

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 2 May 2017 at 7.30pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, S Holland,  
N Macdonald, H Ross, R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Ross,  
In attendance: 7 members of the public, PC Martin Crow,  
Apologies: A Anderson, D Whitelaw, Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie, Miles Briggs,  
MSP, Ruth Davidson, MSP, Kezia Dugdale, MSP, Neil Findlay,  
MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Gordon Lindhurst, MSP, Andy  
Wightman, MSP, Michelle Thomson, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Progress towards representation of properly constituted local interest groups

The Chairman welcomed H Whaley, the newly appointed representative of the Roseburn Cycle Group, to MCC and looked forward to bringing on board the Roseburn Traders when they had completed the necessary processes with the City Council. He noted that the representative of the Saughtonhall Community Association was absent.

3. Order of Business

This was approved.

4. Community Policing Report

PC Martin Crow, who was accompanied by a colleague from the Community Policing Team based at South Queensferry, explained that he was standing in for PC Julian Peukert, who was otherwise engaged.

PC Crow reported on the eight weeks to 2 May 2017 as follows:-

4.1 There had been 187 recorded incidents, of which 35 of these had become recorded crimes. Nine of these had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Enquires are ongoing in relation to the others.

4.2 The Community Policing Team is now cycle trained and he and his colleagues hope to increase their patrols using cycles.

4.3 There had been three house breakings in Murrayfield Road, Craigleith View and Craigleith Gardens, one house breaking with intent in Craigleith, attempted house breakings in Belmont Gardens and Craigleith View and thefts of bikes and tools from sheds and garages in Craigleith, Wester Coates and Garscube Terrace, the theft of a bike from a stairwell in Russell Gardens and thefts of bike parts in Roseburn Street. A case had been stolen from a car in Wester Coates Terrace and £100 from an ATM. There had been acts of vandalism to Roseburn Primary School and a property in Coltbridge Terrace.

The Chairman asked about the incident in January in which damage had been caused by a car to the Murrayfield Bar, the nearby railings and the bench on Roseburn Bridge. PC Crow confirmed that the suspect has been traced

and he hoped for a positive conclusion to the investigation soon.

J Forbes reported that a resident of Kinellan Road had had his car damaged by a passing vehicle, which had not stopped and had not been identified. The resident had attempted to report the incident to the Police, but had been told that it was a matter for the City Council. PC Crow confirmed that in his opinion such an incident should be recorded by the Police as a hit and run vehicle accident. Although there was little chance of the culprit being apprehended, at least the Police incident number could be used by the resident in a claim on his insurance.

The Chairman mentioned that he had had correspondence with Corstorphine Community Council (“CCC”) about efforts to deter youth crime and a meeting had been organised for the following evening. PC Crow confirmed that youth crime is a problem in the Gyle, Drum Brae, Corstorphine and South Queensferry areas, but not at present in Murrayfield and Roseburn.

The Chairman invited PC Crow and his colleagues to consider whether they wished to change the format of their regular reports to MCC.

#### 5. Hustings

The Secretary reported that, although the UKIP candidate had not responded to MCC’s invitation and the Labour candidate had failed to turn up, the hustings event which MCC had organised in the run up to the City Council elections had been a success. She expressed her thanks to N Macdonald for her help in organising the event.

The Secretary reported that MCC and CCC propose to hold a joint hustings event ahead of the General Election in Murrayfield Parish Church Hall on Wednesday, 24 May 2017 at 8 pm. Like the previous event it will be chaired by the Revd Keith Graham. The candidates will be invited once their candidature has been formally confirmed.

Cllr Ross suggested that the exclusive use of written questions in the previous event had precluded audience participation and that interaction between the audience and the candidates would improve the next event. R Beavis intimated that he had received feedback to the same effect.

S Holland suggested that the time spent on written questions be limited to allow audience participation.

#### 6. Councillor’s Report

Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

6.1.1 At a recent CCC meeting the issue of graffiti had been discussed. CCC were keen to tackle it themselves and on advice from the City Council’s North West Locality Manager, Peter Strong, had submitted a grant application to the Community Grant Fund, which was likely to be approved. CCC would then be provided with a list of materials approved for the removal of graffiti which they could purchase.

The Chairman wondered whether, if MCC adopted a similar process, the storage of the materials would be a problem.

In answer to a question from a member of the public Cllr Ross confirmed that, in the case of private property, the consent of the owner to the removal of graffiti should always be obtained first.

6.1.2 The monitoring of the increasing use of Saughtonhall Road by heavy lorries is continuing and a report is due in June. Cllr Ross confirmed that the increase in this type of traffic is not related to the flood prevention work

being carried out in Roseburn Park.

6.2 In answer to questions from the Chairman and Secretary Cllr Ross advised that more portable toilets are provided for concerts at BT Murrayfield than for rugby matches because the concert organiser pays for them. He considered that the SRU are unlikely to increase the provision of portable toilets for rugby matches. It is to be hoped that at major events the Police will move people on more effectively to increase the use of the toilets inside the ground.

S Holland intimated that the next meeting between the SRU and local residents would take place the following day. The Secretary confirmed that she would attend.

6.3 The meeting decided that **the North West Locality Manager, Peter Strong, should be invited to the next MCC meeting.**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting on Locality Improvement held by the City Council on 20 April. He had been disappointed to discover that Audrey Primrose had left the City Council.

Cllr Ross opined that there had been significant progress in the last few years in restructuring the delivery of the City Council's services and the process is ongoing. He urged MCC to engage fully in the consultations and suggested that, because of the complicated nature of the proposals, MCC needs a dedicated person to consider them.

R Smart asked what part the Roseburn Action Plan could play in the proposed changes and was advised by the Chairman that the changes are about service delivery and bringing in agencies from outside the City Council such as the NHS.

## 7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 7 March 2017 and Matters Arising

These were approved. Prop: M Stevens, Sec: S Holland.

### Matters Arising

#### 7.1. *Felling of Corsican pine – Ellersly Road*

J Forbes reported that he had written a letter on behalf of MCC to the Planning Department about the possible breach of planning control inherent in the felling of a large Corsican pine tree in the course of construction of a new house at the corner of Belmont Drive and Ellersly Road. The Planning Department had replied to the effect that there had been no breach of planning control, as the tree had been identified for removal in a previous planning consent for the same site and the Planning Officer had stated that it was not significant in terms of being a non-native species. In contrast the arboriculturist had reported that the tree was of high quality with an expected life span of 40 years and that a "no dig" method of developing the site was possible to avoid damaging the roots of the tree. J Forbes considered that this outcome was more serious than a breach of planning control in that no account had been taken of the quality of the tree and the sole justification for permitting its felling was that it was not a native species. Applying such a policy would fail to protect some of our most spectacular trees and is contrary to Conservation Area criteria.

The meeting authorised **J Forbes to write to the Planning Department expressing MCC's strong disapproval of the issue of planning consent for this type of "vandalism".**

7.2. *Roseburn Park bench*

P Gregson reported that the Friends of Roseburn Park (“FORP”) had not yet heard the outcome of their applications to two different bodies for funding for a bench in the Park and he would chase them up. He confirmed that the potential funders are aware of MCC’s offer to contribute £1,000 towards the cost of the bench. He informed the meeting that the City Council had indicated that they might help with funding, if both potential funders decline the applications.

7.3 *Roseburn Park*

H Ross reported as follows:-

7.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the conversion of the toilet block in Roseburn Park to a café. FORP has one potential funder, but requires three estimates of the cost of the conversion. He asked for recommendations of an architect and was referred to Mike Towers of McLaren Murdoch & Hamilton, 2 West Coates.

7.3.2 There was no progress to report regarding the new play park.

7.3.3 The option favoured in a Facebook poll for the use of the old play park is the installation of outdoor gym equipment, but so far the City Council has made no commitment regarding installation or maintenance.

7.3.4 The consultation on improved cycling provision in the Park has been completed and the City Council is to go ahead with its proposals.

7.3.5 There was no progress to report regarding Murrayfield Wanderers’ proposed use of Roseburn Park. They had not been interested in the alternative of Union Park suggested by Cllr Ross.

7.3.6 FORP had painted over most of the graffiti in the Park, but had insufficient paint to do the back of the pavilion.

7.3.7 He had no information on the current position regarding the tree planting scheme.

In response to questions about the bund in the Park and the ramp to Roseburn Court H Ross confirmed that the only thing which FORP had not expected was the painting of the railings on that side of the Park.

8. Roseburn – Haymarket cycle track

The Chairman reminded the meeting that at the hustings event referred to at Item 5 Cllr Ross had said that the success of the cycle track should be measured against its effect on local businesses, traffic volumes and pollution. The candidates at the event had disagreed on the appropriate period of time over which the assessment should be made. Cllr Ross had thought it very unlikely that the track would be taken out.

A member of the public said that he had been told by City Council Cycling Officers that Traffic Regulation Orders (“TROs”) are likely to be published in May.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that MCC has to scrutinise the proposed TROs and decide how to respond to them.

9. Edinburgh Wanderers

This had been dealt with at Item 7.3.5.

10. Murrayfield 2020

H Ross reported that there had been no developments regarding the proposed redevelopment of Murrayfield Ice Rink since the last MCC meeting.

11. Flood Prevention progress

H Ross reported that the latest communication from the contractor indicated that the flood prevention work would be completed, not in October 2017 as originally scheduled, but in January 2018. M Stevens confirmed that the same information had been given to the AGM of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association (“DAAA”). The Secretary stated that the last stakeholders’ meeting had been cancelled.

12. Roseburn Action Plan and West Coates

12.1 R Smart reported that he had made no progress regarding the relocation of the bins in Murrayfield Place. The Chairman felt this issue could be relevant to the draft TROs.

12.2 R Smart reported that he had received an enquiry from Audrey Primrose’s successor about a possible funding application by MCC for his proposed repairs to the stone walls in West Coates near Donaldson’s College. Grant funding of £5,000 might be available. R Smart informed the meeting that he had engaged an architect and a quantity surveyor to estimate the cost of these repairs and they had arrived at a figure of approximately £85,000. In view of the fact that the owners of the walls are unwilling to be involved, **R Smart undertook to approach the conservation arm of the Planning Department to see whether the City Council would take over the project.**

The Secretary asked whether MCC would be liable for the fees of the architect and the quantity surveyor. The Chairman indicated that MCC had not sanctioned the incurring of fees, but had responded to the suggestion by Cllr Balfour that MCC might find a project for which funding could be sought from the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership.

13. Planning and Licensing

13.1 The Secretary reported as follows:-

13.1 A planning application had been lodged for illuminated signs at the new bathroom shop at 8 Kew Terrace. The original application was for a sign on the roof and for a sign measuring 1m x 8m on the frontage. M Stevens reported that DAAA had made representations to the Planning Department that such signs were inappropriate in a Conservation Area and he understood that the proposal for a sign on the roof had been dropped. Although objections had to be lodged by 27 April, the Secretary undertook to contact the Planning Department to express MCC’s support for DAAA’s view on the proposed signs.

H Ross advised the meeting that the requirement for neighbour notification is less stringent in the case of signs than other planning applications.

13.2 She had attended the recent Planning Workshop for new Community Councillors. She offered to email the information which had been provided to her MCC colleagues.

13.3 The developer of the new care home at South Beechwood is asking the public to suggest a name for it.

J Forbes remembered that the choice by the developer of the residential development on the former Distillers’ site in Ellersly Road of the name

“Wallace Gardens” was uninspired, as the name had no historic connection to the site. He urged anyone with an idea for South Beechwood to put it forward.

14. Traffic and Transport

The Secretary reported as follows:-

14.1 She had received a reply to her email to the City Council about the supported 13 and 38 bus services. MCC’s comments about the frequency of the 38 service and the absence of visible timetables for the 13 service had been noted.

14.2 The City Council has introduced a Park Smart initiative to encourage parents to adopt better parking practices outside 19 schools across the City. Roseburn Primary School is not included.

15. Any Other Competent Business

There was nothing further to be discussed.

16. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 27 June 2017

Subsequent meetings: 15 August, 10 October and 5 December 2017.

Minutes approved at meeting of 27 June 2017.