

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 29 March 2022 at 7.30pm  
by Zoom  
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Beavis, R Brown, D Dawson, J Forbes, P Gregson,  
B Knowles, N Macdonald, J McDonough, N Henderson,  
E Robertson, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, Cllr Frank Ross,  
In attendance: Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council, Scott  
Ritchie, Balfour Beatty, Virginia Munoz Rucian, Anturas  
Consulting, 10 members of the public,  
Apologies: Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair  
Rankin, 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

1.1 Apologies were received as above. The two representatives of Murrayfield Court, who had attended recent meetings, had also tendered their apologies. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.

Cllr Ross mentioned the help which the citizens of Edinburgh are giving to the people of Ukraine, in particular Kiev.

1.2 The Chairman intimated the recent passing of Alastair Weatherston, who had represented Murrayfield Parish Church on Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") for a number of years and was a former Director of the Scottish Courts Administration. It was agreed that his passing was a loss to the community. N Macdonald referred to him as "a lovely man,....much missed".

1.3 The Chairman mentioned that Cllrs Scott Douglas and Gillian Gloyer are not standing for re-election in May. Nikki Henderson had also given notice that she is leaving the area and will not, therefore, be able to continue as a member of MCC. The Chairman thanked all three for their service to MCC, which had been greatly appreciated by all MCC's members.

Mindful of the need to ensure appropriate geographical representation, at N Henderson's suggestion he had approached two potential co-optees, one of whom had indicated a willingness to serve on MCC. It was agreed to put the co-option of that person to a vote at the next MCC meeting on 10 May. The second person had not yet replied to the Chairman.

1.4 Before the meeting N Henderson had raised the issue of the City Fibre works which are due to be started soon in the west of the MCC area. She had contacted Paul Wakefield, the Area Manager of City Fibre, who had provided a lot of information about the works and a contact telephone number, but no exact dates yet. She understood that the cables would be laid in micro trenches and only the pavements would be affected. Each street should take only 1 -1 ½ weeks to complete. Residents will be notified by leaflet drop. N Henderson

proposed publishing the leaflet, once issued, on MCC's website and noticeboards.

Details of the works are available on the website of the Scottish Road Works Commissioner – [www.roadworks.scot](http://www.roadworks.scot).

R Beavis said that the recent experience of the residents of Roseburn Maltings of the City Fibre works was not as positive as N Henderson had been led to expect. The work is carried out in two phases. The first is the digging of trenches and the second the connecting of cables and junction boxes. The first phase had taken nearly two weeks and left the residents with open holes, exposed cables and mess all over the road. Access for cars and pedestrians had been very difficult. On the plus side the workmen had been courteous and helpful.

**N Henderson undertook to feed this information back to Paul Wakefield. It was greed that she would invite him to the next MCC meeting.**

## 2. CCWEL

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes provided the following update on the issues:-

2.1 The discovery of asbestos in the footway in front of the Roseburn Bar has caused the CCWEL works there to be delayed until the asbestos can be removed by a specialist contractor.

2.2 The CCWEL excavation works exposed a severely corroded gas pipe and caused a gas leak at the other end of Roseburn Terrace near the Murrayfield Bar. Scottish Gas Networks ("SGN") have paid one visit to carry out a repair and are due to return to carry out further work. In the meantime work on the CCWEL there has been halted. As soon as SGN have completed the repair the stone setts which are already on site will be laid.

2.3 The traffic management is now working fairly well. The problem of eastbound drivers ignoring the prohibition on turning right into Roseburn Street has improved and Wester Coates Terrace has been closed to prevent drivers turning there. Some drivers are still executing 3 point turns at the entrance to Balbirnie Place and U-turns further along West Coates, but these manoeuvres are not automatically illegal. The current traffic management scheme will remain in place until the work on the south side of Roseburn Terrace has been completed.

2.4 Efforts have been made to minimise the impact of signage on the footways.

2.5 The temporary walkway from the former railway bridge to Tesco has been restored to its full width.

2.6 The walk through Roseburn conducted with Balfour Beatty, the City Councillors and some of the traders on 16 March had covered the following issues:-

(a) Yellow lines – implementation of the agreement to change the double yellow lines to single ones has been delayed because of the difficulty in getting a road markings contractor.

(b) Pick up/drop off area – the creation of this area on the south side of Roseburn Terrace has improved access to the chemist and the optician and facilitated loading and unloading. In response to pressure from one of the traders present to increase this area to accommodate more than one vehicle, R Ahluwalia-McMeddes insisted that an increased area would cause safety

issues in the current traffic management scheme, as it would not be possible to prevent larger vehicles such as articulated lorries from stopping there.

(c) Trolleys – Balfour Beatty have provided two different types of trolley for the traders to try and vote for their preference. It would be possible to have both types.

(d) Compensation – a recent motion to the Transport and Environment Committee (“T&EC”) calling for a compensation scheme for the traders adversely affected by the CCWEL works was defeated. A coalition amendment to continue with the current “open as usual” messaging was passed.

(e) Pedestrians – efforts are being made to avoid pinch points and narrowing of the walkways.

(f) Pedestrian crossing – there have been calls for the phasing of the traffic lights to be altered to allow more time for pedestrians to cross. The current phasing is the standard format for this situation and any increase in crossing time would result in more standing traffic and an increase in air pollution.

2.7 Rejuvenating Roseburn – local resident John Riddell had emailed R Ahluwalia-McMeddes on a number of points and had been told that:-

(a) it is the Council’s intention to re-use the existing setts on the carriageway of the Old Colt Bridge and lay precast concrete slabs, the same as those which will be used on Roseburn Terrace, on the rest of the surface;

(b) R Ahluwalia-McMeddes will look into the point which J Riddell had made about the need for bollards to prevent vehicles from mounting the raised footway in Murrayfield Place;

(c) J Riddell’s concerns about protecting the milestone at the foot of the former railway bridge have been noted and passed on to the contractor;

(d) the original intention to plant trees at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue to screen the site of the communal bins has had to be abandoned in favour of planters because of the discovery of complicated underground utilities;

(e) the Council has no plans to repair or remove the derelict shelter below the parapet of the Bridge.

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes asked anyone who has questions or issues to raise to contact him.

P Gregson complained that Balfour Beatty had not accepted responsibility for causing a water leak at Ikina Hair which had not been repaired for three days. R Ahluwalia- McMeddes and S Ritchie explained that an initial repair was carried out on the first day. After further investigation the whole of the pipe connecting the premises to the mains supply was replaced and the water meter repaired. The water pressure is now better than before. Ultimately the main complaint was about lack of communication.

In reply to a question from P Gregson about how long it would take SGN to replace the corroded gas pipe S Ritchie said that SGN were due to return to the site the following day but he could not say when the work would be completed, as Balfour Beatty have no leverage over SGN. He confirmed that the Roseburn Terrace works will be re-programmed to meet the original deadline of 23 July 2022.

In relation to the traders’ request for more parking spaces for their customers H Whaley suggested that the Council car park next to the Maltings in Russell Road, which is to become a car park for Roseburn shoppers on completion of the CCWEL, be made available for that purpose now. R Ahluwalia-

McMeddes explained that this change could not be effected until the Traffic Regulation Order (“TRO”) for Section 1 of the CCWEL comes into force on 26 May 2022. It had been thought that the TRO would not be needed until half way through the construction phase but it might have been better to choose a date nearer the start.

H Whaley recommended thinking ahead about the traffic management and parking and loading arrangements which will be needed when the work moves from the south to the north side of Roseburn Terrace. S Ritchie confirmed that the plan is to complete all work on the south side before moving immediately to the north side.

In reply to a question from H Whaley about vehicle deterrents on Roseburn Terrace R Ahluwalia-McMeddes confirmed that initially there will be no bollards between the cycleway and the carriageway, but there will be sockets for bollards so that, if it transpires that the cyclists need this protection, bollards can be installed quickly.

N Henderson complained that some of the temporary ramps on Roseburn Terrace have proved difficult for disabled users. S Ritchie replied that longer, less steep ramps are being considered where possible.

N Henderson referred to an incident in which the 3D Cakes van had parked on the pavement outside the shop on the north side of the Terrace and pedestrians, including a parent with a buggy, had had to go into the road to get past it. **S Ritchie undertook to speak to the proprietor of 3D Cakes. He said that he would also contact Mandy at Ikina Hair.**

A member of the public pointed out that the lamp post wraparound notice (which is part of the “open as usual” messaging) to the west of Ormidale Terrace is obscuring the sight line to the west. **S Ritchie undertook to look at this.**

The Chairman suggested that the Council might like to offer a celebration on completion of Section 1 of the CCWEL.

In reply to a comment from D Dawson that the Council should be speaking to SGN about whether there are dangerously corroded gas pipes elsewhere in the city, Cllr Ross replied that he did not think that the Council has any control over the utility companies.

3. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 22 February 2022 and Matters Arising
  - 3.1 Information on road closures for the matches on both 5 and 26 February had been provided in the same document.
  - 3.2 Henderland Road – E Robertson expressed her thanks to Cllr Ross and others who had pushed to get the pavement repaired.
  - 3.3 “No Right Turn” into Murrayfield Gardens – Cllr Ross reported that the road markings will be changed and the signs realigned as part of the CCWEL and Rejuvenating Roseburn works.
  - 3.4 Parking at Murrayfield Court – The two representatives of the Murrayfield Court residents, who had attended recent meetings, had confirmed prior to this meeting that some progress had been made with regard to obstructive parking by the workmen at the Tor.  
Another local resident had complained about the appearance without warning of cones closing off several parking spaces on Western Terrace. Cllr Douglas had investigated and found out that the necessary Temporary TRO had not

been obtained. The cones had been removed but would be required in the near future to allow the connection of utilities to the Tor development. Cllr Douglas explained that the need to maintain a two-way traffic flow along Corstorphine Road necessitated this measure on the side road. The City Councillors would receive advance notice of the TTRO and would inform the affected residents.

3.5 Water of Leith Walkway closure – Cllr Ross confirmed that Council officers are speaking to the Britannia Hotel but there has been no progress so far.

3.6 33 Roseburn Terrace – The Chairman reported that the application for retrospective planning permission has been withdrawn and asked whether the work which has been done will have to be undone. N Henderson offered to ask the neighbouring estate agent if he had any information. Cllr Gloyer added that the planning portal shows live enforcement action pending consideration and this may be progressed.

3.7 Linking Saughtonhall Community Association (“SCA”) and MCC websites – D Dawson reported that he had had a constructive meeting with the SCA Committee, who had been impressed with the scope of MCC’s work. Steps are being taken to improve the link on the SCA website to the MCC website. Consideration is also being given to having once again an SCA representative at MCC meetings.

D Dawson said that MCC’s wider aim must be to improve its digital engagement and he is happy to pursue connections with other organisations.

D Dawson is awaiting an update from the SCA Chair on the refurbishment of SCA’s hall.

3.8 Low Emission Zone – Cllr Douglas confirmed that the T&EC was expected to pass the scheme without amendment on 31 March.

3.9 Abinger Gardens – The need to minimise traffic congestion on Corstorphine Road while the CCWEL works are being carried out at Roseburn and the constraint of bird nesting season mean that the tree works have been postponed until October and the minor wall repairs will take place after that.

3.10 Hustings for Council elections – The Chairman had no information on this but thought that the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils might announce an event nearer to the 5 May elections.

3.11 Electric car charging and green hydrogen – E Robertson reported that she had been asked by a number of residents whether the Council planned to provide electric charging points. There was also interest in green hydrogen.

The Chairman suggested that this was an issue which could be raised with the candidates at the Council elections.

Cllr Gloyer stated that when she was on the T&EC a few years ago, she had tried to persuade the Council to install trickle chargers on lamp posts. She had been given a lot of excuses such as concern over surges in demand and trip hazards where lamp posts were not next to the kerb. She felt that the Council wanted everyone to use public transport or cycles and was not interested in cars. Cllr Douglas agreed with her assessment. Cllr Gloyer pointed out that some supermarkets have charging points. She advocated grants to enable homeowners to install their own charging points.

A local resident said that she has had an electric car and electric vans for her business for several years and there are a number of available charging points, but they are not always in places which everyone would be happy to visit.

D Dawson mentioned that Murrayfield Ice Rink has two charging points and agreed that the current infrastructure is inadequate. Another resident expressed the same view.

Richard Parker introduced himself as the Labour candidate for the Corstorphine/Murrayfield Ward at the forthcoming Council elections. He said that his party is committed to introducing electric charging points, buses and Council vans.

The Chairman referred the meeting to the following Department of Transport guidance:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure-help-for-local-authorities>.

It was agreed that the issue of green hydrogen be held over to the next meeting.

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

4. Councillors' Reports

Most of the Councillors' issues had already been covered.

Cllr Gloyer mentioned that the Council had set aside a fund to provide grants of up to £500 for community groups to hold street parties to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

5. Ellersly/Kinellan Roads road safety

R Cormie reported that there had been no significant progress with this issue and he did not expect there to be any further discussion with the Council officers until the new financial year. The situation on the ground is probably getting worse and, while most of the speeding is by private drivers, Council bin lorries have also been seen speeding along Kinellan Road on their way back to the depot.

**The Chairman undertook to raise the issue of speeding bin lorries with Gareth Barwell at the Council.**

J Forbes mentioned that PC Sam Davison's Police report included the news that Transport Scotland has allocated £300,000 to the establishment of a new dash cam portal to which private individuals can upload dash cam footage of dangerous driving. He asked whether this could include footage from cycle helmet cams and mobile phones and whether the identity of the individuals would be protected.

**H Whaley** replied that there is a similar system in force south of the Border. He thought that there would not be a problem regarding the source of the footage. It would, however, be easier to capture dangerous manoeuvres than speeding. The fact of speeding might be obvious from a cam or mobile phone video but the level of speeding could not be proved from that. He knew that where the conduct captured on video had led to a court case in England, the individual who had uploaded the footage had been required to attend court. He **undertook to investigate further and report back when more information became available.**

6. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

**9 Kinellan Road** - Application 20/05580/FUL for a 14-home development at this address in the West Murrayfield Conservation Area is still "awaiting assessment" (no change). Spring has arrived in the wildlife-rich lochside habitat - MCC earnestly hopes not for the last time.

**37 Corstorphine Road** - As reported last time, a report has issued from the Reporter to the Scottish Ministers, but is not available on the DPEA portal. The Reporter's recommendation (whether to allow or refuse the proposed demolition and 20-flat development) is not published.

**9 and 11 Corstorphine Road** - An Archaeology report has been filed noting "the site's location adjacent to the historic crossing point of Coltbridge over the Water of Leith on the main road west and north into Edinburgh.

Occupation on this site dating back to the early medieval period is possible. Accordingly, the building is regarded as being not only of local archaeological and historic significance but also occurring within an area of archaeological potential." This finding is in line with MCC's submission. Should planning permission be granted, a substantial excavation programme will be required. Several revised or amended drawings have been submitted; he had not determined how they differ from those originally presented.

**65 Ravelston Dykes Road** - Full planning permission for the proposed extension has been granted, following submission of a plan for tree retention and replanting, as MCC demanded.

**Trees** – The Council's Planning Department posted a most welcome advisory note on 11 March regarding applying to do work on protected trees (whether under Tree Preservation Order or in a Conservation Area). Tree work applications will no longer be validated unless they contain all the information necessary for assessment. If an application remains unvalidated for 14 days, it will be returned undetermined. The advisory note contained a reminder that "doing work to a protected tree without permission would be a criminal offence."

In spite of this policy statement, on the very same date application 22/01188/TCO was received and validated. It proposed destruction of a mature fir tree that is a prominent street-side feature of Abinger Gardens adjacent to Murrayfield Church, within the Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Area. The application was decided favourably (to the applicant, not to the tree) in short order on 24 March. This was in the absence of any supporting information on the health of the tree or a reason for its removal, and despite the express intention not to plant a replacement. The tree was considered "not of sufficient amenity value to deserve a Tree Preservation Order."

J Forbes expressed the view that the Council's "Million Tree City" strategy is in tatters and the assault on the City's Conservation Areas continues unabated.

## 7. Police Report

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

7.1 Highway Code changes - The Highway Code changed on 29 January 2022. There are some significant new rules and drivers should familiarise themselves with these at:-

[The Highway Code: 8 changes you need to know from 29 January 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022)

7.2 A new National Dashcam Safety Portal – see item 5 above.

7.3 Anti-social behaviour – In the better weather pockets of youth anti-social behaviour have been seen across the city, particularly in open spaces like Roseburn Park and near the Water of Leith. The Police are keen to nip this in the bud and residents are asked to report any anti-social behaviour or associated crimes such as vandalism.

The Chairman mentioned that the railway bridge at Balgreen, which has been hit by high sided vehicles on several occasions, is to be given extra protection.

#### 8. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported as follows:-

8.1 The contract for refurbishment of the toilet block to a cafe has now been awarded. Work is due to start in early May with completion expected in late August. Renewal of planning permission has been granted.

8.2 Several of the wooden planters were upended in early March and the contents strewn over the pathway. One of the planters was then tipped empty into the Water of Leith. The planter was retrieved a couple of days later. All planters have been replanted and made good.

8.3 The grass cricket pitch has had its first cut and been roped off. Repair work on the artificial pitch is expected in the first two weeks of April.

8.4 Work on the replacement of the practice cricket nets will commence on 18 April and should take 10 - 11 days.

#### 9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that expenditure in February had amounted to £125.00, resulting in a closing balance of £1,920.73. He anticipated expenditure of approximately £200 in March and a closing balance at the end of the financial year of about £1,720. Most of the expenditure had been on the plaques micro projects.

#### 10. Social Engagement

The Chairman reported that, as suggested by N Henderson at the last meeting, he had written to Curl Edinburgh to congratulate them on the recent Olympic successes and had received an appreciative reply.

Cllr Douglas confirmed that he and Cllrs Ross and Gloyer had tabled a motion offering similar congratulations.

#### 11. Any Other Competent Business

A Anderson complained that BT Murrayfield will be a very inconvenient polling station for the May Council elections, particularly for those driving there in view of the current prohibition on eastbound traffic turning right into Roseburn Street. N Henderson thought that her polling card specified Murrayfield Parish Church Centre as the polling station. **Cllr Gloyer undertook to check whether the Church Centre is being used for this purpose.**

P Gregson mentioned that Item 8.1 had been covered by the Evening News and was to be covered by Edinburgh Live. It was a crowd funding success story



as without the £13,000 raised in this way, the additional funds would not have been obtained from the Council through Cllr Ross's efforts.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 10 May 2022

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Zoom and the situation regarding a return to face-to-face meetings reviewed then. The AGM, which is normally held in May, would be postponed for the time being.

Subsequent meetings: 28 June, 30 August, 4 October 2022.

Minutes approved at meeting of 10 May 2022.