

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 6 October 2020 at 7.30pm
via Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
N Macdonald, J McDonough, N Oldroyd, M Stevens, H Whaley, J
Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 6 members of the public,
Apologies: E Robertson, PC Sam Davison, Cllr Karen Doran, 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 Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.

He noted that several of the actions from the last meeting were for Cllr Ross, who had tendered his apologies.

2. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 1 September 2020

These were approved. Prop: J Forbes, Sec: M Stevens.

3. Community Policing Report

The Chairman reported that PC Sam Davison had tendered his apologies and had emailed the following report:-

“Ravelston Woods – Youths

Youths have been gathering at Ravelston Woods on a night in larger numbers recently, drinking and being rowdy. A report of robbery that occurred between the youths is being investigated by the Violent Crime Unit. Local and divisional resources are being used to tackle the issues in order to disperse them as quickly and safely as possible. Patrols are being undertaken to dissuade them from using the area in the first place.

Bike thefts

2 reports of theft of bikes from garages in Murrayfield Gardens and Kingsburgh Road. Persons suspected of being responsible have been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Further acquisitive crime

Housebreaking to a garage on Roseburn Street and theft of a motor vehicle on Abinger Gardens have both occurred and enquiries are ongoing.

If anyone wishes a crime prevention survey, please get in touch with myself. This is the link to Police Scotland's Crime Prevention page.

www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe

Speeding

Roads policing and Community officers have been carrying out enforcement, as mentioned in last month's report, in Ellersly Road, Kinellan Road, Roseburn Street and Saughtonhall Drive. This has resulted in 15 warnings and 2 conditional offences (speeding tickets). This will continue with more days of action planned alongside regular speed checks.

As always, please let me know of any issues you wish to raise and I will respond."

J Forbes welcomed the days of action on speeding, which he said had become a serious local problem.

The Chairman mentioned that PC Davison had provided an updated table of the opening hours of the public counter at Corstorphine Police Station.

4. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Gloyer reported as follows:-

4.1 Spaces for People – These measures were authorised by specific Covid-19 legislation and were designed to be implemented without the usual lengthy Traffic Regulations process. Measures such as widening pavements, reducing traffic around schools and pop-up cycle lanes were designed to enable social distancing and make spaces safer for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users. Some have proved controversial. The Council's communication has not been particularly good and, while there is no obligation to consult the public, City and Community Councillors have received only a few days' notice of proposed measures. The intention was to enable small useful measures to be implemented simply, not to railroad through large controversial projects without proper consultation with residents. A number of useful measures have been put in place in Corstorphine. Cllr Gloyer felt that traffic reduction measures around Roseburn Primary School would be welcome. She informed the meeting that anyone can email suggestions to the Space for People team at spacesforpeople@edinburgh.gov.uk.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Cllr Ross had said he would look into the situation regarding Roseburn Primary School and **the Chairman undertook to pursue this with Cllr Ross.**

A Anderson expressed delight that double yellow lines had just been installed at 36 Upper Coltbridge Terrace. Cllr Gloyer said she was also pleased by this development as she had been pressing for double yellow lines there and in Abinger Gardens for some time. Cllr Douglas added that the Abinger Gardens double yellow lines had just been approved.

A Anderson also reported that traffic measuring devices had been installed in Coltbridge Terrace and Henderland Road. J Forbes added that they were also in Ellersly Road.

R Beavis mentioned that on many paths shared by pedestrians and cyclists the Council has installed useful signs directing pedestrians to walk on the left and cyclists to overtake on the right. There are, however, no such signs along the Water of Leith walkway between Roseburn and Saughtonhall where there is often friction between users of the path. **Cllr Gloyer undertook to raise the issue of further signage.**

J Forbes pointed out that a section of the path round the Armoury in Roseburn Park has been marked out for use by cyclists on the left and pedestrians on the right. This contrary arrangement causes some confusion.

4.2 Parking controls – Progress on this issue has been slow but a report is to be presented to the Transport Committee in January 2021 and will be followed by a public consultation. Cllr Gloyer cautioned against allowing a “one size fits all” solution to be adopted by default.

Cllr Douglas had nothing further to add.

4.3 Flood defences at Baird Drive – The Chairman reminded the meeting that the previous meeting had highlighted a clear division of opinion among residents at this location about the adequacy of the flood defences. He invited G Sharpe to explain the position of the residents whom he represents.

G Sharpe stated that he represents a group of 20 residents who all have properties adjoining the riverbank on the opposite side of the Water of Leith from BT Murrayfield. The basis of their complaint is that the riverbank on their side has been reduced and the riverbank on the stadium side has been built up with the result that there is a 2 metre difference between the heights of the respective floodgates and the 20 residents feel vulnerable. He said that this was not what was promised in the original plans for the flood defences.

He made the point that the Phase 2 works had commenced downstream of the railway viaduct at Pansy Walk whereas the Water of Leith turns sharply toward Baird Drive upstream of the Viaduct. Therefore the earth riverbanks had been seriously eroded on both sides of the Viaduct since completion of the defences. This has diverted the high flows of excess water to the new Baird Drive flood gates rather than under the Baird Drive road bridge as originally intended.

In reply to a question from the Chairman about Storm Alex G Sharpe conceded that the flood gates had not been triggered on that occasion, four days of continuous rain being required for the relevant level of water to be reached, as it had been in 1984, 1993 and 2000 with devastating flood damage on both sides of the river.

G Sharpe added that the current situation had implications for the proposal supported by Cllr Ross to return the former works depot at Pansy Walk to allotments as these are located on the other side of the railway viaduct.

The Chairman summed up by saying that the Flood Defence Scheme was a project tailored to a central government budget and delivered by the local authority. MCC’s only locus was to expose the issues and, having done that, MCC could do no more. He proposed that Cllrs Gloyer and Douglas take the matter forward.

Cllr Douglas asked G Sharpe whether he had heard anything from Cllr Ross recently. G Sharpe replied that the residents had met Cllr Ross on 13 March 2020 just before the lockdown. Council officers had been asked to carry out

measurements but had then been redeployed to deal with the Covid-19 emergency.

Cllr Douglas undertook to contact Cllr Ross and, if he was not able to provide an update, Cllr Douglas would contact the Flood Team himself.

4.4 Pitches in Roseburn Park – The Chairman asked whether there had been any developments regarding the upgrading of the pitches in Roseburn Park and was told by Cllr Gloyer that the work would not be done for some months.

J McDonough added that the tenders have not gone out yet and it will be at least 5 weeks before the contract is awarded.

4.5 Pansy Walk depot – **The Chairman undertook to ask Cllr Ross for an update.**

4.6 Recycling of plastic refuse – Cllr Gloyer reported that what used to be called “landfill” no longer goes into a hole in the ground, but is sent to Millerhill Recycling and Energy Recovery Centre to be incinerated for electricity generation and to provide district heating for a new housing development in Midlothian. Plastic refuse which is put in a recycling bin is sold on to specialist recycling companies who ship it abroad to countries such as Vietnam where it may not always be dealt with responsibly. She posed the question whether it is better for the environment to put plastic in a general refuse bin to be sent to Millerhill or in a recycling bin to be shipped abroad. Cllr Gloyer confirmed that if plastic is put in a recycling bin, it will be recycled, but arrangements change from year to year.

5. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

5.1 37 Corstorphine Road - As instructed by MCC on 1 September, he wrote to the Planning Minister, Scottish Government expressing concern about the inadequacy of greenspace provision associated with the proposed development. He received a reply on 16 September giving assurance that "all views expressed and issues raised will be given full and proper attention". On 18 September the Scottish Ministers extended the period for consideration until 20 October, as "it has not been possible to reach a decision".

J Forbes thought it likely that the Scottish Ministers will restrict consideration to the issue of the flood plain and whether the development has adequate protection, given SEPA's objection in principle.

J McDonough reminded the meeting that SEPA had also raised six specific objections which had been articulated by Cllr Booth at the DMSC meeting.

5.2 49 Corstorphine Road (Chinese Consulate) - Also as instructed, he wrote to the Planning Officer handling the application for a palisade-style fence, to express MCC's concern that such a fence would seriously detract from an important heritage feature of the Corstorphine Road corridor. Unfortunately the application had already been granted.

5.3 9 Kinellan Road - The application for development of this ecologically sensitive site within West Murrayfield Conservation Area remains "awaiting assessment". Since MCC's last meeting some additional documents have been added to the Planning Portal. They include an updated site plan, tree works

plan and soft works plan. There is nothing that would lessen MCC's serious objection to the proposed development. As far as can be gleaned from the Portal, the owner/developer has still shown no commitment to addressing the affordable homes requirement on site.

No new planning applications have been filed giving rise to community (as opposed to local householder) concern.

The Chairman added that an application had been lodged for permission for outdoor tables at Dine in Murrayfield Place. He believed that the time for objections had passed.

6. Traffic and Transport

6.1 CCWEL – The Chairman was not aware of any news on the CCWEL and understood that work would not start until early next year. Cllr Gloyer confirmed that the whole of the Active Travel team, including Rurighd McMeddes, had been redeployed to Spaces for People.

6.2 Wester Coates signs – The Chairman reported that earlier in the year he had noticed two signs at the entrance to Wester Coates Road referring to the 20 mph speed restriction and a risk of skidding. One of these had been removed but another was now in place at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace. R Brown confirmed that resurfacing of Wester Coates Terrace had been carried out recently. It had not been possible to do this when Wester Coates Road was repaired earlier in the year because the contractor working on the Coltbridge Viaduct had established a large site office on the Terrace. This had since been removed.

6.3 Cabling for traffic survey – N Oldroyd reported that the cabling associated with the traffic survey was causing an obstruction on the pavement of Murrayfield Road. The cabling was linked to a lamp post and had a cover about three inches high which elderly pedestrians and wheelchair users were finding difficult to negotiate. J Forbes confirmed that there was the same problem in Ellersly Road. Cllrs Douglas and Gloyer thought that the survey would last only three or four weeks and it was felt that the inconvenience could be borne for that time. (N Oldroyd has since confirmed that the cabling was removed on 8 October.)

7. Old Colt Bridge Christmas licence

The Chairman invited N Oldroyd to update the meeting.

N Oldroyd reported that there was good news and bad news. The bad news was that the trader who had obtained a licence to sell Christmas trees from the Old Colt Bridge in 2019 had applied for a licence for a pitch in Murrayfield Avenue this year. The good news was that thanks to John McNeill the Council will install a cut Christmas tree with lighting on the Old Colt Bridge for 1 December when an event is planned. The tree will be lit and carols performed by pupils from Roseburn Primary School and St George's School, who being under 12 years old will not be breaching Covid-19 restrictions. N Oldroyd said that outdoor gatherings for official purposes of up to 200 people are permitted, but she did not think any of the other events which had been planned would be feasible.

J McDonough thought that provided a risk assessment was carried out and appropriate measures put in place, it would be possible to hold other events. It was agreed that a risk assessment could not be done until the restrictions which would be in place at the time were known.

N Oldroyd suggested that Facebook Live could be used to make events on the Old Colt Bridge accessible to more people.

Cllr Gloyer thanked N Oldroyd for her efforts in organizing the Christmas tree and pointed out that, even if the events which could be held were smaller than originally planned, with the cancellation by the Council and the Underbelly of Edinburgh's usual celebrations, the Old Colt Bridge events might prove to be the biggest Christmas events in west Edinburgh.

N Oldroyd reported that she had contacted the Rotary Club to ask whether they would like to be involved, but had not yet received a reply. She hoped that they might provide a Santa and sleigh but otherwise Santa volunteers would be welcome.

J McDonough said that if the Rotary Club were to be involved he thought that the Lodge would also want to take part.

P Gregson offered thermos flasks and carol song sheets which the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FORP") had used for their Christmas events. N Oldroyd said that sharing such items is not currently permitted under the Covid-19 restrictions, but she would be happy to accept his offer in future years.

8. Friends of Roseburn Park AGM

P Gregson confirmed that FoRP are holding their AGM on 28 October at 7.30 pm on Zoom. An invitation can be obtained by emailing him and the Zoom link is also on the FoRP website. FoRP are looking for new Committee members and he would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested before the AGM.

9. Any Other Competent Business

9.1 A member of the public who lives in Ormidale Terrace complained that she had twice recently been woken by alarms going off in the early hours of the morning. She thought that one was at Kwik Fit and the other at BT Murrayfield. The latter took the form of a repeated announcement. N Oldroyd confirmed that she had also been woken, and considerably alarmed, by the BT Murrayfield announcement. P Gregson said that false alarms at the stadium were quite common. Cllr Gloyer suggested contacting Graham Law at Scottish Rugby and **N Oldroyd undertook to do so.**

9.2 A Anderson referred to the fact that at some schools access to the adjoining street is restricted at pick up times. She asked whether this arrangement could be put in place in Coltbridge Terrace. Cllr Gloyer explained that the "School Streets" scheme depends upon the co-operation of the school and St George's School had repeatedly declined to participate. Roseburn Primary School had applied and been accepted, but had then been told that nothing would be done until the CCWEL had been completed.

9.3 The Chairman was pleased to note that the Hampton Hotel had re-opened.

9.4 R Brown reported that Murrayfield Parish Church had contacted her about carrying out a risk assessment for returning to public meetings in the church hall. She had replied that, as there was no prospect of holding such meetings

in the foreseeable future, a risk assessment seemed premature. The Church had provided their own seven page risk assessment.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 10 November 2020
Subsequent meeting: 15 December 2020.

Minutes approved at meeting of 10 November 2020.