

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 21 May 2024 at 7.30pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, D Dawson, J Forbes, P Gregson,  
B Knowles, N Macdonald, J McDonough, E Robertson, G Scott,  
J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Euan Davidson,  
In attendance: 17 members of the public,  
Apologies: D MacLennan, S Macpherson, N Munro, Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Fiona  
Bennett, 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 Matters Arising

1.1 Apologies were received as above. The Chair extended a special welcome to Gill Scott, the new representative of the renamed Donaldson Community Association (“DCA”), and DCA’s co-Chair, Bev Donald.

The Chair referred to MCC’s AGM, which had preceded the Ordinary Meeting, and explained that the current office bearers had remained in office pending the holding of Community Council elections, and possibly a General Election, later in the year.

Moray Rumney of Saughtonhall Community Association (“SCA”) had tendered his apologies by email prior to the meeting. D Dawson was unable to confirm whether SCA had formally nominated M Romney as their representative on MCC.

The Chair paid tribute to the late Margaret Sturgeon, who had been a regular and active participant in MCC meetings in the past and who had died recently.

1.2 The meeting discussed the Warehouse 92’ FLY & Boiler Room event which had been held at the Ice Arena the previous weekend. Members of the public complained that the event had been disruptive, causing 12 hours of noise each day and leading to overflowing litter bins and unacceptable behaviour by some of the attendees. **J McDonough** agreed with these comments and said that the departing attendees had not been marshalled by stewards beyond the bridge from the Ice Arena and had been quite rowdy. He **undertook to contact the Operations Manager at the Ice Arena** to make the points about noise, inadequate portaloos, litter bins and stewarding.

In response to a comment from a member of the public J Forbes confirmed that MCC had made representations about the Ice Arena’s application for a 24/7 Public Entertainment Licence and, as a result, the Ice Arena had undertaken to notify MCC of forthcoming events and listen to any concerns.

N Macdonald asked how widely the information sheet from the Ice Arena had been distributed and **J McDonough undertook to find out.**

R Brown said that Scottish Rugby had emailed the information sheet to everyone on their database of local residents.

1.3 Virgin Media works – the Chair advised that Virgin Media will post Notification of Works letters to all residents affected by their works ahead of the works commencing. They will also ensure that lamp post signs are displayed in the relevant areas. Works in Campbell Avenue will commence on 20 May, moving on to Murrayfield Road on 27 May, with all works due to be completed by 31 May. A road closure on Campbell Avenue will be in place between 20 May and 29 May.

1.4 Major electrical works at Western Corner will last for two weeks from 20 May. Saughtonhall Drive will be closed. More information can be obtained from Excelon (0161 877 1300), which claims to be the nation's largest energy delivery company.

1.5 The Council's Dalry – Living Well Locally project aims to improve Dalry and its "town centre" to make it greener, healthier and more thriving. There is concern that the proposed diversion of traffic will adversely impact Roseburn. The online consultation on the Council's consultation hub closes on 26 June. The Chair said that, as a private individual, he had responded to the consultation expressing concern at traffic problems being exported to adjoining areas.

1.6 Community Grants Fund – The Western Neighbourhood Network has a total of £37,565 to allocate each year and recommendations are decided by a local Funding Panel who meet to consider all eligible applications. Panels typically consist of ward councillors, community councillors and representatives from local community organisations. Elaine Lennon is hoping to attract a couple of new faces to the Panel this year. The Panel will meet on 18 June at 6pm and in September and January.

1.7 Hamish Ross has now added a link to past Agenda and Minutes to MCC's new website.

## 2. Community Councils consultation

The Chair was pleased to confirm that Phase 1 of the consultation had resulted in MCC's boundaries remaining unchanged. MCC's response to Phase 2 had been submitted. J Forbes reported that the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils was now aligned with MCC in thinking that the Council should provide guidance but should not be too prescriptive.

The Chair reported that the Boundaries Commission review would result in part of the MCC area being transferred from Angus Robertson's constituency of Edinburgh Central to Alex Cole-Hamilton's constituency of Edinburgh North-West.

## 3. Ellersly/Kinellan traffic calming

The Chair reported that a petition presented by a group of local residents would be considered at the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee ("TEC") on 23 May. J Forbes confirmed that he and J Bishop would be given a short amount of time to give a presentation. Each then practised and timed his presentation. Cllr Davidson confirmed that the allocated time for both would be 5 minutes in total.

J Forbes's presentation referred to the dangers to walkers and wheelers of the narrow uneven pavements next to high walls on Ellersly Road, the lack of crossing places and the failure to enforce the 20mph speed limit. He described Kinellan Road as a high speed rat run. MCC had been asking for action for more than 10 years. The demands for inclusion in the Council's roads programme for 2024-25 are:-

1. Traffic calming (Ellersly/Kinellan had been included in the 2023-24 programme but had not been rolled over to 2024-25),
2. Pavement widening on the north side of Ellersly Road linked to the planned carriageway resurfacing, and
3. A crossing at the east end of Ellersly Road ("Benjamin's crossing").

J Bishop's presentation reminded the meeting that in December 2023 the residents' group submitted a substantial document to the Council which ultimately led to the petition to the TEC meeting.

Cllr Davidson confirmed that the Liberal Democrats would submit an amendment calling for a report on how these measures can be taken forward.

J Forbes referred to the recent establishment of the Local Traffic Improvement ("LTI") programme to replace the Neighbourhood Environment Programme ("NEP") and deliver projects, in a citywide context, for local communities. He explained that, if the measures requested for Ellersly/Kinellan do not meet the LTI criteria, an alternative source of funding will be required.

He was also concerned that, if the carriageway resurfacing took place before the pavement widening had been agreed, the opportunity for the latter would be lost. J McDonough suggested that the Liberal Democrat amendment could deal with this concern.

Cllr Davidson agreed with E Robertson that Murrayfield Avenue should be re-assessed, as the speed bumps there are now worn and inadequate.

4. Quiet Route 9 next steps

J Forbes confirmed that MCC had responded to the consultation on these proposals and should be notified when a report is issued.

5. Tram Line 2 consultation

The Chair intimated that SPOKES had called a meeting for Wednesday, 5 June at 7.30 pm in the Augustine Bristo Church. Presenting the case for the tram using the Roseburn Path would be former Council Transport Convener, Lesley Hinds, and arguing the case for the road route would be Euan Baxter of the Save the Roseburn Path campaign. The pros and cons of each option in terms of cycling would then be considered in a presentation by Alex Robb of the Spokes planning group. Adrian Davis, Professor of Transport and Health at Edinburgh Napier University, would speak on the pros and cons for population health and an hour-long Q&A session with the panel would then follow. Spokes had not taken sides in the debate.

Cllr Davidson advised that, as the Scottish Government had just turned down the Council's application for a grant of £44m to fund the feasibility study into Tram Line 2, the promised consultation was unlikely to take place.

6. Relations with Scottish Rugby

The Chair informed the meeting that Scottish Rugby would be holding a meeting with local residents on 23 May at 4pm about the forthcoming Taylor Swift concerts on 7, 8 and 9 June. A further meeting would be held before the Manchester United v. Rangers football match on 20 July.

D Dawson advised that the Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders are popular with residents in Riversdale and Saughtonhall, but visitors are getting wise to the time limits and are arriving earlier to avoid them. He has asked for them to be extended.

7. Councillor's report

Cllr Davidson reported as follows:-

7.1 Spaces for People – a consultation on the bollards on Queensferry Road would be launched the following week.

7.2 Belmont Gardens – the residents' request for double yellow lines to deal with congestion resulting from the ban on pavement parking has been escalated to the Chief Executive.

J Forbes said he had noticed lines being painted that day, but was told by a member of the public that this was simply renewal of the existing lines at the foot of Belmont Gardens.

7.3 The Council had concluded that Craighleith Drive did not meet the criteria for a pedestrian crossing. Other measures were being investigated.

7.4 Anti-social behaviour on the Roseburn Path – mobile CCTV cameras are used. J McDonough asked what was being done about the citywide issue and was told that budget cuts had led to inadequate resources. He felt that it was a matter of prioritisation. **Cllr Davidson undertook to ask for an update.**

7.5 Parking on grass verges in Saughtonhall Avenue – he confirmed that, if there are lines in place, such parking is illegal, but if there are no lines, it appears that it is not.

7.6 Parking around St George's School – Cllr Bennett has been told by the Council's Road Safety Team that the School is developing its own road safety plan with the Team. Cllr Davidson accepted E Robertson's offer to attend a meeting on this issue.

7.7 Yellow lines in Balgreen Road, Coltbridge Avenue and Baird Drive – Cllr Davidson undertook to raise these with the Road Safety Team at a meeting the following week.

In response to complaints from a number of local residents about a serious problem with rats in Roseburn arising from the fact that one well known resident feeds the birds, not only in her own garden but in the park and other communal areas, **Cllr Davidson undertook to take this issue up with the team at the Council responsible for anti-social behaviour .**

B Knowles added that the same person is also feeding the birds at the top of Murrayfield Avenue and in Succoth Place.

8. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 16 April 2024 and Matters Arising

8.1 Together for Nature bid, Balgreen and Glendevon Parks – the Chair said a visit had confirmed that both parks are much loved by children and dog walkers but are pretty basic, with Glendevon lacking even a bench.

8.2 Cleaning up after matches – the Chair asked whether Cllr Alan Beal had heard from Tynecastle.

8.3 Saughtonhall Rec hall refurbishment – the hearing on Saughtonall Community Association’s application for funding had been delayed to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee meeting on 13 August 2024.

8.4 Balgreen Tunnel progress - the graffiti is returning. Elaine Lennon has suggested to Elle Haswell that the Edinburgh 900 programme might provide support. This is a celebration of the nine centuries of history and traditions in Scotland’s capital city since the founding of the royal burgh by King David I around 1124. Applications can be for up to £5,000 worth of funding and must be led by an Edinburgh based community group focussed on activities/events held within the local area. There is also a separate civic fund as part of the programme. Civic fund events should be citywide in reach, if not scope, with applications led by an Edinburgh based cultural or heritage organisation. Local groups and organisations can register their events to be included in the programme without applying for funding.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Forbes, Sec: J Yellowlees.

#### 9. CCWEL completion

The Chair reported as follows:-

9.1 Remedial work is being carried out in Russell Road and the Western Approach Road is closed until mid-June.

9.2 Traffic monitoring at the junction of Russell Road and Roseburn Street- there had been a mixed response to the finding that between 2018 and 2024 traffic volumes on Roseburn Street and Russell Road have reduced considerably in line with expectations. No alterations have been proposed since the junction is considered to be performing as intended. Many support some tweaking of the traffic lights, but there is also a feeling that none of the pedestrian benefits should be sacrificed in favour of car drivers.

A Anderson pointed out that the situation will be worse once the Low Emission Zone comes into force and the cycle link to the Canal is opened.

J McDonough pointed out that a road safety issue arises from the fact that drivers frustrated by the lengthy queues on Roseburn Street drive up the wrong side of the road to turn right into Russell Road.

A member of the public said that lots of drivers are ignoring the signs and going up Roseburn Gardens to turn left onto the A8.

**Cllr Davidson undertook to look into what could be done.**

He confirmed that there will be a post-implementation review of the CCWEL later in the year. Councillors can feed in comments from their constituents and residents can also write to the CCWEL team.

J McDonough pointed out that the monitoring report made no mention of nitrous oxide air pollution. **Cllr Davidson undertook to ask for its inclusion.**

9.3 Shared path signage on Russell Road – **Cllr Davidson undertook to follow this up.**

9.4 He was aware that the litter bins removed by Balfour Beatty had still not been replaced.

9.5 A bowser for watering the planters had been promised.

9.6 Pansy Walk works site – once Balfour Beatty move off the site, Scottish Water will occupy it for a time. Thereafter the use of the site will be reviewed.

#### 10. Police report

The following Police report for the period from 14 April to 16 May 2024 had been emailed prior to the meeting:-

Housebreakings:

19/04/2024 – Coltbridge Millside - External garage broken into and 5 bikes stolen

30/04/2024 – Ravelston Dykes - Property broken into and items taken

Vehicle Theft:

22/04/2024 – Ravelston House Grove - Vehicle broken into during the night but nothing taken

Anti-social Behaviour:

17/04/2024 – West Coates - Youths on roof of building

18/04/2024 – West Coates - Youths throwing eggs at building

22/04/2024 – Wester Coates - Off road bikes on cycle path

Other incidents of note:

04/05/2024 – Murrayfield Gardens - 3 males in balaclavas

08/05/2024 – Murrayfield Gardens - 3 males in ski masks

25/04/2024 – Riversdale Road - Dog attacked swan in park.

A Anderson added that the two Range Rovers which had been stolen from Coltbridge Terrace had been recovered, one in Edinburgh and one in Kilmarnock. The latter was a write off.

It was agreed that **the Chair would invite PC Michael Bent to the next MCC meeting** to talk about the perspective that his community background has given him.

#### 11. Planning update

J Forbes reported that there had been no new planning applications giving cause for concern. The position on current cases is as follows:-

11.1 37 Corstorphine Road - Following referral to the Scottish Ministers, planning permission has finally been granted for the 20-unit development on the narrow triangle of land between the road and the river. The existing house will be demolished. The Ministers conceded that the development has a risk of flooding in the "1 in 200 + 56%" event (the +56% is the additional risk ascribed to climate change), but concluded that there is provision for safe access or egress in such an event. The development agreement that has been reached will deliver financial contributions towards education and affordable housing.

11.2 Rosebery House, Haymarket - Planning permission has been granted, on appeal to the Scottish Ministers, for the much larger new-build office development on the site of the existing Rosebery House adjacent to Haymarket Station. MCC's objections did not prevail.

A member of the public stated that the groundsman's house at Scottish Gas Murrayfield (106 Roseburn Street) has been demolished. J Forbes said he was not aware of an application for demolition permission but would investigate.

In reply to a question from a member of the public about the building works adjacent to the Rolls Royce garage at Roseburn, the owner of the adjoining property explained that he is building a garden room.

12. Licensing update

The Chair reported that Martin Rooney of Russell Gardens has applied for a pedlar's licence to sell hats, flags, badges and ponchos with a closing date after the Taylor Swift concerts. There was no case for MCC to intervene.

13. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported as follows:-

13.1 The Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") are progressing feasibility studies of the proposed projects arising from the recent survey.

13.2 FoRP are to have a meeting with the Council's Parks team and are hopeful that some of their requests, such as help with planting and watering, will be met.

13.3 J McDonough reported that he had met with the Events team for the Taylor Swift concerts and had been impressed by the efforts which were being made to ensure that the concerts go off without a hitch. Consideration has been given to public safety, the provision of toilets, bins and litter picking, stewarding, the provision of drinking water and how to handle people trying to camp in Roseburn Park. Scottish Rugby has provided a bond to cover the cost of repairing any damage to the Park. CCTV will be in operation. Consideration is also being given to whether the Rosebean Cafe should close. It is anticipated that there could be up to 5,000 people in the Park.

G Scott pointed out that the planned road closures will affect the Donaldson area.

13.4 P Gregson reported that community bodies can no longer apply to Sustrans for funding. He has written to the Council to ask them to apply in respect of the feasibility study for cycling-related interventions in the Park.

13.5 A Anderson pointed out that the grass in the Tranquillity Garden needs cutting. **J McDonough undertook to deal with this.**

14. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported as follows:-

14.1 The opening balance on 1 April 2024 was £1,770.11. MCC had no income during April 2024. Expenditure included Saughtonhall leaflet printing of £105; hall hire for March 2024 of £35.00; hosting charges for the new website of £173.27; and Zurich Insurance renewal premium of £84.00, giving total expenditure of £397.27. The closing balance at 30 April 2024 was £1,372.84

14.2 Possible micro projects include plaques to commemorate John Lennon, Ian Richardson and Tom Fleming.

15. Social Engagement

J McDonough reported that Struan Cunningham is helping FoRP with social media engagement and is keen to volunteer with other organisations. He plans to introduce S Cunningham to D Dawson.

The Chair expressed the view that MCC's support for the Ellersly/Kinellan traffic calming campaign continues to be the best evidence of MCC's social engagement.

16. Any Other Business

16.1 D Dawson was sorry to report that, in spite of a community effort to water them, only 10% of the trees which were planted a year ago along the Water of Leith near Riversdale Crescent and Baird Drive had survived. The surviving trees are doing well.

**Cllr Davidson undertook to look into having the redundant tree supports removed.**

16.2 The Chair reported that he had been interviewed by consultants from Jacobs working on a review of supported bus services. They are looking at diverting the eastern end of the number 13 bus service from Lochend to Dumbiedykes. He had urged that the service should be more frequent, run in the evenings and on Sundays and extend beyond the Craigleith Retail Park to Cramond. He had suggested that the National Galleries might provide financial support.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 25 June 2024

Subsequent meetings: 27 August, 22 October and 10 December 2024.

Minutes approved at meeting of 25 June 2024.