

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 9 October 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, N Macdonald, R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Lord Provost, Cllr Frank Ross,
In attendance: 8 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair, Rurighd McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council,
Apologies: H Ross, D Whitelaw, Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair Rankin, 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 and Apologies

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

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

2.1 The Chairman intimated that in 2019 MCC would aim to improve reporting to the community by having more, but shorter, meetings, hence the target running times on the current Agenda.

2.2 The Chairman intimated that there had been a change to the membership of MCC and invited Norma Macdonald to explain. She informed the meeting that she was no longer a member of Murrayfield Parish Church and, therefore, had ceased to be the Church's nominated representative on MCC. As she wished to continue to serve on MCC, R Brown proposed, and J Forbes seconded, a motion that N Macdonald be co-opted as an ordinary member. A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

2.3 The Chairman reported that he had represented MCC at two recent meetings:

2.3.1 a special business meeting of the Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership on 29 August 2018 at which he had urged the retention of the Neighbourhood Partnership in the face of moves to the more remote Locality; and

2.3.2 on 2 October 2018 a "connecting our city, transforming our places" workshop at which each participant had to vote on a series of propositions concerning what might make an inspiring, healthy and smart city.

2.4 The Chairman informed the meeting that the City Council is currently carrying out a preliminary consultation with a view to launching a review of the Scheme for Community Councils later this year and J Forbes had agreed to represent MCC at an initial meeting to be held on 25 October 2018.

3. Community Policing Report

3.1 PC Euan Sinclair provided crime statistics for August and September, which in both cases were lower than the figures for the corresponding periods last year.

In August there had been 24 reported crimes, of which 3 had been solved. There had been 5 house breakings, 9 thefts (4 of which were of bikes), 2 crimes of violence, one incident of vandalism, 2 road traffic offences and 5 miscellaneous crimes. In September there had been 37 crimes, of which 9 had been solved. There had been 4 house breakings, 12 thefts (3 of which were of bikes), 7 crimes of violence, 1 serious assault, 3 acts of vandalism, 5 road traffic offences, 1 incident of anti-social behaviour and 4 miscellaneous crimes. Most of the house breakings had occurred in the Murrayfield and Ravelston areas and were split equally between break ins to houses and to bike sheds and garages.

PC Sinclair reported that the sexual assault which had occurred on the cycle path near Roseburn was being investigated by the CID. House-to-house enquiries had been conducted and a leaflet issued. Patrols had been carried out on the cycle path. 3.2 PC Sinclair reminded the meeting that the Police are happy to carry out crime prevention surveys. He recommended the following measures – keeping gates to drives and paths closed, using gravel on paths, security lighting at the front of a property, locking windows, solid door frames, door chains, spy holes in doors, burglar alarms (monitored by a security company or unmonitored), lockable 6 foot gates across side accesses and prickly bushes along boundaries.

The Chairman referred to a recent report in the Evening News that crime in Edinburgh was up 11% on the previous year. PC Sinclair said that he was not aware of such an increase in the MCC area.

The Secretary reported that (1) in response to an email to Ann Budge of Heart of Midlothian Football Club (“Hearts”) she had received confirmation that the Club will provide portaloos at category A matches, i.e. matches against Hibernian Football Club (“Hibs”), Celtic and Rangers at Tynecastle. She thanked Hearts for this offer; (2) she had also emailed Graham Law of the SRU to request that the SRU provide additional portaloos in specific locations around BT Murrayfield on the day of the League Cup semi-final match between Hearts and Celtic (28 October 2018). The Council would have to approve the locations from a Health & Safety point of view.

In response to a question from the Chairman about a teenage girl using a motorised skateboard on the pavement of Murrayfield Gardens PC Sinclair confirmed that a skateboard is not allowed on the road and, therefore, has to be used on the pavement. He told the local resident, who had complained that this activity was dangerous, that no offence had been committed, but that if the resident found out where the teenager lives, he would be prepared to go and speak to her.

PC Sinclair reported that he had been struggling to get a reply from Hibs about whether the Club would pay for the cost of removing graffiti applied by Hibs fans and, if he did not make progress by the end of the week, he would let MCC know so that MCC could pursue the matter.

PC Sinclair confirmed that the Police had requested the early closure of the Roseburn Tesco on the day of the Hearts v Celtic match at Tynecastle because disorder had occurred there on a previous occasion.

A member of the public complained that the disruption to the bus service and the road closures on match days at BT Murrayfield are excessive and inconvenient to local residents and requested that the timing of these measures be reviewed. PC Sinclair replied that the measures are considered necessary for the safe dispersal of some 67,000 spectators after a match. In response to a suggestion from the Secretary, the member of the public confirmed that she had raised this issue at a

residents' meeting with the SRU and been told that the safety considerations are paramount.

4. A8 Street Works

Quoting a Council source as saying that the utilities were taking them for fools, the Chairman commented that not long after Scottish Water completed their work on Haymarket Terrace Scottish Gas/SGN moved in and laid siege to Roseburn Terrace and West Coates too.

The Chairman complained that one globe light and two conventional lamp standards on the main Roseburn Bridge are again out and asked to whom the utility companies are answerable. Cllr Ross confirmed that the Council has the power to fine the companies but that the fines are not sufficiently high to influence their behaviour. He explained that Scottish Water and Scottish Gas were carrying out work on opposite sides of Haymarket Terrace and doing so concurrently would have closed the Terrace completely. He also explained that by citing an emergency the utility companies can dig when and where they want.

5. Councillor's Report

Cllr Frank Ross reported as follows:

5.1 The alley behind the Roseburn Tesco belongs to Tesco. R Smart expressed the view that it must be subject to a public right of way.

5.2 Although Council officers have recommended the abolition of the Neighbourhood Partnerships, he is aware that the Community Councils and City Councillors are against this.

5.3 All 6 categories of recorded crime showed reductions of between 9 and 10% for the period from April to the end of August 2018.

5.4 As Murrayfield and Corstorphine did not feature prominently in the Council paper identifying priority road and pavement repairs, he had asked for the base data on which priority had been assessed.

5.5 An extra £62,500 of funding has been allocated to the North West Locality and is to be distributed according to the Locality Improvement Plan by April 2019. He wanted to see the funding pushed down to Community Council level and urged MCC to get involved. In reply to a question from the Secretary as to what the funding could be spent on, Cllr Ross suggested community improvements.

5.6 There is a major consultation on the Council's 2019/2020 Budget live on the Council's consultation hub.

5.7 The planning application for 33 Pinkhill has been refused on appeal. Cllr Ross cited this as an example of how community action by a cohesive team with a strong argument can be successful.

J Forbes asked for Cllr Ross's assistance in progressing the "quick wins" for Ellersly Road, of which 4 out of the original 10 remain outstanding. He mentioned street lighting, pavement repairs and additional 20mph roundels.

A Anderson complained about the standard of recent road repairs in Coltbridge Terrace, Garscube Terrace and Henderland Road. Cllr Ross explained that filling holes with tar is a temporary measure before the carrying out of a proper repair.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14 August 2018

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: R Smart.

Matters Arising

Murrayfield Wanderers

P Gregson reported that following a Freedom of Information request he had found out that Sport Scotland had originally made a grant of £50,000 to Murrayfield Wanderers for a clubhouse. As Wanderers had recently received the same sum of money from the SRU for their clubhouse at the end of the Wanderers' lease, he wondered whether Wanderers should be repaying this money to Sport Scotland. There were also questions about a further sum of £300,000 for the back pitches. The Evening News wants to run a story on how Wanderers have been treated by the SRU, but not everyone at Wanderers is in favour. Wanderers are currently holding their practices in Roseburn Park at weekends.

7. CCWEL TROs, RSOs and Rejuvenating Roseburn update, including decking

7.1 Rurighd McMeddes, CCWEL Stakeholder Liaison Officer, reminded the meeting that following the public consultation on the TRO and RSO for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL there is to be a public hearing on the objections to the aspects of the TRO dealing with parking and loading bays and the Council is waiting for Transport Scotland to decide whether the objections to the RSO are to be included in the hearing.

The Council is proceeding with designs for the second and third sections (Charlotte Square and Leith Walk) of the CCWEL.

P Gregson referred to the proposed impact assessment of how the cycle track has affected (1) pollution, (2) congestion and (3) the local economy. With a view to possible claims for compensation he has asked the local Roseburn traders how they would assess (3).

Cllr Ross stated that, if the traders expect to get compensation, they will have to provide at least three years' full accounts and prove the link between the cycle track and any economic downturn which they are claiming.

R McMeddes said that the Council is currently procuring a monitoring team to carry out impact assessments after 6, 12 and, in some cases 24, months. In response to a question from H Whaley about whether quality of life would be assessed, R McMeddes confirmed that household surveys will be conducted before and after construction of the cycle track and data on footfall and shopping habits will be collected from residents and visitors.

N Macdonald commented that the recent closure of one lane on Roseburn Terrace during the SGN works had shown the additional congestion and pollution which the cycle track will cause. R McMeddes explained that the cycle track will not involve the loss of a running lane. Shortening and staggering the loading bays on either side of the Terrace and installing double red lines beyond the bays will avoid this.

7.2 R McMeddes reported that the final designs for the Rejuvenating Roseburn project will not now be ready for public consultation until the Spring of next year, but construction of the CCWEL is still expected to start before the end of 2019.

There are two issues: (1) there is a patchwork of underground cables and pipes which will affect the feasibility of planting new trees and further investigation is required; and (2) the long term maintenance of the proposed planters and additional greenery has to be established and he is looking at a partnership between MCC and the Council to deliver this. The Secretary and R Brown have volunteered to take part in discussions on (2).

7.3 The Chairman intimated that MCC had held an informal discussion prior to the meeting to decide upon MCC's approach to the proposed incorporation in the

designs for, and public consultation on, the Rejuvenating Roseburn project of an area of decking beside the Water of Leith.

R McMeddes explained that this idea had arisen from the previous public consultations and a local architect had provided a computer generated preliminary design, but the cost of including this element in the project could not be met from the CCWEL budget and could only be progressed if MCC were willing to apply for the additional funding, should the design meet with approval at the public consultation.

Maintenance of this feature is also an issue. The possibility of involving the pupils of Roseburn Primary School and perhaps local retired residents in the maintenance of the planters and additional greenery had been discussed. J Yellowlees and P Gregson both expressed reservations based on their experience elsewhere about the practicality of relying on primary school pupils for help.

P Gregson said that if access to the Water of Leith was the main aim of the decking proposal, he would prefer that to be done in Roseburn Park.

A member of the public agreed that the local sheltered housing and retirement flats might be a source of help with the maintenance of planters and greenery.

R McMeddes reminded the meeting that the decision to be taken was whether the decking proposal should be included in the public consultation on the basis that, if it met with approval, MCC would be obliged to apply for funding for it.

R Smart and A Anderson thought that, if the community wanted the decking, the community should be obliged to apply for funding. J Forbes reminded the meeting that MCC's duty is to represent the community.

P Gregson thought that the responsibility for the decking should rest with the Council.

R McMeddes confirmed that the decking, if included, would be only a small part of the consultation, MCC would have input into the question posed and the proposal would be based on fully costed plans.

A vote was taken as to whether the decking proposal should be included in the public consultation on the Rejuvenating Roseburn project – nine were in favour, two were against and one abstained.

8. Roseburn Park issues, including playpark and toilet block

P Gregson reported as follows:

8.1 At the inauguration ceremony for the carved log bench the Lord Provost, Cllr Frank Ross, had remarked that the old drinking fountain in Roseburn Park should be repaired. Although this might pose a maintenance issue with regard to Legionnaire's disease, it was hoped that funds would be available to achieve this.

8.2 The Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") had raised £160 at their Bake Off and Daft Games event. Unfortunately Roseburn Primary School had held a similar event only two days earlier and there had been muted enthusiasm for the FoRP event.

8.3 MCC had agreed to support FoRP's application for Fields in Trust status for Roseburn Park. The local City Councillors had been asked for their support. Cllr Gloyer had given hers, but Cllrs Douglas and Ross had not yet committed to giving theirs.

8.4 At FoRP's AGM two new Board members had been elected, one of whom is a member of Murrayfield Wanderers.

8.5 Construction of the new playpark has been held up and may not be completed before late October.

8.6 Local residents have been consulted on the future use of the old playpark with a slim majority in favour of an adult gym over a wildlife garden.

8.7 The local resident who had been interested in taking over the old toilet block for conversion to a café had pulled out because of lack of funds. 82% of local residents who had responded to a consultation are in favour of a commercial let for a café. As the scheme would require an investment of £75,000, P Gregson felt that a 25 year lease at a nominal rent of £1 per annum would be appropriate. FoRP are now promoting a commercial let rather than a sale as the way forward for the Council.

8.8 The residents of Murrayfield View are unhappy about the recent trial of white lines to segregate pedestrians and cyclists in the Park. The lines at the toilet block are to be retained, but the rest are considered unnecessary and are to be removed.

8.9 As the CCWEL cycle track will bring more cyclists into the Park and they will pass close to the new playpark on their way to and from the entrance into the Park, FoRP want a stile to be installed to enable children to cross from Roseburn Crescent over the flood defence wall into the Park. The Council have turned down this request on safety grounds.

The Secretary and P Gregson discussed the difficulty of getting coffee sellers able to contribute to FoRP funds to attend events in the Park. P Gregson had been in touch with a number of businesses and confirmed that there will be a coffee seller at the launch of the new playpark.

9. Planning issues, including Osborne House, 33 Pinkhill, 30 and 37 Corstorphine Road, trees

9.1 M Stevens reported that 52 objections had been lodged to the planning application for permission to convert Osborne House into a 157 bed hotel. The objectors included MCC, the West End Community Council, the Donaldson Area Amenity Association, Christine Jardine, MP and Ruth Davidson, MSP. The Planning Officer's report had ignored all but one of the objections, including the objection to the need for HGVs to use Devon Place, which is currently designated by the Council as unsuitable for HGVs.

M Stevens considered that there had been a failure in local democracy resulting from either a conspiracy or a bungle by the Planning Department. The Agenda for the Development Management Sub-Committee meeting is published on a Friday and the City Councillors have only until 1pm on the following Monday to request a site visit. He considered this tight timescale to be undemocratic. Christine Jardine MP had requested a revised report and in view of this and the number of complaints that had been made, he did not expect planning permission to go through "on the nod" at the meeting on 10 October.

9.2 J Forbes reported that the application for planning permission for redevelopment of the former Tor nursing home at 30 Corstorphine Road was still awaiting a decision. He thought the Planning Officer had recommended approval, but the matter was not yet on the Agenda for the Development Management Sub-Committee.

M Stevens informed the meeting that the papers for the Sub-Committee's meetings are published on a Thursday with the deliberate intention of there being insufficient time for them to be challenged. He proposed that this system be challenged by MCC as failing to meet the Council's statutory duty. M Stevens undertook to prepare a paper for consideration at the next MCC meeting.

9.3 J Forbes reported that the planning application for the redevelopment of 37 Corstorphine Road is awaiting assessment. 37 objections and 32 letters of support had been lodged.

9.4 J Forbes estimated that approximately 50 mature trees per year are lost through development within the MCC area. He proposed making a Freedom of Information request to obtain accurate statistics. There is no right of consultation and no requirement for replacement planting. He cited recent developments at Westerlea, 2 Belmont Drive and the Tor proposal where at a recent site visit the Planning Officer had simply accepted that a number of valuable trees “will have to go”. In the case of Belmont Drive the roots of two trees in a belt of trees on the south side have been damaged by a development on neighbouring ground and are to be felled. He had considered writing to the owner of 2 Belmont Drive, but now thought it would be better to write to all the owners of the common ground via the property factor, James Gibb, to request the owners to replace the trees which are to be felled. A member of the public reported that one of her neighbours had been required to replace a tree which was the subject of a Tree Preservation Order and which had been felled. She urged MCC to involve the Council in the current cases.

J Forbes agreed to raise the matter again with the Council. He reminded the meeting that the planning system makes a distinction between trees in a Conservation Area and trees which are protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

10. Traffic and Transport

10.1 The Chairman reported that the bus tracker on the eastbound bus stop at Roseburn has been damaged by water ingress and has been out of action for two months. The Council has been made aware of this.

10.2 He was still awaiting the removal of the redundant cabinet on Russell Road which he had first requested on 17 July 2017. R Beavis said that the cabinet is BT’s responsibility and he had made the same request several times.

11. Any Other Competent Business and Questions from the Floor

11.1 In response to a question from S Holland about the grant of £2,400 obtained from the Council for the installation of a new MCC noticeboard at Roseburn, the Secretary confirmed that she had obtained further funding to enable the purchase and installation of a bespoke noticeboard which would be in keeping with the Rejuvenating Roseburn project.

11.2 J Forbes raised the issue of dangerous quantities of fallen leaves and the Council’s policy of delaying removal until all of the leaves have fallen. He cited the case of an elderly resident of Guardianswood who had slipped on wet leaves last year and sustained such serious injuries that he had been in residential care ever since the accident. He asked **the Secretary to contact the Council with an urgent request that the leaves be cleared.**

A member of the public had reported blocked gullies along Corstorphine Road and these had been cleared by the Council.

A Anderson complained about fly tipping of items such as freezers and large pieces of wood beside communal black bins.

11.3 P Gregson expressed FoRP’s thanks to MCC for part funding the carved log bench referred to at Item 8.1.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 4 December 2018

Subsequent meetings: 8 January, 19 February, 2 April, 14 May, 25 June,

9 October 2018

13 August, 24 September, 5 November and 10 December 2019

Minutes approved at meeting of 4 December 2018.