

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 27 June 2023 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
J McDonough, D MacLennan, E Robertson, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Euan Davidson,
In attendance: Rurighd McMeddes, The City of Edinburgh Council, Clare
Marshall, Tummies Not Trash, Jude Thomas, Saughtonhall
Community Association, 15 members of the public,
Apologies: D Dawson, N Macdonald, S Macpherson, M Stevens, Cllr Alan Beal,
Cllr Fiona Bennett, 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 welcomed those in attendance.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Proposed Holyrood boundary changes

B Knowles explained that the boundaries for both the Westminster and Holyrood constituencies are being reviewed. The Boundary Commission's report on the Westminster constituencies is imminent. She did not expect a recommendation to change the boundaries of the Edinburgh West constituency. The consultation on the proposed changes to the boundaries of the Holyrood constituencies closed on 17 June 2023. The MCC area is currently in Ward 6, part of Edinburgh Central represented by Angus Robertson, MSP. It is proposed that Ward 6 be included with part of Ward 3 and Ward 5 in Edinburgh Western, currently represented by Alex Cole-Hamilton, MSP.

2.2 Saughtonhall Community Association ("SCA") summer programme

Jude Thomas of SCA informed the meeting that SCA, in partnership with a number of local organisations, is running a programme of activities for families over the summer. A poster advertising the programme will be displayed on MCC's noticeboards at Roseburn and Western Corner.

P Gregson suggested that Jude Thomas advertise the programme at the forthcoming event in Roseburn Park (see Item 8.1 below).

2.3 Tummies Not Trash Breakfast Club

Clare Marshall informed the meeting that Tummies Not Trash will be providing breakfast using rescued food in the SCA Hall at 8 am on Mondays and Thursdays during the summer holidays. A poster advertising the breakfast club will be displayed on the MCC noticeboards.

2.4 Roseburn Bridge bench

The Chair confirmed that the “Billy Dunbar” bench which has been removed from the New Colt Bridge is being refurbished and will be returned to the Bridge.

3. CCWEL

R McMeddes reported as follows:-

3.1 The following minor works for the CCWEL project at Roseburn are still outstanding:-

- (a) Lanterns on the Old Colt Bridge,
- (b) Landscaping and planting of a tree at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue,
- (c) Artistic paving, including hopscotch markings, in Murrayfield Place,
- (d) The crossing at Stanhope Street, which will be completed by the end of August, and
- (e) The signals at Stanhope Street.

3.2 The work in Haymarket Terrace is going well and should be finished by mid December.

3.3 The dilapidations at Wester Coates Terrace and Road have been investigated. Some rebuilding will be required but the works will not be as extensive as the original works. Some of the slabs will be lifted and the concrete layers underneath redone.

3.4 The bus shelter on the north side of the New Colt Bridge will be reinstated. He is chasing Council officers about this.

3.5 The two black bollards on Roseburn Terrace at the top of Roseburn Gardens, which are designed to protect people waiting at the crossing, will be made more visible by the addition of reflective discs.

R McMeddes replied to questions from D MacLennan as follows:-

- (1) The current monitoring counter will be replaced with a high tech counter which will monitor both the speed and number of cyclists.
- (2) The remedial work referred to at 3.3 above will include the additional damage caused by the fork lift vehicles moving crowd control barriers for the BT Murrayfield concerts. R McMeddes recommended reporting the additional damage to the Council’s Road Operations team and Scottish Rugby.
- (3) The bollards to be installed on the extended pavement at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace have been delayed by the investigation into the dilapidations.
- (4) The road surface and road markings at the Russell Road/Roseburn Street junction have failed and will require partial resurfacing and completely new road markings once the CCWEL works have come to an end.

A member of the public, who used to look after the planters on the Old Colt Bridge, reported that the planters are no longer fit for purpose and those plants which are still viable have been rescued from them. **R McMeddes undertook to address the request for new planters and a tree in a pot plus a watering system in the next two weeks.** He is still hoping to acquire surplus planters from the tram project.

In answer to a question from a member of the public he confirmed that there will be two new trees, one at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue and one at the end of the Old Colt Bridge.

The Chair passed on a question he had received by email asking whether the old planters could be converted into benches. R McMeddes replied that they are too dilapidated to be suitable for that purpose.

One of the Roseburn traders raised the following issues:-

(1) The bin which had been removed by Balfour Beatty during the CCWEL works at Roseburn, had been reinstated but had disappeared again.

RMcMeddes replied that Balfour Beatty had indeed replaced the bin and were mystified about what had happened to it since then. He **undertook to ask the Council's Waste team if they know anything about the bin's disappearance.**

(2) The optician on Roseburn Terrace still has water seeping into her shop. R McMeddes confirmed that a channel to divert the water across the pavement away from the shop will be installed.

(3) The traders are all in favour of the installation of hanging baskets and an automatic watering system at an estimated cost of £10,000. A similar arrangement was installed at Bruntsfield a few years ago and resulted in an uplift in trade for the shops there. The meeting confirmed that MCC would support a bid for funding for such an arrangement at Roseburn and **Cllr Davidson undertook to investigate possible sources of funding.**

H Whaley made the point that evidence of the positive impact of such a scheme elsewhere would help in any bid for funding.

A Anderson added that the Old Colt Bridge and surrounding area need more bins and regular cleaning.

4. BT Murrayfield – Beyonce, Harry Styles and Bruce Springsteen concerts

4.1 In the absence of M Stevens of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA") and D Dawson of Saughtonhall the Chair reported that the residents' experience of the concerts had differed in these two areas. The DAAA had been outraged by the extensive road closures authorised by the TTRO for the concerts at BT Murrayfield, but the residents of the Saughtonhall, Riversdale and Baird area were happy with the operation of the TTRO in their area.

The DAAA's main complaint was that the long closures (from midday until 8pm, then from 9.15pm until 00.30am) of the only access to, and egress from, the DAAA area, which includes a sheltered housing complex and an aged population, had been decided at an official level without any consultation. M Stevens had made a Freedom of Information request to try to find out the information on which the decisions about the TTRO had been made.

In his comments relayed by email prior to the meeting D Dawson had given Scottish Rugby credit for their willingness to engage with local residents and take on board the residents' concerns and complaints. He was not, however, happy about Graham Law's unwillingness to allow an MCC representative to attend the review meetings held after events. **The Chair undertook to write to Graham Law to ask him to reconsider this position.**

4.2 D MacLennan agreed with the DAAA's view on the lengthy road closures, the Wester Coates area having been similarly affected.

4.3 A member of the public complained that there had been no clear information about when the buses were going to be diverted and some bus drivers did not seem to know where to go. Buses were diverted up Murrayfield Road and along Ravelston Dykes but did not stop at the bus stops on the

Dykes. **The Chair undertook to write to Ben Ritchie at Lothian Buses to ask whether in future the stops for the 13 and 38 services could be used by the diverted buses.**

4.4 Jude Thomas of SCA reminded the meeting that Scottish Rugby had invited local residents to the review meeting to be held on 11 July between 6 and 7 pm. The residents of Wester Coates had been invited at 7.15 pm. She encouraged attendance.

4.5 A local resident suggested that Scottish Rugby should make a financial contribution to the community by way of compensation for the inconvenience and damage caused by the events at BT Murrayfield.

4.5 The meeting discussed the issue of the coloured feathers from boas sold by street vendors, which had littered the streets after the concerts and had proved particularly difficult to clean up. There had been articles in the Guardian and Times about the environmental damage which they caused.

The Chair informed the meeting that Graham Law had said that the vendors operate under a pedlar's licence which falls within the jurisdiction of the Police and neither the Council nor Scottish Rugby can do much about the vendors.

D MacLennan confirmed that the Pedlars Act is a piece of 19th century Westminster legislation, the review of which is currently on hold. **Cllr Davidson agreed that Christine Jardine, MP might be persuaded to look into getting the legislation reviewed and undertook to contact her.**

The Chair undertook to write to Keep Scotland Beautiful to ask whether Harry Styles' management had responded to suggestions that he should reconsider his fashion choices.

4.6 The Chair listed the forthcoming fixtures at BT Murrayfield:-

Wednesday 19 July - Manchester United v Lyonnais Olympique football match at 2 pm,

Famous Grouse World Cup warm up rugby matches in lieu of Autumn Tests:-

Saturday, 29 July – Scotland v Italy at 3.15 pm,

Saturday, 5 August – Scotland v France at 3.15 pm,

Saturday, 26 August - Scotland v Georgia at 5.30 pm.

4.7 A local resident complained that the Police do nothing to control the football supporters who are in the habit of marching from the Murrayfield Hotel to Tynecastle, walking down the middle of the road, setting off flares and fireworks and, more recently, wearing balaclavas. She found their behaviour intimidating and dangerous and feared similar behaviour would occur before the match on 19 July.

The Chair asked whether this was a matter for the Police or for the Council's Licensing team. Jude Thomas informed the meeting that this issue could be raised with the Chief Inspector at the Scottish Rugby review meeting on 11 July.

The Chair undertook to write to PC Sam Davison about the marches.

5. Ellersly and Kinellan Roads traffic calming and pedestrian improvements

5.1 The Chair reiterated that he and J Forbes had been "given the run around" by the Council regarding these proposals. They had had a site meeting with Cllr Davidson and had identified some low cost options. Cllr Davidson confirmed that the speed control measures for Ellersly Road are on the Council's list for 2023. He expected to receive an update on the roads delivery programme in

December and was also awaiting an update on Neighbourhood Environment Programme funding.

J Forbes asked how MCC could ensure that the timetable for the resurfacing of Eilersly Road, currently scheduled for 2024/25, does not slip. Cllr Davidson explained that this was dependent on the setting of the Council's budget, but assiduously reporting road defects would help to maintain its priority.

5.2 E Robertson complained that the speed bumps/humps on Murrayfield Avenue, Henderland Road, Succoth and Coltbridge are worn down and ineffective. She was keen for them to be repaired before the work altering the parking and layout of Murrayfield Avenue is begun to avoid the risk of the repairs not being done at all. Cllr Davidson said he had reported these issues to Roads Operations at the Council.

J Forbes cautioned that speed bumps increase traffic noise and are not necessarily the best traffic calming measure.

5.3 The Chair reported that Together Edinburgh are offering a public debate on 25 July about Low Emission Zones, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods.

H Whaley commented that these proposals are important, as there has been a 34% increase in vehicle numbers in the last 10 years.

6. Councillors' reports

6.1 Western Gardens - A group of residents of Western Gardens requested help in getting double yellow lines installed on one side of the street. They explained that their block of flats has a private car park which contains their communal bins. It is difficult for them to get in and out of the car park and for the bin lorries to empty their bins because access is blocked by vehicles parked on both sides of the street. They have requested double yellow lines but have been told that the process could take 18 months. **Cllr Davidson undertook to contact the appropriate team at the Council.**

6.2 42 Coltbridge Avenue - The resident of this property complained that there are now six communal bins outside her window. They were previously located further along the street and some were against a blank wall. She is constantly disturbed by noise from people depositing rubbish and bin lorries emptying the bins at 6 am every morning. She has taken her complaint as far as she can with the Council and is now going to the Local Government Ombudsman. Cllr Davidson confirmed that he is helping her with the submission to the Ombudsman.

6.3 Queensferry Road closure - A Anderson complained that one of the utility companies had closed Queensferry Road in one direction near Craighleith Retail Park at the time when Magdala Crescent was also closed, resulting in a sizeable traffic jam and extensive diversion. **Cllr Davidson** thought it was probably within the power of a utility company to take this action without prior warning, but **undertook to check the position.**

6.4 Roseburn Drive cycle hub - Prior to the meeting there had been email correspondence about the cycle hubs in Roseburn Drive which had been positioned incorrectly (end-on to the kerb) and had been blocked by parked cars making it impossible to open the hubs. **Cllr Davidson** confirmed that the hubs are to be repositioned. In answer to a query from a local resident he

undertook to investigate why double yellow lines for an ambulance had not yet been installed outside Roseburn House.

6.5 Transport consultation – The Chair reported that the Council is seeking feedback on the [Active Travel](#), [Public Transport](#), [Parking](#), [Road Safety](#) and [Air Quality](#) Action Plans, the emerging [Circulation Plan](#) and its associated Streetspace Allocation Framework via an online survey, public drop-ins, focus group and key stakeholder discussions and a toolkit to support community involvement. He is endeavouring to complete the online survey on behalf of MCC by the deadline of 9 July. [The Chair has confirmed that the response was submitted before the deadline.]

Cllr Davidson confirmed that all of the issues on which he had intended to report had been covered.

7. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 2 May 2023 and Matters Arising

7.1 The Chair intimated that he would be attending the meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network the following evening, 28 June.

J McDonough confirmed that MCC had submitted an application for funding for a new noticeboard outside Scotmid on Saughtonhall Drive and for refurbishment of the Western Corner noticeboard.

7.2 The Chair intimated that there would be no meetings of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils over the summer.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Forbes, Sec: D MacLennan.

8. Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”)

8.1 B Knowles reported that the café building will be opened at an event in the Park on Sunday, 2 July. P Gregson handed out flyers to those who had not already received one. The Chair advised that the café is to be called the Rosebean Café. Once they have obtained the necessary licences, it will be operated by the couple who run the Dower House Café in Corstorphine.

8.2 P Gregson referred to the survey in the flyer about future use of the Park. It aims to update the feedback received from a survey in 2016 and can also be completed online. P Gregson encouraged those present to complete the survey.

8.3 J McDonough reported that Fields in Trust status has now been conferred on the Park. This designation is intended to protect the Park as recreational land. It does not prevent development but, if development is permitted, the Council is obliged to provide equivalent recreational space elsewhere.

8.4 P Gregson reminded the meeting that 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. Sustrans have said they will fund consultants only if the Council commit to carrying out any works recommended by the consultants. Cllr Beal has been trying to get the Council’s cycling officers on board with this proposal. Cllr Davidson had agreed to provide a letter of support.

8.5 In reply to a question from A Anderson J McDonough confirmed that the proposed refurbishment of the drinking fountain is currently on hold owing to the estimated cost of £20,000.

9. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

9.1 Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Yards – The developer has appealed against the refusal of planning permission for demolition of the existing office building and replacement with a very much higher, more massive contemporary office block. A majority of MCC members were in favour of the submission by MCC as a consultee of a Representation supporting the refusal of planning permission. J Forbes had circulated a draft Representation by email prior to the meeting. The Representation focussed on the issues that led the Development Management Sub Committee to refuse the application, namely adverse impact on the wider townscape, on the setting of the adjacent Conservation Area and UNESCO World Heritage Site, and on the setting of a Listed Building (Haymarket Station). The meeting approved the submission of the Representation.

He had sent the draft Representation to the West End and Gorgie-Dalry Community Councils, both of whom had opposed the grant of planning permission, but had heard nothing from them.

9.2 Student accommodation behind Haymarket Yards - Mike Stevens had reported that Devon Place was closed southbound on 31 May for 98 weeks, without notice to residents affected. Site offices for construction work on the student accommodation building have been erected, covering half the street. This is contrary to what MCC understood from the planning process. The builders have given assurance that access for actual construction work will be from Haymarket Yards, and only site office access will be required on Devon Place. The east pavement of Devon Place will be kept open as the west pavement is not suitable for people with mobility aids. Demolition and redevelopment work on Osborne House, due to begin in early 2024, will add further difficulties.

9.3 Digital advertising display on Roseburn Bridge bus shelter - A planning application was submitted and quickly approved for an illuminated display featuring six static advertising images on the new bus shelter to be erected on the north side of Roseburn Bridge. MCC members were canvassed but, though some raised concerns, there was no consensus for entering an objection.

9.4 37 Corstorphine Road - Thirteen months ago (31 May 2022) the Scottish Ministers gave "Notice of Intention" to grant planning permission for the proposed development, subject *inter alia* to conclusion of a planning obligation with regard to education and affordable housing provision. Current status is unknown but it is assumed negotiations are continuing (with multiple extensions of time) to conclude these matters. **Cllr Davidson undertook to ask Cllr Beal for an update.**

10. Police Report

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

10.1 The number of reported crimes was very similar to the same period last year. There had been an increase in the number of calls for service.

10.2 The only crimes of note were:-

8/10 May - theft of two motorbikes on West Coates,

9 May - theft of vehicle number plates in Balbirnie Place,

26 May - theft of fuel from a vehicle on Garscube Terrace. This appears to have been an isolated incident. Increased patrols were carried out.

- an assault in Balgreen Road. A man has been charged.

May - four assault and disorder offences related to the concerts at BT Murrayfield.

10.3 Electric motorbikes continue to cause problems across the city. The public are asked to report any sightings.

11. Treasurer's Report

11.1 The Treasurer reported that the opening balance for May was £1,738. There had been expenditure of £225 and no income, resulting in a closing balance of £1,513. He anticipated receipt of the Council's annual grant.

11.2 The Chair reported that a plaque to commemorate the former Murrayfield Railway Station had been commissioned.

11.3 P Gregson reported that he had heard nothing further from the Minister of Murrayfield Parish Church about the proposal to erect a plaque commemorating John Lennon's association with Ormidale Terrace.

12. Social Engagement

12.1 The Chair reminded the meeting that D Dawson wishes to stand down as Social Engagement Officer and a replacement is sought.

12.2 The Chair reported that Hamish Ross had advised on 22 May that one outcome of the Elon Musk takeover at Twitter appears to be that MCC will shortly no longer be able to send website content to Twitter automatically and free of charge. The options are:

- keep the Twitter account as a separate entity;
- pay for an automatic feed to the Twitter account;
- close the Twitter account.

The meeting agreed that in the absence of a volunteer to manage the Twitter account actively, it should be closed.

P Gregson asked about MCC's current social media presence and was told that in addition to the Twitter account MCC has a Facebook account.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A number of those present had received an approach from a representative of CHAS about financial support for a children's hospice in Murrayfield. It appeared that the proposal was for an outreach service rather than an actual hospice building.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 29 August 2023

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

Minutes approved at meeting of 29 August 2023.