

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 8 November 2022 at 7.30 pm  
by Zoom  
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: R Brown, D Dawson, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,  
J McDonagh, S Macpherson, E Robertson, M Stevens, H Whaley,  
J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Euan Davidson, Cllr Frank Ross,  
In attendance: Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council, Scott  
Ritchie and David Stevenson, Balfour Beatty, David MacLennan,  
9 members of the public,  
Apologies: A Anderson, N Macdonald, 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, Apologies and Co-option

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance to the online meeting and mentioned that a recent survey had indicated a preference for online meetings during the winter.

The Chairman invited David MacLennan, a retired solicitor living in Wester Coates, to tell the meeting a little about himself. D MacLennan had spoken at the previous MCC meeting. The eleven Community Councillors present then voted unanimously in favour of the co-option of David MacLennan as an ordinary member of Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") and the Chairman congratulated and welcomed him.

2. CCWEL Update

Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council and Scott Ritchie, Balfour Beatty gave an update on the CCWEL works at Roseburn, Murrayfield and West Coates.

S Ritchie reported that work on Roseburn Terrace is ongoing. The footway has been re-paved. The joints along the facades of the shops have yet to be done. Work there should be completed by the end of November.

Work is progressing well in Murrayfield Place and Murrayfield Avenue. Feedback from the businesses in Murrayfield Place has been taken on board. Balfour Beatty are liaising with City Fibre to try to minimise the disruption caused by their works at the same location.

The path behind the Tesco shop on the north side of Russell Road will be re-surfaced this week. Delivery of the equipment for the traffic lights at the new pedestrian crossings from Tesco to the Roseburn Bar and from the Bar to the north side of Roseburn Terrace has been delayed. This installation was due to be completed before Christmas but, as it is not desirable to start the work and leave it only partially completed, the installation will not be started until all of the equipment is available. The reinstatement of the right turn from

Roseburn Terrace into Roseburn Street, installation of a small island at the top of Roseburn Street and new white lines to establish the prioritisation of Russell Road will all be completed by mid-December.

Work at West Coates is progressing well. There are a few remedial items to be completed on the stretch between Wester Coates Terrace and Wester Coates Road, but the barriers there are now being removed. Most work is taking place from Wester Coates Road eastwards to beyond Donaldson's. Balfour Beatty have moved into the Roseburn Cliff area but, mindful of the Christmas events planned for that area, intend to be finished there by the start of December.

In response to the Chairman's comment that the road surface at the foot of Roseburn Cliff is very rough, S Ritchie explained that the footway there is nearly complete and he is aware of the need for emergency vehicles to gain access.

S Macpherson reported that vehicles are still accessing the A8 from the top of Roseburn Gardens and, although there are appropriate signs on Roseburn Gardens, there are none on Roseburn Place and Avenue.

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes confirmed that the situation is being monitored and the Police have been asked to visit this location when they can. The Council will want to wait and see how well the new traffic arrangements are working before deciding on additional signage.

S Macpherson pointed out that there is currently no signage indicating the shared use path on Russell Road. S Ritchie confirmed that appropriate signage will be put back there.

In reply to points raised by the Chairman **R Ahluwalia-McMeddes** explained in relation to the current "No Right Turn" into Roseburn Street that the temporary signs have been re-positioned and the phasing of the existing traffic lights cannot easily be changed. He **undertook to look at better signs for the short-term car park on Russell Road** and **S Ritchie undertook to try to get temporary signs erected in the next few days.**

E Robertson asked about a raised table at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue to reduce traffic entering from the A8. R Ahluwalia-McMeddes explained that the volume of traffic there made a raised table unsuitable, but the CCWEL design involves narrowing the entrance at both the east and west sides and this should help.

The Chairman asked whether the changes at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace requested by D MacLennan had been actioned. R Ahluwalia-McMeddes confirmed that the centre white line had been moved one metre to the west and cones had been put back to alert drivers to the full height kerb protruding from the footway on either side. At present bollards are in high demand and are hard to come by, but eventually standard black Edinburgh bollards will replace the cones. D MacLennan suggested that self-righting bollards would be preferable in view of the likelihood of impact from large vehicles. He informed **R Ahluwalia-McMeddes** that such bollards have been installed in Craighleith Crescent and the latter **undertook to visit that location.**

A local resident said that end-on parking and the second traffic island near the foot of Murrayfield Avenue make access difficult, particularly for emergency vehicles.

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes explained that this problem will be alleviated by the CCWEL changes – there will be parallel parking on the west side of

Murrayfield Avenue and end-on parking on the east side. The second island will be permanent.

S Ritchie apologised for the delay in installing the signs for the parking bay on Roseburn Terrace outside Scotmid and House of Hound. There had been a problem with the original order and the signs have been re-ordered.

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes said that the signs will indicate loading only from Monday to Friday all day and loading and parking on Saturday afternoons. At the west end of the Terrace there will be two signs for the 30 minute short stay parking bays.

In reply to a question from one of the Roseburn traders S Ritchie confirmed that the bin which had been removed from the pavement near the Roseburn Bar will be replaced by a new bin and a temporary bin will be provided until that can be done.

The same trader asked about the excavations being carried out near the pub and was told SPEN (Scottish Power Energy Networks) are working to remedy a fault with an electricity cable.

In answer to a question about water draining towards, instead of away from, the shops, S Ritchie explained that the shop doorways are at different levels and this is a longstanding problem which Balfour Beatty are trying to improve. J Forbes referred to the problem of rat running through Roseburn Gardens and expressed the fear that, until the new arrangements are familiar to and are observed by drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, there is a significant risk of accidents. He felt that the current "monitoring" by the Police was inadequate and suggested asking the Police to apprehend drivers making the illegal left turn onto the A8. It was agreed that **the Chairman would ask PC Sam Davison to provide a visible Police presence during appropriate hours as a deterrent to would-be rat runners.**

In answer to a question from the Chairman S Ritchie confirmed that the problem of Balfour Beatty vehicles parking in inappropriate places had been resolved.

P Gregson raised the issue of monitoring of the impact of the CCWEL and the criteria on which this would be based. **R Ahluwalia-McMeddes** replied that there is a comprehensive monitoring plan, which he sent to MMC for comments when he drew it up in 2018. Baseline data has been gathered and the report is available on the CCWEL website. SYSTRA have been contracted to carry out the monitoring after 6, 12 and 24 months. He will make their reports available to MCC. He **undertook to share the link to the baseline report and circulate the monitoring plan again.**

In answer to a question from Cllr Ross S Ritchie stated that the majority of the work which will be undertaken in the early part of 2023 will be at Murrayfield and will not impact the Six Nations rugby matches. All of the work, including resurfacing the road, is due to be completed in March/April 2023.

The Chairman advised that a report by Council officers on the issue of compensation for the Roseburn traders would be discussed by the Council's Finance and Resources Committee on 10 November in an online meeting. He had submitted a paper on behalf of MCC and would attend the meeting. The main thrust of MCC's argument in favour of compensation was that comparisons with other areas where compensation had not been awarded were inappropriate and the unique nature of Roseburn where the traders

depended to a large extent on passing vehicular traffic had been ignored. In the overall CCWEL scheme the suggested compensation of £100,000 to 33 traders was a relatively insignificant amount.

The three City Councillors confirmed that they hoped to attend the Finance and Resources Committee meeting. Cllr Ross said that he had requested an opportunity to speak at the meeting.

Cllr Ross asked whether the proposal which had been made some time ago for the Roseburn traders to launch a voucher scheme had been progressed. One of the traders explained that the conclusion had been reached that a voucher scheme would not be of equal benefit to all of the traders and the proposal had been dropped.

3. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 4 October 2022 and Matters Arising

3.1 The Chairman reported that a resident of Roseburn Street had pointed out that passengers arriving at the Murrayfield Stadium tram stop often assume that they can access the Ice Rink via the internal road in the stadium grounds. He suggested that Transport for Edinburgh be asked to provide a map at the foot of the tram stop steps showing the local area. **Cllr Beal undertook to take this up with Transport for Edinburgh** if the Chairman forwarded the relevant email correspondence to him.

3.2 D Dawson reported that he had attended a meeting with the SRU on 27 October about the plans for the upcoming rugby matches at BT Murrayfield. The issue of access to the A8 from Roseburn Gardens had been raised. The SRU had said that all of their advertising and printed material, including tickets, encourage supporters to use public transport. The train strike had affected one of the Autumn tests. D Dawson said he had seen no reduction in the number of parked cars and had witnessed illegal parking on double yellow lines along Riversdale Crescent. The only solution is to patrol the parking on every occasion. He had put the information from the SRU on MCC's website, Facebook, Twitter and the Roseburn and Murrayfield Village Blether's Facebook page. The arrangements would be much the same for the next two matches.

There followed a discussion on the interruption to the bus services and the extent of the road closures put in place for the matches. It was felt that there was a significant problem about access for emergency vehicles during these times. **The Chairman undertook to take this up with PC Davison.**

3.3 D Dawson reported that the SRU would be holding an Armistice Day service at their War Memorial on Friday, 11 November and requested that anyone intending to attend contact him so that he could pass on numbers to the SRU.

3.4 B Knowles reported that the planned tree planting along the Water of Leith will not now take place until February/March 2023. D Dawson confirmed that about 16 Saughtonhall families had volunteered to adopt and water one or more trees and he was keeping them informed to maintain their interest.

3.5 P Gregson confirmed that he had been in touch with the person leading the proposed Balgreen Tunnel project but progress seemed to have stalled.

D Dawson said that the project website referred to guidelines having been received from Network Rail, contact having been made with the Council and the Council's willingness to contribute financially to improvements to the

Tunnel. Cllr Davidson said he was waiting to hear back from the CCTV team at the Council.

3.6 The Chairman reported that the Open Day at Murrayfield Parish Church planned for 26 November had been cancelled.

3.7 P Gregson reported that he had prepared a review of the seven plaques erected by MCC which provided a useful link to local history. He intended to put this on MCC's website and release it to the press. It was agreed that P Gregson could approach the Minister of Murrayfield Parish Church about a plaque to mark John Lennon's connection to the Murrayfield area.

3.8 The Chairman reminded the meeting of the organ recital to be given by John Kitchen at the Church of the Good Shepherd on 12 November at 5pm.

3.9 J McDonough reported that the Christmas lights provided by the Council have already been installed on the Old Colt Bridge and the Christmas tree is due to be installed in mid-November. Heather Raeburn has worked hard to organise a number of events and garner sponsorship from Tesco and the Co-op. Tesco have offered to provide mulled wine for all of the events and have donated boxes of chocolates. The Co-op has offered to provide mince pies, doughnuts and children's prizes. Heather has asked approached MCC for help with the cost of printing carol sheets and promotional material.

3.10 Meeting with Cllr Scott Arthur on 8 October – P Gregson referred to the informal meeting with Cllr Scott Arthur which he, the Chairman and S Macpherson had intended to attend as representatives of MCC. The meeting had been arranged to discuss the Roseburn traders' case for compensation and four of the traders had also turned up. Cllr Arthur had refused to engage with P Gregson or start the meeting unless he left. He gave no reason for this stance. P Gregson had withdrawn but was aggrieved at the way he had been treated and wanted MCC to write a strongly worded letter of complaint to the Council and copy it to the press. He referred to a recent meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee at which Cllr Arthur had ordered the suspension of the live webcam. Cllr Ross agreed that Cllr Arthur's conduct at the informal meeting had been undemocratic and advised that his conduct during the Transport and Environment Committee meeting had been in breach of the Council's Standing Orders. After some discussion during which P Gregson's position was widely supported, it was agreed that the Chairman on behalf of MCC would draft a letter of complaint to Cllr Cammy Day, as leader of the Council, but that MCC would not seek to involve the press at this stage.

Subject to the correction of two minor typing errors the Minutes were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: J Forbes.

#### 4. Councillors' Reports

4.1 In relation to the recent application for planning permission for a 5G mast in Succoth Gardens Cllr Beal reported that he had investigated the role of the Development Management Sub Committee ("DMSC"). Applications can be made to the DMSC by an elected member of the Council or a Planning Officer. If 20 objections to a household application or 6 to any other application are lodged, the application will be referred to the DMSC.

Cllr Ross said that in normal circumstances an application for a 5G mast would come under the heading of "permitted development". J Forbes explained that in this case the proposed site is in a Conservation Area and a full planning

application is required. An application has been made, but states erroneously that the site is not in a Conservation Area. He hoped that the application will be referred to the DMSC.

4.2 Cllr Beal said that the current City Plan will shortly complete its final stage and work will begin on a new plan.

4.3 **Cllr Beal** reported that he had contacted Paul Wakefield of City Fibre and had been told that City Fibre have almost completed work in Murrayfield Gardens, a long line of cable has been done and City Fibre will shortly finish in Murrayfield Road. In response to a question by email from a member of the public to the Chairman he **undertook to ask when work in Coltbridge Terrace will be completed.**

J Forbes made the point that City Fibre regularly block pavements with their signs and, while able bodied pedestrians can usually circumvent them safely, people using mobility vehicles cannot do so. **Cllr Beal undertook to raise this issue with City Fibre.**

4.4 Cllr Davidson reported that he and Sarah Boyack, MSP had had a site meeting with a local resident about the proposed siting near the Old Colt Bridge of a second bin hub in addition to the one which is to be installed near the foot of Murrayfield Avenue as part of the Rejuvenating Roseburn project. There will still be a bin hub near the Old Colt Bridge but, in order to resolve the problem about noise, there will not be a bin for glass.

4.5 Cllr Ross encouraged the Chairman to keep an eye on forthcoming consultations so that the opportunity to influence the Council's decisions is not lost.

4.6 Cllrs Beal and Davidson said that Roseburn Primary School is still looking for a suitable person to manage its landscape project. The Council will provide plants from its nursery. Cllr Ross suggested that Balfour Beatty might provide someone, even on a part time basis. Cllr Beal said he would encourage Natalie Borrowman of Roseburn Primary School to contact Scott Ritchie.

## 5. Traffic and Transport

Cllr Davidson reported that he was still waiting for an update from Council officers on the proposed traffic calming measures for Ellersly Road and Kinellan Road. J Forbes expressed frustration at the inability of the Council to provide a statement of the intended works with a timetable and budget.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

(This item was brought forward to enable J McDonagh to leave the meeting.) The Treasurer reported that the opening balance for October was £2,107. There had been expenditure on hall hire of £35, but no income, leaving a closing balance of £2,072. He anticipated some expenditure on printing in connection with the Christmas events on the Old Colt Bridge.

## 7. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

37 Corstorphine Road - According to the planning portal the status of the full planning application is still "unknown".

9 Kinellan Road - The first anniversary of submission of application 21/05580/FUL passed on 21 October. No new documents have been filed in over a year. The application is still "awaiting assessment".

Telecom installation by 11 Succoth Gardens - Application 22/04199/FUL remains "awaiting assessment". (See Item 4.1)

Because of the number of objections (23 including MCC's), he believed the Planning Officer's recommendation in this case will have to go to the DMSC. Cllr Ross added that he had been told by the Planning Officer that, with the consent of the applicant's agent, Cllr Ross would be informed of the assessment. He had replied that MMC is also entitled to this information. The Planning Officer disagreed, but said that he had considered all representations. Cllr Ross said the application will go to the DMSC only if the Planning Officer recommends the grant of planning permission.

Signage at Tesco Extra, 3 Roseburn Terrace - Approval has been granted for the proposed new signage at Tesco Extra, 3 Roseburn Terrace (application 22/04473/ADV), to which MCC objected. This is advertising approval only, and does not constitute Listed Building Consent (LBC). He is awaiting submission of an LBC application, that will allow the proposed signage to be properly considered within the historic context of the building.

J Forbes requested that, if anyone notices work beginning on new signage at Tesco Extra in the near future, they bring it to his attention so that he can check LBC status.

#### 8. Police Report

The Chairman summarised the Police report for the period from 4 October to 8 November 2022, received by email prior to the meeting, as follows:-

8.1 There had been fewer crimes this year than in the same period last year.

8.2 Operation Crackle - The Community Policing team had carried out preventative work in relation to Halloween and Bonfire Night and had also been deployed on the evenings in question.

Only two calls regarding misuse of fireworks in the MCC area had been received.

8.3 There had been a report on 26 October of youths hanging around at the entrance to the underground car park on Donaldson Drive. Officers were on the scene within five minutes but the youths had left the area. No crime had been committed.

8.4 There was no update regarding the relocation of the speed camera on Corstorphine Road.

8.5 Monitoring of the No Entry on Roseburn Gardens will continue.

#### 9. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported as follows:-

9.1 The redevelopment of the toilet block into a cafe is now likely to be completed by mid to late November.

9.2 The planting of extra trees in the Park is likely to be done in February/March next year along with filling in gaps in the beech hedge, assuming the Council's Parks Department can get the trees and whips.

9.3 Planting of spring bulbs will commence on 16 November.

9.4 The 30 trees which were donated to the Park are surviving.

9.5 A willow tree will be delivered on 10 November.

P Gregson added that the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") are hoping to have an event to mark the completion of the café in mid-December. Bottles of Buck's Fizz and mince to make burgers have already been donated.

He reminded the meeting that the FoRP disco will take place in the Masonic Lodge, Roseburn Gardens on 15 December.

10. Social Engagement

D Dawson had tendered his apologies for having to leave the meeting early. Prior to the meeting he had circulated an Excel spreadsheet of local contacts for additions and corrections by email and would provide an update at the next MCC meeting.

11. Any Other Competent Business

11.1 The Chairman said that J Forbes would attend the meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network on 9 November. Cllr Ross suggested that the Network might be a source of funding for a part time manager of Roseburn Primary School's landscape project. (See Item 4.6)

11.2 P Gregson said that MCC's webmaster, Hamish Ross, will be in Edinburgh in early December and might like to meet some MCC members.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 13 December 2022

Subsequent meetings: 24 January, 7 March 2023 (likely to be on Zoom).

Minutes approved at meeting of 13 December 2022.