

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 4 December 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, B Knowles, N Macdonald, R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Gillian Gloyer,  
In attendance: 6 members of the public, PC Sam Davison, Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council, Myles Thomson, Aecom,  
Apologies: 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, Apologies and Order of Business

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and made special mention of Barbara Knowles, the newly appointed representative of the Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”). The Secretary confirmed that Murrayfield Parish Church currently has no nominated representative on MCC.

2. Review of Community Councils

J Forbes reported that he had represented MCC at a meeting in the City Chambers on 25 October 2018 about the Council’s proposal to launch a review of the Scheme for Community Councils. A draft of the new Scheme will be issued for an 8 week consultation in January 2019 and MCC should, therefore, be able to discuss the proposed new Scheme at their meeting on 9 February 2019. If the consultation leads to changes, the final draft will be issued by 27 June and the new Scheme will be in place in time for the Community Council elections in October 2019.

J Forbes reported that as far as he could see the proposals involved no great changes. There is to be a procedure for complaints against Community Councillors and a greater emphasis on attracting a younger demographic.

R Smart asked if there had been any mention of changing boundaries. J Forbes confirmed that there had been no mention of changing the Community Council boundaries. He expressed concern that Ward boundaries seem to be changed without any attention to community cohesion and cited the change which led to MCC’s area straddling two Wards as an example.

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Council had sent out Guidance on how Community Councils operate. She expressed the view that the power and influence of Community Councils are being eroded with local government now working from the top down rather than the other way about. The Chairman said that the Edinburgh Partnership were proposing the creation from April 2019 of four new locality community planning partnerships charged with overseeing delivery of the locality improvement plan, which might be supported by new neighbourhood networks

based around the existing Neighbourhood Partnership with flexibility to develop their membership.

R Smart reported that he had attended a meeting of the Civic Forum that afternoon and had begun to wonder whether MCC should consider rejoining the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (“EACC”).

S Holland referred to the historic issue with insurance through the EACC which had resulted in MCC’s decision to arrange its own insurance and give up its membership of EACC. The Secretary intimated that Willowbrae Community Council had inquired about the role of EACC [and she assumed they were considering membership].

P Gregson stated that the Environmental Sub-Committee of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”) had provided the funding for the new playpark in Roseburn Park, but that Sub-Committee had not met for more than a year. He asked whether the Environmental Sub-Committees of the Neighbourhood Partnerships would continue.

Cllr Gloyer said that she understood that it was for each Locality Committee to decide on the future of the Neighbourhood Partnerships. In some areas of the City they work well, but in others they do not.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Sam Davison reported that November had been a busy month for the Community Police team. The officers based at Corstorphine had been involved in suppressing disorder in Drylaw. After several uneventful nights of patrols rockets had been thrown under their van on Bonfire Night.

PC Davison reported on the recent events at BT Murrayfield. The Hearts v Celtic football match had passed off well with only four arrests for drunk and disorderly behaviour and breach of the peace and one licensing offence. The rugby internationals against Fiji, South Africa and Argentina had also resulted in very few arrests. The Conservative Party’s offices on Roseburn Terrace had been attacked on 22 November.

The crime figures for the month of November were down on those for the same period last year. There had been two housebreakings, one attempted house breaking, four minor assaults, six thefts, two acts of vandalism, one incident of drunkenness outside Roseburn Primary School and a telephone fraud worth £18,000 on an elderly lady. A trap had been set by stretching a line across the Roseburn cycle path. PC Davison warned that Murrayfield is particularly prone to thefts from cars.

R Beavis, a resident of Roseburn Maltings, congratulated the Police on their improved handling of the Category A matches held at BT Murrayfield and commented that the provision of toilets at the end of Russell Road was a welcome improvement. He explained that the residents of Roseburn Maltings had in the past employed a security firm on match days. He also felt that the toxic atmosphere at the Hearts v Hibs match and the explosion of graffiti were worrying.

P Gregson reported that on a recent tour of BT Murrayfield with the Chairman they had been told by the SRU representative that responsibility for removing graffiti after football matches rests with the SFA. He asked whether Cllr Gloyer could confirm this. He suggested that the Graffiti Team at the Council would be the place to start enquiries.

A local resident informed the meeting that Hearts pay for the cleaning of the streets after their matches. P Gregson pointed out that the SFA were hosting the football matches at BT Murrayfield.

**Cllr Gloyer undertook to contact the Council's Graffiti Team and the Environment Team about approaching the SFA.**

**The Secretary undertook to raise the matter with Graham Law of the SRU.**

R Beavis told PC Davison that the barrier which the Police had erected at the Roseburn Bar end of Russell Road was in the wrong place because it caused spectators to bunch together there and prevented cars from turning round. He recommended that the barrier be placed close to the railway bridge.

The Secretary voiced the opinion the regular meetings between the SRU and local residents had resulted in constructive suggestions being made and had made a positive difference to the way in which matches are handled.

A member of the public asked about the rules on drinking before matches and was told by PC Davison that supporters are allowed to drink on their coaches, but if problems are reported, the Police can raise them with the coach companies.

In response to a question from B Knowles he confirmed that the Police have no powers to stop mini buses parking close to BT Murrayfield, unless they are causing an obstruction.

In response to a complaint about street cleaning after matches Cllr Gloyer explained that the matches usually finish after the cleansing team's shifts have finished and the Council cannot afford to pay for the overtime which would be required to have the streets cleaned the same day.

P Gregson reported that several street lights on the Roseburn cycle path close to the scene of a recent serious attack had been out for some time. Cllr Gloyer replied that the Council's lighting team has a backlog of 20 working days.

A Anderson said that she had contacted the Council regarding street lights in Murrayfield Avenue and Coltbridge Terrace which had been inoperative for a considerable period of time.

#### 4. Planning and Licensing

4.1 Osborne House – M Stevens reported that the planning application for the redevelopment of Osborne House as a hotel had been unanimously rejected by the Planning Committee on 21 November 2018 after a considerable effort by the local community. Their objections had not been mentioned in the Report to the Committee. All of the Councillors who spoke at the meeting had criticised the Report. He felt that the inadequacy of its summary to the Councillors and the Council's refusal to correct material errors had to be raised as an issue of real concern. P Gregson recommended that he copy his letter to Neil Gardiner, Convener of the Planning Committee.

The Chairman undertook to send M Stevens details of Planning Aid Scotland for information.

M Stevens informed the meeting that the developer has 28 days from the date of the decision (4 December 2018) in which to appeal. He encouraged his colleagues to watch the recording of the Planning Committee's proceedings online.

P Gregson mentioned the Public Services Ombudsman and A Anderson reminded him that the Council's complaints procedure has to be exhausted before going to the Ombudsman.

M Stevens commented wryly that a report to the Civic Forum that afternoon had stated that the planning process was working well.

4.2 Murrayfield Bistro – The Secretary reported that MCC had supported residents in Murrayfield Place in objecting to the application by the owner of Café Colpamia to the Licensing Board for approval of certain matters associated with the

conversion of the former flower shop next door to a bistro. After consultation by MCC with the applicant he had dropped the applications for extended hours of opening, seasonal variations in hours and live music. In addition the Board had restricted the maximum number of customers to 30 in line with the toilet facilities and had imposed a restriction on the hours within which rubbish could be put out for collection.

A resident of Murrayfield Place thanked the Secretary and P Gregson in particular, and MCC in general, for their efforts in helping to secure a satisfactory outcome to the application.

4.3 J Forbes reported that the planning application for redevelopment of the former Tor nursing home at 30 Corstorphine Road as housing was still awaiting a decision a year after submission.

4.4 J Forbes reported that the planning application for replacement of the house and garden at 30 Corstorphine Road with a block of flats was still awaiting assessment.

4.5 The Chairman asked whether the decision to grant Edinburgh Rugby planning consent for the “mini stadium” behind BT Murrayfield is to be called in and P Gregson confirmed that it is not.

R Smart referred to the Planning Concordat which stipulates that, if the Planning Department is going to take more than two months to make a decision on an application, it should inform the developer. Some developers still appeal against a delayed decision through the normal appeal process.

M Stevens confirmed that a normal application should be decided within two months and a major application within three months, failing which the applicant can appeal to the Scottish Ministers.

4.6 Trees – J Forbes restated MCC’s concern over the procedure for dealing with applications for felling trees in Conservation Areas, specifically the absence of any requirement for consultation or replacement planting. He estimated that the Murrayfield Conservation Area loses about 50 trees per year. Following a response from the Council’s Planning Department to the effect that tree policy is a matter of national policy, which the Council cannot change, he had raised the issue with Jeremy Balfour, MSP and has just received a reply from his assistant. As the assistant had misunderstood the issue and the reply dealt with trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order, **J Forbes undertook to raise the issue again with Jeremy Balfour.**

R Smart commented that at the Civic Forum a Planning Officer had pointed out that applications to fell trees are dealt with without delay and the consent is often issued before the associated planning application has been notified.

A member of the public referred to the recent felling of 50-60 trees in Princes Street Gardens.

## 5. Councillor’s Report

5.1 Cllr Gloyer reported as follows:

5.1.1 The Council’s Budget process is running later than last year with the draft Budget for 2019/20 expected in January 2019. She anticipated that the meeting of the full Council to approve it would take place in late February 2019. Cllr Gloyer explained that the Scottish Government’s Budget would be announced in December but is only ever for one year at a time so that it is difficult for the Council to establish a rolling four year programme, as it would wish.

The Secretary reminded the meeting that the Council had issued a questionnaire for Community Councils to give their views on the Council's financial strategy and the questionnaire was to be completed by 7 December 2018.

5.1.2 She had no further news on the requested improvements to Ellersly Road.

J Forbes reported that at the last MCC meeting he had asked Lord Provost Frank Ross to look into this matter and had since received a reply from Peter Keggie at the Council. He had been informed that the Council's feasibility study on widening the pavements was being finalised at the end of October 2018. On the quick wins, however, there was no good news. It may not be feasible to move lamp posts because of underground cables. The section of pavement on the north side of Ellersly Road which has not been made up is affected by a leaning wall. A statutory notice was to be issued to the owner of the wall by the end of October. J Forbes reported that he had also been told that the general policy is not to provide 20 mph roundels on the road surface where signs on lamp posts are considered adequate.

5.2 **Cllr Gloyer** suggested that MCC send a deputation to the Locality Committee to raise the issues with which MCC is dissatisfied and she **undertook to email the Locality Committee meeting dates.**

M Stevens asked whether the deputation could also raise the lack of progress on the reinstatement of the cobbled surface of Devon Place following completion of a residential development there [ ] years ago.

5.3 R Beavis raised the adverse effect which the increasing number of Airbnb properties in the City is having on the residents' quality of life. He and his neighbours at Roseburn Maltings can attest to the fact that this is not just a city centre problem

Cllr Gloyer replied that the Council has limited powers, but she felt that it does not use those which it has.

**It was agreed that this issue be added to the Agenda for the next MCC meeting.**

5.4 A number of those present raised the Council's failure to remove leaves from roads and pavements and to clear blocked gullies. The Secretary had made a specific request to the Council that Murrayfield Road be cleared of leaves and this had eventually been done. J Forbes felt that leaf clearing had been better this year than last, but other residents remained dissatisfied.

A resident of Murrayfield Place thanked the Secretary for her single handed clearing of leaves from Roseburn Old Bridge.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9 October 2018

These were approved subject to the amendment requested by M Stevens that in the second paragraph of Item 9.2 "consequence that there was" be substituted for "deliberate intention of there being".

Prop: S Holland, Sec: J Forbes.

7. CCWEL TROs and RSOs and Rejuvenating Roseburn update

The Chairman congratulated Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes on his recent marriage.

7.1 R Ahluwalia-McMeddes reported that the Reporter and Project Officer, effectively the judge and clerk, for the mandatory public hearing on the objections to the TROs had been appointed and the hearing was expected to take place in mid 2019.

7.2 R Ahluwalia-McMeddes gave a brief recap of the process of consultation and preliminary design of the Rejuvenating Roseburn Project. He mentioned that at

the last MCC meeting it had been decided that the proposed decking beside the Water of Leith be included in the Project for public consultation and reported that Aecom had been appointed to develop the detailed designs for the Project. He introduced Myles Thomson of Aecom, who gave a presentation on the stages of the design process. He explained that Aecom have different specialists dealing with civil engineering and utilities, structural engineering, geotechnical engineering, ecology, public consultation and land architecture. A ground penetration radar survey had already been undertaken and had discovered a huge number of underground utilities, cables and pipes. Ecological, geotechnical and topographical surveys would also be carried out. Aecom had been in touch with the Council's tree specialist. M Thomson confirmed that no tree would be removed unless dead, dying or dangerous.

In reply to a question from A Anderson M Thomson stated that the electricity sub-station was securely fenced and posed no safety risk.

A member of the public asked about the budget for the Project and was told by R Ahluwalia-McMeddes that the budget for the whole of the CCWEL is £9-10m. M Thomson confirmed that the public consultation on the detailed designs will take place at the end of January or in early February 2019.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that, if the decking proposal is approved at consultation, MCC will be involved in sourcing funding for it.

M Thomson explained that after a desktop survey of the decking area drilling work will have to be carried out.

He reported that Aecom had received useful input from the Flood Team and Structures Department at the Council. He confirmed that high quality materials will be used for the Project to reflect the existing character of the Roseburn area.

A resident of Murrayfield Place intimated that no resident there is in favour of the decking proposal, but she admitted that they have not seen any designs.

P Gregson suggested that the money for the decking would be better spent on bin collections and waste disposal solutions such as underground storage for communal bins. M Thomson intimated that such work would have a different funding stream from street improvements.

S Holland asked what form the public consultation would take and was told by R Ahluwalia-McMeddes that, as before, there would be outdoor events on site, consultation via MCC meetings, a leaflet drop and a questionnaire. He advised that at the MCC meeting on 19 February 2019 he will present the next level of design and take feedback to be fed into the detailed design, which he will present to the MCC meeting on 2 April 2019. M Thomson confirmed that there will be cost estimates and an idea of where the funding is coming from at the detailed design stage.

M Stevens asked at what stage MCC would get a chance to provide input into the questionnaire and was told by R Ahluwalia-McMeddes that it would be discussed at the 19 February meeting and he would then email a draft to MCC for approval. From 2 April to 7 May 2019 the public consultation will be available online and a report on the results will be provided on 14 May. He also confirmed that the Council will be responsible for the leaflet drop and will provide the distribution company with a detailed map of the area to be covered.

8. Roseburn Park issues

P Gregson reported as follows:

8.1 The Lord Provost would open the new playpark on Friday, 7 December 2018 at 2.30 pm. There would be bike stamping, a raffle and a quiz. H Whaley mentioned a weather warning of high winds.

P Gregson expressed his thanks to Cllr Lesley Hinds for her help in securing the funding for the playpark from WENP.

8.2 The Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”) are organising carol singing in the Park on Wednesday, 19 December 2018 at 6.30 pm. A short silent film of the Armoury during World War 11 will be shown;

8.3 FoRP have applied to WENP for a grant of £700 to repair the toilet block temporarily to prevent further deterioration.

B Knowles reported as follows:

8.3 Six trees at the Ice Rink, which were planted as part of the Flood Prevention Scheme, have been damaged but no one is sure whether responsibility for them has passed to the Council;

8.4 Thousands of spring bulbs have been planted in the Park;

8.5 There are plans for further trees, including a sequoia and hazel, to be planted in the Park;

8.6 The original drawings of the drinking fountain, which is earmarked for refurbishment, have been destroyed in a flood, but the foundry which made it still exists.

The Chairman recommended David Ogilvie of Kilmarnock as an expert on fountains.

J Yellowlees left the meeting and J Forbes assumed the Chair.

9. Traffic and Transport

9.1 A Anderson reported that the faulty bus tracker at the eastbound bus stop at Roseburn had been removed.

9.2 R Beavis reported that thanks to persistent efforts by his wife the redundant telecoms cabinet on Russell Road had also been removed four years after the original request. The matter had been passed by the Council to BT and from BT to Virgin Media. After a social media campaign and phoning an automated number, the cabinet had been removed and the tarmac reinstated.

The Chairman intimated by email after the meeting that MCC wished to record their thanks to Dave Sinclair and Peter Strong at the Council, to whom the request was originally made, for their help in achieving this result.

9.3 S Holland reported that a new half hourly bus service, the X18 to Armadale, was inaugurated on 1 December 2018. The bus stops at Roseburn Gardens.

10. Any Other Competent Business and Questions from the Floor

10.1 The Secretary reported that the new MCC noticeboard should be installed at Roseburn in Spring 2019. In reply to a question from S Holland she confirmed that the Council is aware that the funding which they have provided has not yet been spent.

10.2 P Gregson reported that he, in his personal capacity, is working with the shopkeepers on Roseburn Terrace and Haymarket Terrace to establish a compensation scheme to protect them from any negative financial consequences of the CCWEL. He will be holding public meetings at Roseburn and Haymarket.

10.3 A resident of Stair Park (the dead end behind the Murrayfield Hotel) asked for MCC's help in dealing with a safety issue. She explained that Stair Park is used as a car park by spectators on match days at BT Murrayfield because the Hotel sets up a "fan zone" and closes its car park. Parking on Murrayfield Road is prohibited and cones are used there. No parking restrictions are in place at Stair Park and no policing is provided. Cars are frequently parked across the residents' drives and neither they nor the emergency services can get in or out.

In reply to a question from the Secretary the resident confirmed that Stair Park has been adopted by the Council. She agreed that a combination of cones and a yellow parking sign would help to prevent this behaviour.

H Whaley asked whether there is to be a residents' meeting with the SRU before the next International match at BT Murrayfield. S Holland and the Secretary were sure that there will be.

It was agreed that **this issue should be put on the agenda for the next MCC meeting on 8 January 2019.**

11. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 8 January 2019

Subsequent meetings: 19 February, 2 April, 14 May, 25 June, 13 August, 24 September, 5 November and 10 December 2019.

Minutes approved at meeting of 8 January 2019.