

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 5 November 2019 at 7pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: Cllr G Gloyer, J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
N Macdonald, J McDonough, N Oldroyd, E Robertson, M Stevens,
H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: H Barbour, S Holland and R Smart, all retiring members of MCC,
15 members of the public,
Apologies: C Harker, Community Policing Team, 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, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Neil Findlay, MSP, Alison
Johnstone, MSP, Gordon Lindhurst, MSP, Andy Wightman, MSP,
Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Gloyer, as Returning Officer for the Murrayfield Community Council (“MCC”) election, which took place in September 2019, took the Chair and welcomed those present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received as above.

3. Declarations of interest

J Yellowlees intimated that he holds the post of Treasurer of the Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”).

P Gregson intimated that he holds the post of Chair of FoRP.

4. Declaration of Election Result

Cllr Gloyer announced that:-

4.1 the following nominees, being fewer than the number of available seats, had been elected without a vote as ordinary members of MCC:-

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Anne Anderson | Norma Macdonald |
| Roy Beavis | Jim McDonough |
| Rosanne Brown | Nicola Oldroyd |
| Jim Forbes | Liz Robertson |
| Peter Gregson | John Yellowlees |

4.2 the following local interest groups had nominated representatives to sit on MCC as follows:-

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Donaldson Area Amenity Association | Mike Stevens |
| FoRP | Barbara Knowles |
| Roseburn Cycle Route Support Group | Henry Whaley |

4.3 a nomination from Murrayfield Parish Church (“MPC”) had not been received.

R Brown informed the meeting that MPC's previous representative, C Harker, had intimated that he might have to relinquish his role because of work commitments. It is anticipated that in that event MPC will nominate a new representative.

J Yellowlees intimated that Saughtonhall Community Association no longer wished to have a representative on MCC.

Cllr Gloyer invited the Community Councillors to introduce themselves and they did so.

5. Appointment of Office Bearers

Cllr Gloyer advised the meeting that it is a statutory requirement that the roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are filled. The role of Vice Chairman and the new role of Engagement Officer are optional. Cllr Gloyer did not accept a suggestion to nominate a Vice Chairman, but explained what the role of Engagement Officer involves. The following office bearers were elected:-

Chairman: J Yellowlees Prop: J Forbes, Sec: E Robertson

Treasurer: J McDonough Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: P Gregson.

The posts of Secretary and Engagement Officer were not filled.

The holder of the unofficial post of Minutes Secretary declined to take on the role of Secretary.

Cllr Gloyer mentioned that in the past H Barbour, as the then Secretary, had fulfilled the role of Engagement Officer to some extent. H Barbour suggested that the role would suit someone who is competent in IT and comfortable with social media. J McDonough suggested that, given the importance of engagement, more than one person might fill the post. R Beavis suggested that MCC formulate a policy on engagement before seeking someone to take on the role. Cllr Gloyer agreed that this might be the way forward. She reiterated that the post of Secretary has to be filled.

Cllr Gloyer handed over the Chair to J Yellowlees.

6. Community Policing Report

6.1 The Community Policing Team had been unable to send a representative owing to Bonfire Night commitments and had tendered their apologies.

The Chairman expressed the view that the format of the Community Policing Report, which consisted largely of statistics presented by an often unfamiliar face, was unsatisfactory and thought should be given to how it might be improved.

R Brown reminded the meeting that the Police had asked some time ago whether a different format would suit MCC better.

6.2 H Whaley said that he was pleased that the large dog which lived on Murrayfield Gardens and had attacked at least two people had been removed under the Dangerous Dogs legislation.

6.3 The Chairman reported that a prolific burglar who had committed crimes across the city had recently been jailed.

7. Welcome of new members

The Chairman welcomed the three newly elected members of MCC, Jim McDonough, Nikki Oldroyd and Liz Robertson and mentioned that Liz was in fact a returning member.

At the request of a member of the public all of the Community Councillors then introduced themselves.

The Chairman paid tribute to the contributions of the retiring members, R Smart, who had been involved with MCC since its inception and had served as its first Chairman, S Holland, who had served as Treasurer for many years and H Barbour, who had been the Secretary for the previous three years.

S Holland reminded the meeting that he and H Barbour while in post had attended the regular meetings between the SRU and local residents and asked who might represent MCC at future meetings. N Oldroyd volunteered to take on this role and her offer was accepted.

8. Councillors' Report

Cllr Gloyer reported as follows:-

8.1 The licensing application for BT Murrayfield by the SRU had been continued to the next meeting of the Licensing Board and she would raise the issues of concern to MCC then. H Barbour referred to the excessive noise from the tannoy which had been used throughout the day of the Kilt Walk. Cllr Gloyer confirmed that the SRU's licensing application asks for exemption from the maximum noise level of 85 decibels.

8.2 There had been no progress on the proposed crossings, including Ben's crossing, pavement widening and other improvements to Ellersly Road. She was contesting the contention from the Council's road safety team that, as a bus route Ellersly Road is too narrow for pedestrian islands. J Forbes referred to the letter from Andrew Easson, Road Safety Manager, in which the Council's stance had been set out, took issue with his arguments for a minimum lane width of 3.4 metres and pointed out that they are in fact contrary to the Council's own guidance on road design in a 20mph zone. The guidance recommends avoiding lane widths between 3.1 and 3.9 metres for the safety of cyclists on the basis that drivers do not attempt to overtake a cyclist within 3.1 metres and can safely do so in more than 3.9 metres. J Forbes and H Whaley discussed the width of Ellersly Road and the feasibility of pedestrian islands. J Forbes also suggested that a raised table at the end of Kinellan Road would help to slow turning traffic.

N Oldroyd suggested zebra crossings and was told by Cllr Gloyer that Ellersly Road does not meet the criteria, which include proximity to schools, for these.

R Beavis asked whether the Council's assessment takes accidents into account and was told by Cllr Gloyer and J Forbes that it does, but it does not take "near misses", which are frequent, into account.

The Chairman suggested that a bid for funding for the Ellersly Road improvements be made to the Neighbourhood Network. J Forbes felt that an agreed design would be required before a bid could be formulated.

H Barbour reminded the meeting that Cllr Frank Ross had recommended applying for Locality funding and January 2020 would be the time to put in a bid.

The Chairman suggested another site visit to speed up progress and **Cllr Gloyer undertook to contact Andrew Easson with proposed dates.**

8.3 The problem of trees and vegetation overhanging pavements had not been solved. Cllr Ross had asked to be copied in to reports to the Council of offending properties. M Stevens, P Gregson and N Oldroyd discussed "naming and shaming" via the MCC website and posting a polite letter through doors. The latter course of action was preferred and **N Oldroyd's offer to draft a letter was accepted.**

Cllr Gloyer undertook to send N Oldroyd details of the Council's Garden Aid scheme for owners who are unable to attend to their own gardens.

8.4 Floodgate management - Cllr Douglas had copied Cllr Gloyer into email correspondence with the Chairman but no progress had been made with regard to the floodgate at Baird Grove. A resident of Baird Grove, who had attended previous MCC meetings again expressed his and his neighbours' concern about the Council's failure to respond to their request to keep the floodgate in place permanently or raise it before a dangerous level of water is reached.

R Beavis suggested that an amber weather warning should be the trigger for raising the floodgate.

The same resident requested a meeting with the Council on site and the Chairman undertook that, if a site meeting were arranged, someone from MCC would attend. Cllr Gloyer suggested that the senior flood engineer at the Council could be invited to an MCC meeting.

In answer to a question from a member of the public Cllr Gloyer confirmed that the Council does manage the reservoirs on advice from SEPA. A resident of Corstorphine Road was sceptical about this. He also pointed out that, if the floodgates are not deployed as they should be, the Flood Prevention Scheme is ineffective.

8.5 General Election – Cllr Gloyer tendered her apologies for the next MCC meeting on 10 December (but see final paragraph below) as she will be on election duty. She confirmed that the deadline for applying for a postal vote is 5pm on 26 November, but recommended applying as soon as possible because the first issue of postal ballots will be between 25 and 27 November and the second issue on 2 December may be held up by the volume of Christmas post. She mentioned the option of applying for a proxy vote.

P Gregson asked whether MCC would organise a hustings event as had been done in the past. Cllr Gloyer informed the meeting that election hustings are to be held at St Thomas's Church, Corstorphine on the evening of 10 December. The Chairman's suggestion that the MCC meeting scheduled for that date be cancelled to enable attendance at the hustings was accepted.

9. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 24 September 2019 and Matters Arising

9.1 These were approved. Prop: M Stevens, Sec: R Beavis.

9.2 H Barbour reported that at the meeting on 24 September she had undertaken to contact Hearts Football Club about the removal of football related graffiti from Roseburn Park, but on inspecting the Park had been unable to see any relevant graffiti. B Knowles and N Oldroyd both confirmed that the relevant graffiti had been removed by the Council in accordance with their policy of removing anything offensive.

10. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

10.1 Beechmount, 102 Corstorphine Road – A planning application has been lodged for conversion of this “B” listed building to what is effectively a hostel. The applicant is known to provide bed and breakfast accommodation for the Council. One neighbour has lodged an objection. J Forbes felt that, as the application does not raise major community issues, MCC should not take a position on it. It is, however, relevant to the Tor application.

10.2 Tor, 30 Corstorphine Road – He had circulated draft comments on the developer's new planning application and the deadline for submission was the

following day. MCC's comments amount to qualified support for the revised proposals. He regarded these as a major victory for the combined efforts of the residents of Westerlea, MCC and the three local Councillors. He thanked Mr and Mrs McKerrow of Westerlea for their input to his draft. He felt continued opposition by MCC could result in the developer pulling out and the property befalling a similar fate to Beechmount.

Mr McKerrow said that the Westerlea residents would take a slightly harder line against the revised proposals because they felt that the listed building site was still not adequately respected. Two of his neighbours had requested that MCC's draft omit "significantly" in relation to the reduction in building height, which they estimated at 8%. J Forbes felt that a reduction of one storey must be more than 8%, but was happy to agree to the request. Subject to that amendment, his draft comments were approved for submission.

10.3 37 Corstorphine Road – He and J McDonough, as a near neighbour, had attended the site meeting with the Reporter. The owner had allowed only a select few to enter his property. Cllr Douglas was not among them. The Reporter had also visited 39 and 8 Corstorphine Road. The outcome of the appeal cannot be predicted. The owner of 37 Corstorphine Road, who was at the MCC meeting, stated that the DPEA website indicates that the Reporter's decision will be available by 21 January 2020.

10.4 9 Kinellan Road – A new planning application has not yet been lodged. Cllr Ross has requested that the Planning Officer meet with him and Cllrs Douglas and Gloyer to discuss the request from the proprietor of 7 Kinellan Road for a Tree Preservation Order, but no date has been set. No progress is expected before the General Election on 12 December.

10.5 Osborne House – M Stevens reported that his request that the developer progress the second planning application had been turned down and the development will proceed on the first planning application, which was granted on appeal.

11. CCWEL

11.1 The Chairman reported that he and H Barbour had attended both days (4 and 5 November) of the Hearing on objections to the TRO and RSO for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL. The Reporter had conducted a "structured conversation". His report was expected by mid January 2020 and thereafter progress would depend on Scottish Ministers.

The Chairman stated that P Gregson had represented the Roseburn Vision group. Penny Housley had attended as a local resident whose husband had carried out a count of cyclists. MCC's main stance was opposition to Roseburn Terrace as the route for that section of the CCWEL. The Reporter had made a site visit, seemed well informed about the location and was to visit again.

H Barbour reported that the Reporter had requested further evidence from the Council and had given MCC the opportunity to submit further evidence of traffic volumes. She asked for volunteers to carry out a cycle count at Kew Terrace, which was the location used by the Council for their count. The Council are to provide a matrix of anticipated changes in driver behaviour – number of journeys and chosen routes. The Reporter had identified a wide disparity between the figures provided by the Council and those provided by the objectors and is looking for more detail in an easier format. H Barbour requested that volunteers for the cycle count email

her at hbarbour@gmail.com. She anticipated needing 12 volunteers to carry out a count over 12 hours - two volunteers per two hour shift.

P Gregson said that the issue for the Roseburn Vision group is the number of cyclists, not vehicles, on the A8. Mrs Housley's husband and the Roseburn Vision group had both carried out a count of cyclists at Pape's Cottages. P Gregson referred to the disparity between the Council's and his group's figures for parking and loading on Roseburn Terrace and suggested a further count.

H Barbour replied that the Reporter's remit extended to loading, but not parking.

J McDonough asked whether any of the businesses on Roseburn Terrace have CCTV facing the road which could be used for a traffic count. The Chairman replied that the human eye is regarded as a more reliable method.

R Smart requested that he be consulted on the method of the survey.

N Oldroyd suggested involving the local schools. P Gregson felt that, as the count has to be completed by 29 November, this would not be feasible.

H Whaley and M Stevens both queried under whose auspices the count was to be carried out. H Barbour clarified that it will be an MCC initiative.

She also made the point that the Reporter had allowed Spokes to speak in support of the CCWEL at the hearing.

11.2 P Gregson reported that he had attended the meeting arranged by the Council with local traders to discuss support for their businesses during the construction phase of the CCWEL. The contractor's representatives and Cllr Douglas had attended the meeting. The support offered involved publicising the businesses by various methods including social media. The construction work is scheduled to start in May 2020 and take 18 months. It will involve closing the right turn from Roseburn Terrace into Roseburn Street for a period of 12 weeks. The Council is expected to hold a further meeting with the traders.

11.3 P Gregson intimated that the Council's recent report on air pollution in Roseburn Terrace is regarded by both the traders and their retired SEPA specialist as worthless. It seems to contradict the Council's own data from their monitoring equipment and the method of measurement is inconsistent with the method normally applied in Scotland.

12. Traffic and Transport

12.1 The Chairman reported that the Council is consulting on a proposal to extend the operating hours of bus lanes across the city so that the restrictions apply from 7am to 7pm. He and J Forbes will attend a meeting with the Council on 21 December 2019. In answer to a question from H Whaley on whether the proposed extension includes parking restrictions, the Chairman indicated this should be clarified at the meeting.

12.2 A resident of Baird Grove referred to the confusion over the road markings at the junction of Baird Drive and Balgreen Road. He confirmed that, notwithstanding what had been reported at previous MCC meetings and by email, the road markings comprise white zigzag lines parallel to the pavement. There is no white "Keep clear" box. What the Baird Drive/Grove residents require to enable them to exit onto Balgreen Road is a hatched yellow box. The Chairman requested a photograph of the current road markings. (After the MCC meeting he arranged to meet the resident on site to pursue both this issue and the floodgate issue referred to at Item 8.4.)

13. Roseburn Park recent developments

B Knowles and P Gregson reported as follows:-

- 13.1 FoRP need volunteers to help them to plant 1,000 daffodil bulbs in the Park.
13.2 They hoped to have crocuses too but a further 1,000 miniature daffodil bulbs are expected instead and will require planting.
13.3 The Buy a Brick scheme has raised £3,500 towards the initial target of £10,000 for the conversion of the toilet block to a café.
13.5 Progress is being made on a feasibility study to refurbish the drinking fountain.
13.6 FoRP have applied to Sustrans for a grant of £5,000 for a study into problems between cyclists and pedestrians in the Park.
13.7 The trees at the medical practice which were removed during the Flood Prevention works are to be replaced.

14. Treasurer's Report

The Chairman asked the newly appointed Treasurer to provide a report at the next MCC meeting (on 14 January 2020).

15. Any Other Competent Business and Questions from the Floor

15.1 A resident of South Beechwood reported that construction of the Care UK care home there had resulted in significant damage to the road. A dilapidations schedule had been agreed between the Council and Care UK and repair work carried out. In her view the work was not adequate to repair the damage which had been done. She asked how she could obtain a copy of the dilapidations report. She was advised by P Gregson to make a Freedom of Information request via the "What do they know?" website. He confirmed that the Council would respond to such a request and, as the request would be public, she would have a case to take to the press, if necessary.

A local resident pointed her to the FoI section of the Council's own website and said that the Council has 20 working days in which to respond to a request.

15.2 R Smart reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Campbell Avenue Woodland Owners Association. The owners have maintained the wooded area opposite their properties for many years and are now facing significant costs for surveying, felling and replanting. He intimated that they may be looking for financial help in the future.

15.3 The Chairman summarised the most pressing items of outstanding business as:-

- (1) the appointment of a Secretary and Engagement Officer,
- (2) Ellersly Road improvements and
- (3) Baird Grove – floodgate and road junction issues.

He hoped to see everyone at the General Election hustings at St Thomas's Church, Corstorphine at 7.30pm on 10 December 2019.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 14 January 2020

NB **Meeting scheduled for 10 December 2019 cancelled** to allow attendance at General Election hustings.

Subsequent meetings: 25 February, 7 April, 19 May, 30 June, 1 September, 6 October, 10 November and 15 December 2020.

Minutes approved at meeting of 14 January 2020.