

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Tuesday, 13 May 2025 at 7pm
in Saughtonhall Community Association's Recreation Hall
Chair: John Yellowlees

Present: J Bishop, J Brown, R Brown, J Cunliffe, D Dawson, J Lamb, J McDonough, D MacLennan, E Robertson, H Ross, M Rumney, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal,
In attendance: 4 members of the public,
Apologies: B Knowles, S Macpherson, E Robertson, G Scott, Cllr Fiona Bennett, Cllr Euan Davidson, Cllr Margaret Graham, Cllr Finlay MacFarlane, 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 and Apologies
Apologies were received as above. The Chair welcomed Bev Donald representing the Donaldson Community Association ("DCA") in the absence of Gill Scott.
2. Order of Business
This was approved. Following completion of the election process in March the office bearers had been elected at the previous meeting on 8 April 2025.
3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 21 May 2024
The Minutes of the AGM held on 21 May 2024 were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: D Dawson.
4. Chair's Report
The Chair relayed his report (attached). J McDonough asked whether the Report fully reflected the highs and lows of the previous 12 months. No one had anything to add. D Dawson thanked Saughtonhall Community Association ("SCA") for hosting this meeting and said that it was good to engage with members of the public in parts of the MCC area other than Murrayfield.
5. Treasurer's Report
The Treasurer had submitted the audited Accounts for 2024-2025 (attached). In reply to a question from J Lamb the Treasurer confirmed that MCC is entitled to keep the current surplus of £189.45. He confirmed to H Ross that the annual administrative grant from the City Council amounts to £842. The Chair mentioned that there are no plans currently to erect further commemorative plaques. The Treasurer thought that funding for any further plaques should be sought from the North West Neighbourhood Network ("NWNN") rather than taken from the administrative grant.
6. Engagement and Inclusion Report

The Engagement and Inclusion Officer relayed a report (attached). He stated that he was establishing a baseline from which to gauge progress over the next year. He highlighted two points:-

- (1) It was not obvious to others how much time MCC members, such as D Dawson and J Yellowlees, spend attending other meetings with, e.g. Scottish Rugby and NWNN;
- (2) He could think of at least two cases where a group of neighbours had collected large amounts of data themselves, e.g. in relation to the Murrayfield Avenue bin hub.

The meeting discussed how to make meetings more inclusive. One difficulty was that they usually had to be held in the evenings. Seating should be arranged so that all can hear. J Mc Donough reminded the meeting that the City Council has set aside funds for microphones and video equipment to facilitate hybrid meetings to improve accessibility and inclusivity. Both SCA and MCC have access to the equipment, but perhaps not the software, needed for such meetings. H Ross pointed out that training on how to use such equipment and software would also be needed. J Bishop reported that the Community Council induction training, which the City Council had provided and which he and J Lamb had attended, had highlighted that there are funds available to support local community work. J McDonaugh said that applications could also be made to the NWNN Grants Fund. The Chair remarked that the meetings of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils demonstrate how Community Councils vary across the city and that there is apathy in some areas. Cllr Beal mentioned that the EACC is a forum for sharing experience. J Bishop mentioned the difficulties which the newly formed Corstorphine Community Council is experiencing in getting started. It was agreed that MCC could provide some advice and guidance and perhaps invite members to an MCC meeting. D Dawson reported that the group who have been looking at engagement and inclusion have had some success. The group running the Balgreen Tunnel project has engaged with MCC. Noticeboards and social media also help with engagement.

7. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

8. Date of next AGM

19 May 2026

The Chair closed the Annual General Meeting.

Minutes approved at AGM on 19 May 2026

Murrayfield Community Council Annual General Meeting
13 May 2025, Saughtonhall Community Association Hall

CHAIR'S REPORT

2024 was for many in Murrayfield the year of Taylor Swift, and for three nights in June did we rock! Improved relations between Scottish Rugby and our community meant that things passed off with very few problems, and we can be proud of the welcome that Murrayfield gave to the fans.

Whilst Scottish Rugby are working hard at being good, responsible neighbours when it comes to SG Murrayfield games and events, residents of Riversdale, Baird and Saughtonhall are still experiencing traffic, parking and noise issues with Edinburgh Rugby's games at the Hive. We are also keeping an eye on events at the Icerink following some late-evening noise last year.

Headline stories during the final year of Jim Forbes's tenure as our Planning Convenor were the demolition of 37 Corstorphine Road and of Rosebery House. A gate at Easter Belmont Road was on hold pending consideration of its impact on access by people out for a stroll. We held firm against getting involved in a neighbourhood dispute at 21 Murrayfield Avenue, but expressed concern over procedures on a House of Multiple Occupation proposal at The Lodge. New challenges on the horizon included St George's intention to redevelop Lansdowne House, but it was to our ongoing delight that no more was heard about the threat to our little lochan behind Kinellan Road.

The Christmas celebrations led by Heather Raeburn with Jim McDonagh at the Old Colt Bridge seem to get better each year! We observed with satisfaction the constructive dialogue between Blinkbonny residents and the City Council over traffic-calming at the Craighleith tunnel, and a new group looked forward to similar progress at Ellersly Road. Our other tunnel at Balgreen received a start on the long-awaited mural. We saw the opening of a new active travel route just outside our area towards the Union Canal, but expressed concern that traffic proposals for Dalry might simply export the congestion onto the A8. We awaited a consultation on a tramline along the Roseburn Railway Path, but a more immediate concern there and in Roseburn Park was the menace of balaclava-wearing motor cycle-riders. A perceived rise in local crime was met with a Coffee with a Cop session, but a rerun of a workshop on home security went awry. Pigeon poo at Roseburn House remained perhaps our most intractable local issue.

We forewent hustings for last July's general election because locally there seemed little point, and congratulated Christine Jardine MP on her return to Westminster. At our own recent election we bade farewell to several well known faces. Jim Forbes has given eminent service as our Vice-Chair and Planning Convenor during which he unerringly drew a distinction between on the one hand issues of principle that ought properly to concern us and on the other local matters that should be left to neighbours. Norma Macdonald represented Murrayfield churches in a suitably ecumenical manner. Ann Anderson kept a careful eye on local traffic issues and on implementation of the CCWEL. Pete Gregson came to us with a firm reputation as an achiever at the Friends of Roseburn Park and I am glad that he will continue to apply his energies there. Noah Munro was our youngest member, and we wish him well for his future studies.

Jim McDonagh becomes our Vice-Chair, continuing as Treasurer. Rosanne Brown continues in the ever-vital role of Minutes Secretary, David MacLennan as Licensing Convenor, and also continuing in membership are Liz Robertson and Dave Dawson, while Gill Scott, Barbara Knowles and Moray Rumney will continue as our representatives from the Donaldson Community Association, the Friends of Roseburn Park and the Saughtonhall Residents Association. We welcome new members Juliet Brown, John Bishop and John Lamb, and are delighted to have Hamish Ross rejoining us as our new Engagement & Inclusion Officer - we are already grateful to him for having designed and developed our new MCC website. Finally, Jocelyn Cunliffe has kindly agreed to be co-opted as our new Planning Convenor. Our thanks are due to our City Councillors, particularly Alan Beal and Euan Davidson whom we seek to support in their mission to get things done on our community's behalf.

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

REPORT ON ACCOUNTS 2024 - 2025

1 Income

Our sole income in the year 2024 - 25 was the annual administrative grant from the City of Edinburgh Council.

2 Major Projects - Website Redesign & Migration

In 2023/24 MCC's website hosting provider intimated that they were closing down their business and that MCC would need to consider an alternative hosting platform from 1/4/24. In order to better promote the Community Council and to keep local area residents better informed on issues, events and activities, MCC redesigned its Website and migrated to a new website hosting provider.

3 Operational Expenditure

Murrayfield Community Council meetings in the period April 2024 - March 2025 were run in person at Murrayfield Parish Church with others, during the winter months, remaining online using the Zoom platform. Our cost for hosting meetings is therefore a combination of hall hire charges and Zoom licence fees. Other operational expense items included Public Liability insurance premiums, photocopying & printing, noticeboard supplies and webhosting support.

4 Discretionary Expenditure

During the period, MCC incurred no expenditure associated with its programme of micro projects (local projects costing less than £150) and no hospitality related expenses were incurred.

5 Bank Service Charges

During the period, MCC's bankers (Bank of Scotland) advised that a monthly Account Maintenance Fee (£4.25) and transaction charges (£0.50 per item) would be applied from Feb 2025.

6 Murrayfield Community Council has no paid employees or fixed assets. Council members do not receive remuneration for work carried out. The balance sheet consists, therefore, solely of the money we hold in our bank account.

7 Murrayfield Community Council produced £189.85 surplus of income over expenditure during the period April 2024 to March 2025



Jim McDonough
Treasurer
16th April 2025

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
REPORT ON ACCOUNTS 2024 - 2025
STATEMENT OF BALANCE at 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening Balance	1,770.11	1,822.93
less uncleared cheques	----	----
	1,770.11	1,822.93
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	189.85	(52.82)
	1,959.96	1,770.11
Closing Balance	1,959.96	1,770.11
less uncleared cheques	----	----
	1,959.96	1,770.11
Represented by:		
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account	1,959.96	1,770.11

I have examined the Records of the Treasurer in respect of the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025 and found them to be correct.



Independent Examiner Neil M. Davidson M.C.I.B.S
Date: 16/4/25

**MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
REPORT ON ACCOUNTS 2024 - 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
INCOME		
City of Edinburgh Community Council Grant ¹	842.70	692.70
City of Edinburgh Western Neighbourhood Network Grant ¹	----	964.00
	<u>842.70</u>	<u>1,656.70</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Supply, Installation & Refurb of Noticeboards at Saughtonhall Ave & Western Corner	----	993.76
Website Hosting & Support ²	173.27	40.00
Hall Rental (In Person Meetings) ³	210.00	105.00
Zoom Licence Fees (Virtual Meetings) ³	31.18	46.77
Photocopying & Printing ³	149.65	100.00
Insurance Premium (Public Liability) ³	84.00	84.00
Treasurer's Expenses	----	----
Hospitality ⁴	----	225.00
Micro Projects ⁴	----	114.99
Bank Service Charges ⁵	4.75	----
	<u>652.85</u>	<u>1,709.52</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year to 31st March 2024⁷	<u>189.85</u>	<u>(52.82)</u>

Murrayfield Community Council Engagement and Inclusion Report – 13 May 2025

Engagement

Meetings

- We held 8 meetings in 2024, either in-person or on-line.
- We held meetings at Murrayfield Parish Church Centre and at the Saughtonhall Community Association Hall, one of which was advertised by a leaflet drop and was well attended.
- Meetings are public for reasons of openness and transparency. We tend to regard them as a significant form of engagement. (This has implications for inclusion, below).
- We facilitated a Home & Garden Security Workshop with our Community Police Team. This was not well attended and a more focused and local approach is being considered. We routinely facilitate and attend meetings between neighbours and City Council officials over local issues.
- We attend meetings and liaise with other local community groups and initiatives, such as with Scottish Rugby and our own Local Interest Groups, and relevant City-wide groups such as the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.

Broadcasting

- We have posted on our three noticeboards, including Highlights of meetings, and have had these Highlights published in the Murrayfield Grapevine.
- We have updated the design of [our website](#)¹ and post there and on Facebook, including in support of other forms of local engagement such as “Coffee with a Cop” and relevant City Council consultations, as well as news arising from our meetings.
- We actively supported the promotion of the recent CC Elections (attending public engagement days, and running website, Facebook, and email-based campaigns, as well as using supplied poster and fliers). We liaise with and attend meetings of other local groups.
- We could extend to other social media platforms and be more engaged in commenting on comments. We have yet to design a formal means of incorporating social media discussion into meeting agendas, perhaps because it is unclear what significance to attach to it.

Community Survey

- We have opened a [standing short-survey](#)² on our website, partly as an indicator of reach (geographical and numerical) and partly as a relatively anonymous way of reporting issues.
- We have taken an interest in neighbours organizing their own formal and informal petitions. Evidence of the existence and quality of such surveys might be a precondition of the

1 <https://murrayfieldcc.org.uk/>

2 <https://forms.gle/H7spMzp8N8kzMm5h8>

Community Council taking more declared positions on behalf of constituents than we tend to at present.

Email

- We have an email list of about 90 people who receive various types of communication. It should be an objective in 2025 to significantly expand this with a view to also sending newsletters/bulletins. The aim is to build an audience that might eventually be asked for their views on specific issues.

Strategy and Measurement

- A small working group has been considering engagement in the run up to the Community Council elections. We are not attempting to measure engagement at this time.

Inclusion

The Community

- The population of the Murrayfield CC constituency is approximately 10,000. I have asked the City Council where census summaries for this boundary can be obtained. Assessment of our inclusiveness is difficult without such information.

Community Council Members

After the 2025 election process:

- We have members covering much of the geography of the constituency, with the exception of Craighleith, but with a continuing preponderance of members from Murrayfield, *per se*. Local interest groups also cover Donaldson Area, Saughtonhall and Roseburn (Park).
- Data on other characteristics of CC members are not collected.

Meetings

Inclusive meetings are difficult to hold. Although we have held meetings in more than one venue, and online, we would struggle to hold them at different times. There have been requests to join in-person meetings remotely, which have not been possible to accommodate.

It may help to avoid using “presence” at Ordinary business meetings as a default means of engagement. We could also:

- pre-advertise and ask those unable to attend to email questions/issues
- then set the agenda
- feed back

A common observation at in-person meetings is difficulty in hearing:

- This might be addressed by amplification.
- But perhaps greater attention to who sits where would make a difference.