R Smart advised that, if the owner fails to fell the tree, the Council will have to do so, as it is the Council’s responsibility to control the spread of Dutch elm disease.

8.3. *Graffiti*

The Secretary confirmed that MCC has been awarded a grant for two graffiti removal kits and is awaiting the funds. She asked the member of the public who had complained about the graffiti generated by Hibs supporters (Item 5.1) to email her photographs.

9. Winter maintenance of pavements, cycleways and roads

A member of the public reported that the grit bins in his area, which had previously been half full of solid unusable grit, had just been refilled with fresh grit. **The Secretary** reported that an unofficial survey of grit bins a few weeks ago had revealed that they were all similarly unusable. She **undertook to check whether others had also been refilled.**

H Whaley reported that pavements had been gritted the previous evening for the first time this winter.

Cllr Gloyer reported that a review of the Council's winter arrangements is currently underway and a report will be submitted to the Transport Committee at the end of the winter.

In relation to setting priorities regarding roads and pavements the Secretary pointed out that there are three retirement homes/blocks of flats in Roseburn Gardens and their residents will not go out unless the pavements have been gritted.

10. Reports from West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership and North West Locality Committee

The Chairman confirmed that the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") had awarded MCC a grant for two graffiti kits, a new noticeboard and plants for the Roseburn area. The graffiti kits had already been mentioned and the noticeboard would be dealt with at Item 11.

The Secretary confirmed that £200 of the grant had been allocated to buying plants for the planters on the Old Coltbridge and, as the money had to be spent within 6 months, she proposed to buy garden centre vouchers and spend them over the next 18-24 months until the Rejuvenating Roseburn project began.

11. Rejuvenating Roseburn

11.1 Rurighd McMeddes, City Centre West to East Cycle Link and Street Improvements Project ("CCWEL") Stakeholder Liaison Officer, and his colleague, Anna Rowell of Sustrans, had brought with them two drawings which had been worked up since the last MCC meeting and were based on the design Option 3, which had proved most popular with members of the public. R McMeddes explained that in refining the design they had consulted with the Council's Parks and Greenspaces, Waste Disposal and Utilities teams. The drawings were displayed at the meeting and those present were given the opportunity to consider them and ask questions of R McMeddes and A Rowell. A Rowell then gave a slideshow of the various options available for bin stores, seating, planters and signs. She demonstrated that bin stores could be made of wood or other materials and have grass or seeded roofs; seating could be made of wood, stone or other material and be modular, fixed or moveable.

A member of the public suggested using the hardwood bench with plaque, which is manufactured in Saughton Prison and is used throughout the city. A Rowell confirmed that the Parks and Greenspaces team favour this model.

A Rowell explained that the redesign of the Old Coltbridge involves uncovering and lifting the original setts, levelling the tops to make them safer for pedestrians and cyclists, splitting some so that more setts are available, and relaying them. It is proposed that in order to preserve the original turnpike nature of the bridge a different material be used alongside the setts.

The same member of the public suggested "horonizing", which involves using the small offcuts from squaring off setts to pave areas of lower footfall. He explained that this too is commonly used throughout Edinburgh.

A Rowell explained that the proposed raised planters on the island adjoining the main road bridge are designed to deflect traffic noise whilst retaining visibility at the Murrayfield Avenue junction and raising the roots of the proposed trees above the underground utilities which are located there.

R McMeddes cautioned that the amount of greenery which can be introduced into the area will depend upon the willingness of the local community to maintain it, as the Council's capacity to do so is limited. A Rowell confirmed that, whilst the

Parks and Greenspaces team were happy for additional grass to be planted near the proposed location of the bin stores at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue, they were not keen on new grass being added elsewhere.

A Rowell referred to the options for paving including “tactiles” to assist elderly and disabled pedestrians. She had consulted the Planning Department about wayfinding strategies and proposed a totem/signpost at the main crossing point on Roseburn Terrace which would be linked to the maps distributed to tourists and mobile phone apps used for wayfinding.

A Rowell reported that a structural survey of the Old Coltbridge had been carried out in December 2017. No serious faults had been found but some repointing is required.

The member of the public who had contributed to this discussion suggested that there would be interest in watching some of the work as it was carried out. **R McMeddes** agreed and **undertook to see whether appropriate parts of the work could be advertised via social media** along similar lines to what Network Rail do. Options for lighting the Old Coltbridge were discussed. It was felt that the 1930s lighting on the main road bridge should not be replicated on the much older Old Coltbridge. Lights in the side walls and in the greenery below the bridge were suggested. A Rowell explained that the current level of lighting has to be maintained and the Water of Leith Trust is not in favour of lighting under the bridge because of potential ecological damage.

In answer to a question from the Secretary R McMeddes confirmed that once all discussions with the various Council departments have been concluded, the final design will be advertised and subjected to public consultation. He hoped that the consultation would be completed before the next MCC meeting on 1 May 2018.

The Chairman intimated that (1) the former Police box in Murrayfield Avenue had been in use for the sale of refreshments on the day of the Calcutta Cup match; and (2) a local connection to the artist Charles H Mackie had been discovered. A resident of Wester Coates Road has written a biography of Mackie. S Holland explained that Mackie was an important artist who probably did not enjoy the fame he deserved. His studio occupied the ground floor of the former Roseburn Primary School after the school moved to Roseburn Street. The former School building was later demolished and Murrayburgh House built on the site. In 1893 Mackie worked with Patrick Geddes creating murals for an urban renewal project at Ramsay Garden. His patron was James Cowan of the paper-making family, who occupied Westerlea in Ellersly Road.

M Stevens intimated that R McMeddes is to speak at the AGM of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association (on 24 April 2018) about a possible rejuvenation project for the area around the Apex Hotel.

11.2 The Secretary reported that the grant for the noticeboard has also to be spent within 6 months. She had asked three companies, two of whom are based at Ratho, to come up with a design which would be in keeping with the Rejuvenating Roseburn project and set the standard for it, and an estimate of the cost. She hoped to have the designs and estimates for consideration at the next MCC meeting.

In answer to a question from J Forbes the Secretary said that the new noticeboard was to be 1000mm x 1500mm to accommodate A3 size plans, which are often used in conjunction with TROs. The current noticeboard measures approximately 800mm x 1000mm. She explained further that the board may be off the shelf but have a tailor made frame. One possibility is a metal frame with the front hinged along the top and hydraulic arms which lift the front up. The intention is to use

the existing posts which are attached to the bridge parapet, but position the board further forward and lower down.

The Treasurer asked how the estimate of £2822 on which the grant application was based had been arrived at. The Secretary explained that she had looked at a number of noticeboards online, selected a representative price and added estimated installation costs and VAT. She indicated that further funds might be available if they were needed to procure a noticeboard which is tailor made for the area.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that MCC would have to justify the amount spent.

The Secretary agreed with a suggestion from a member of the public that unused space on the noticeboard could be used to display artwork by pupils of Roseburn Primary School.

12. CCWEL

R McMeddes went over the proposed arrangements for parking and traffic management in the Roseburn area. There are to be 15 short stay (maximum two hours) parking spaces next to the Maltings in Russell Road, two short stay (maximum 30 minutes) spaces available all day on Roseburn Terrace and further short stay (maximum two hours) spaces in Murrayfield Place and Murrayfield Avenue. A new pedestrian crossing will be installed at the east end of Roseburn Terrace at the Tesco/Roseburn Bar junction and the traffic lights will be co-ordinated with those at the west end so that traffic is flushed through in such a way as to minimise waiting time on Roseburn Terrace. The draft TROs are with the relevant Council team and he is hopeful that the public statutory consultation will be under way by the end of March. The former flower shop in Murrayfield Place is a possible venue for the public drop in sessions.

In answer to a question from the Secretary R McMeddes confirmed that the TRO consultation is the appropriate time for MCC to pursue the request for a yellow cross-hatched box at the Murrayfield Place/Murrayfield Avenue junction.

A Anderson expressed the view that there should also be such a box at the Henderland Road/ Murrayfield Avenue junction. R McMeddes said that there is a limit to the changes which can be made in connection with the CCWEL. He had passed on the concerns regarding the traffic generated by St George's School to the relevant Council team, who will look into them.

R Smart asked how MCC is to tackle the draft TROs and expressed the view that expert legal advice will be required for any challenge to the proposals to be effective. The Chairman replied that initially MCC will consider the draft TROs in detail at a private meeting and any professional expertise available will be welcome.

13. Roseburn Park update

P Gregson reported as follows:-

13.1 A large piece of graffiti on the central wall of the Park opposite Kwik Fit had been removed by the Council within a week. He, Cllr Gloyer and a member of the public expressed their appreciation of this prompt action. The same member of the public commented that Darren Wraight of the Council is looking into applying a protective coating to the flood prevention walls and there might be money for this left in the budget for the Flood Prevention Scheme.

13.2 The harling on the pavilion and the toilet block is to be painted white.

13.3 The carving of a bench from one of the felled trees is progressing.

13.4 A three month trial of road markings to segregate cyclists from pedestrians at a blind spot in the centre of the Park is to begin on 19 March 2018. Three moveable planters are to be added at the corner of the Armoury. The Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”) would prefer there to be only one new planter, because on the evidence of the large stone planter in the centre of the Park, three new planters are unlikely to be maintained properly. A member of the public suggested that Roseburn Primary School could be asked to maintain them.

13.5 On 23 February 2018 eighteen new trees were planted in the Park - a monkey puzzle, three conifers, five cherry trees, four crab apple trees, four oaks, a copper beech and an alder.

13.6 Construction of the new play park is to be started in mid March and completed by mid May.

13.7 FoRP have obtained one estimate for the redevelopment of the toilet block but have been unable to persuade any other contractor to quote for the work.

#### 14. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported as follows:-

14.1 A number of small planning applications had been made, but he had been unable to find details of the most significant one which related to a site at the top of Murrayfield Avenue on the east side.

14.2 The Planning (Scotland) Bill is causing concern in relation to the proposals (1) that planning appeals be heard by three Councillors rather than a qualified reporter and (2) that local residents be empowered to draw up the Development Plan for their locality.

14.3 He has a 90 minute CD on the work of American-Canadian Jane Jacobs and her influence on urban design and would like to show it to his MCC colleagues.

14.4 He had no up-to-date information on the planning application for 33 Pinkhill.

#### 15. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman reported that MCC had been invited by Blackhall and Craighleith Community Council to attend a meeting on 17 March 2018 of local Community Councils to discuss transport issues and he intended to attend the meeting.

#### 16. Any Other Competent Business

A Anderson reported that there was significant flooding outside the Church of the Good Shepherd in Murrayfield Avenue and several of the streetlights were not working. The secretary advised her to report the defective streetlights via the Council’s website. A member of the public informed the meeting that there is a spring in the middle of Murrayfield Avenue which could be the cause of the flooding.

R Smart was pleased to report that the streets in Murrayfield had been cleaned recently and reminded the meeting that this needs to be done regularly.

#### 17. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

18. Next Meeting: Tuesday, 1 May 2018, AGM at 6.45pm, Ordinary Meeting at 7.30pm  
Subsequent meetings: 26 June, 14 August, 9 October and 4 December 2018.

Minutes approved at meeting of 1 May 2018.