

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 2 September 2025 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: J Bishop, J Brown, R Brown, J Cunliffe, J Lamb, J McDonaugh,
D MacLennan, E Robertson, H Ross, M Rumney, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal,
In attendance: 10 members of the public,
Apologies: D Dawson, B Knowles, S Macpherson, G Scott, Cllr Fiona Bennett,
Cllr Euan Davidson, 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 and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. In Gill Scott's absence the Chair welcomed Janice Anderson and Richard and Jacqueline Atkinson from the Donaldson Community Association ("DCA").

Alison Johnstone, MSP has announced her intention to stand down as a Member of the Scottish Parliament at next year's election.

2. Matters Arising

The Chair gave notice of a re-scheduled talk on home security to be given by PC Sam Campbell in Saughtonhall Community Association's Rec Hall on Tuesday, 9 September at 8pm.

3. Outcome of Oasis and AC/DC concerts at Scottish Gas Murrayfield ("SGM")

3.1 The Chair understood from a Sun journalist, who had contacted MCC for comment, that of the four concerts the third Oasis concert had caused the most problems for local residents.

A number of those present spoke to their experience of the concerts. It was agreed that overall they had been well managed but there was room for improvement in a number respects:-

1. Portaloos – there needed to be more portaloos and their locations needed to be clearly signposted;
2. Bins – more bins were needed;
3. The post-concert clean up in Roseburn Park needed to be as good as the clean up on the main road and quieter.

J Anderson reported that DCA had contacted the Council before the concerts to ascertain the grounds on which Scottish Rugby's licence, which permits up to 12 events per year in addition to the usual rugby matches, had been granted. She had been told that the Licensing Committee relied on a report from the Public Safety Team in making their decision. There is a Memorandum of Agreement between the Council and Scottish Rugby which deals with the way

in which Scottish Rugby operate the licence. The multi-agency Safety Advisory Group also feeds into the process.

In answer to a question from J Anderson J Mc Donagh confirmed that he was aware of the Public Safety Team and the Safety Advisory Group but not the Memorandum. He would try to get a copy. He attends the regular meetings between Scottish Rugby and local residents in his capacity as Chair of the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP").

Cllr Beal agreed with the Chair that income from the tourist tax, which is due to be introduced in 2027, could be used to provide additional toilets across the city.

J Anderson said she had drafted an email to the Council and agreed to copy it to MCC.

H Ross confirmed that the email which MCC had received from the optometrist on Roseburn Terrace, complaining about the behaviour of some of the Oasis fans, had also been sent to the Council. In general, incoming emails are not forwarded to the City Councillors but where appropriate the sender is advised to contact them.

It was agreed that **the residents' database operated by Scottish Rugby** should be more widely advertised and **MCC should advertise its existence on its noticeboards.**

There was some confusion as to whether someone from the Council had advised the Roseburn shopkeepers to close early on the days of the concerts to avoid trouble from fans.

A member of the public who had recently moved to Roseburn asked if the Council received feedback from local residents after the events at SGM and offered to conduct a residents' survey for this purpose.

3.2 The Chair detailed the following rugby matches to be held at SGM in the autumn:-

1 November	USA	16 November	Argentina
8 November	New Zealand	23 November	Tonga.

In the absence of any progress on the concerns over the events held at the Hive stadium, H Ross reminded the meeting that representatives of Edinburgh Rugby had attended the last MCC meeting, were aware of these concerns and had promised a response.

4. Traffic and Transport

4.1 Scottish Water upgrading of Combined Sewer Outflow on A8 – The Chair complained that Carlyn Fraser, the Council's Citywide Road Co-ordination Manager, had promised a written report on progress, her colleagues had then said she would attend the meeting, but she had not in fact turned up. He felt that this was unsatisfactory. It was agreed that the disruption caused by the works had not been as bad as feared, partly because drivers were seeking alternative routes, but that progress appeared to be glacial.

Cllr Beal said he was meeting the Council's Transport team the following day and **undertook to ask whether the Scottish Water works were on schedule to be completed before the first autumn test on 1 November.**

J Cunliffe suggested that the phasing of the traffic lights needs to be adjusted, as the current phasing results in eastbound traffic backing up on the single

carriageway section between the lights and westbound traffic being unable to proceed when the lights change in its favour.

4.2 Disregard of signs – J Cunliffe reported that the “No Right Turn” into Murrayfield Gardens and the “No left Turn” out of Roseburn Gardens are both regularly ignored. H Ross confirmed that MCC would continue to pursue these issues.

4.3 Ellersly/Kinellan road safety measures – The Chair reported that he and J Bishop had attended the recent online meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network. J Bishop reported that the resurfacing of Ellersly Road is due to be started on 12 January 2026. The Council has undertaken to improve the pavements and confirmation on an uncontrolled crossing between Murrayfield Road and Kinellan Road is awaited. A Ground Penetration Radar survey has disclosed utilities in the way of pavement widening and a solution is being considered by the Council.

4.4 Community SpeedWatch – J Bishop confirmed that a Road Safety Group has been formed and will bring proposals on a broader approach to enforcement of the 20 mph speed limit and driver behaviour to MCC’s October meeting. He encouraged those present to notify MCC of their road safety concerns via MCC’s website.

4.5 Tram Line 2 consultation – **H Ross** reported that he had attended the public information session at Blackhall Primary School and found it useful. It was easier to see what was proposed on the plans and designs which had been printed out and displayed, than on the Council’s website. He recommended attendance at one of the other **public sessions** and **undertook to circulate details of these**. He encouraged individual responses to the consultation. He added that MCC should make a collective response even though members were not unanimous in their views; because, for example, the capacity of the Roseburn Path for cyclists and pedestrians was already an issue and would still be, in different ways, if there was a tramline, a distant-future tramline, or no tramline.

Lorna Hudson asked whether, as the Roseburn Path is on the boundary between the MCC and Blackhall Community Council (“BCC”) areas, MCC should be liaising with BCC.

Cllr Beal said that he had requested that a public session be held in the Murrayfield/Corstorphine Ward.

5. Councillor’s report

Cllr Beal reported as follows:-

5.1 He had received a handful of complaints about the Oasis concerts but none about AC/DC.

5.2 He urged individuals to participate in the Tram Line 2 consultation. He questioned how the business case and construction of the line itself are to be funded.

5.3 Craigleith Drive tunnel – Work on the safety improvements to the tunnel should be finished by the end of the current financial year. L Hudson thanked Cllr Beal for his support on this project.

5.4 Balgreen Road triangle – It was difficult to stop people from parking here. He had raised the issue with the Road Safety team.

5.5 He would be meeting the Transport team the following day. **H Ross undertook to send him a list of all the road safety issues which have been raised with MCC.**

The meeting discussed the Council's policy of no longer using glyphosates to control weeds. Cllr Beal agreed that weed control by hand was much more labour intensive and, in practice, impossible for the small team.

J Cunliffe highlighted the unsightly vegetation at Coates Crescent and Atholl Crescent between the gardens and the tramline.

J Anderson reported that DCA have formed a weeding group who get together regularly to clear weeds from their area. The Council has provided equipment, takes the rubbish away and has sent personnel to help on one occasion.

6. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 24 June 2025 and Matters Arising

6.1 Ice Arena – The Chair was keen to take up the invitation to visit the Ice Arena in the autumn and saw this as an opportunity to remind the Arena's management about the need for better stewarding in Roseburn Park when events are held at the Arena.

6.2 Balgreen Tunnel- Elma McLean had provided the following update by email:-

The mural is proceeding apace and should cover most of the tunnel by mid-September. The project group is looking for funding and donations to cover the cost of upkeep. Someone (known to the artist) prefers the previous tagging and added graffiti to this effect over the flowers at the entrance to the tunnel. The graffiti has been removed. The group has had amazing feedback from everyone (apart from one person).

6.3 Saughtonhall Community Association's Rec Hall – J McDonaugh confirmed that the Council's offer of funding for the redevelopment of the Hall has been confirmed in writing and accepted.

M Rumney reported that Saughtonhall Community Association ("SCA") is now registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This new status confers limited liability and brings enhanced funding opportunities. He confirmed that SCA's application for planning permission for the redevelopment of the Hall was submitted on 27 August 2025.

6.4 The Chair reminded the meeting that Scottish Rugby is marking its centenary year by offering funding for community projects. H Ross confirmed that an MCC sub-group of D MacLennan, S Macpherson and himself had been formed to come up with ideas to access this funding.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: H Ross.

7. Police Report

The Chair advised that PC Michael Bent has returned to work after his injury but is currently confined to the office. He is, however, keen to meet the Chair for a catch up.

The Police report is annexed to these Minutes and will be available on MCC's website.

Advice leaflets on property security and security of garden sheds and garages had been provided and are on MCC's website.

8. Planning Report

J Cunliffe reported that since the last MCC meeting there had been only minor domestic planning applications and applications relating to tree works. She had received notice of SCA's planning application (ref. 25/04425/FUL) which was open for comment until 14 September. MCC would not be commenting.

9. Licensing Report

D MacLennan said that he had received no notice of licensing applications since April and had nothing to report. H Ross had investigated and ascertained that the system for licensing differs from that for planning. In the case of licensing applications MCC and the local City Councillors only receive notice of annual requests and renewals, but a lot of licensing applications are for temporary licences. MCC should look out for renewals of any temporary licences which have caused problems.

D MacLennan pointed out that Scottish Rugby run SGM, not under the Public Entertainment Licence procedures, but entirely under the Liquor Licensing regime. Scottish Rugby applies to tweak the licence from time to time. Applications to do so are difficult to spot.

He reminded the meeting that the Council is in breach of its legal obligation to publish full liquor licensing information.

In reply to a question from the Chair about the Japanese restaurant/hotel on Hampton Terrace, D MacLennan said that double glazed window units are being installed. The hearing for renewal of the HMO licence has been postponed.

J Anderson said DCA had asked the Council about the alcohol licence for these premises and questioned whether it was appropriate for premises where homeless people are housed to have an alcohol licence.

H Ross said that MCC should receive notice of any application to renew that licence.

10. Engagement and Inclusion Report

At the end of the last meeting H Ross had asked whether attendees had been able to hear those who had spoken. He had discussed the issue of audibility with a friend who had experience of meetings in a University setting. He had been told that when a person starts speaking, the volume is appropriate to presentation but gradually reduces to conversation level. Suggestions were made that a microphone could be passed round, the person speaking could be asked to come forward rather than staying seated and more meetings could be held on Zoom.

J McDonough congratulated H Ross on the quality of MCC's website and newsletter and his email inviting attendance at MCC meetings.

11. Friends of Roseburn Park update

In B Knowles's absence J McDonough presented her report as follows:-

11.1 We have had an exceptionally dry summer.

11.2 The cricket season has now finished. The first game of rugby is scheduled for 30 August (dependant on the state of pitches).

11.3 The Pavilion has been painted both inside and outside.

11.4 Concerts at SGM passed largely without issue. An additional litter

picking session was needed after Tuesday night's OASIS concert as there was still a considerable amount of litter and debris on both sides of the Park. A lot of rubbish was also thrown over the fence onto the river embankment. This has now been cleared by members of the Park Taskforce.

11.5 Watering of planters and trees has been carried out on an *ad hoc* basis.

11.6 Two of the planters need to be replaced due to poor condition of the wood. Two replacements and two additional planters have been purchased.

H Ross made the point that MCC has representatives from three local interest groups – DCA, SCA and FoRP. This item on the Agenda should, therefore, be “Local Interest Groups” and each group should have the opportunity to report. This was agreed.

12. Treasurer's Report

J McDonough reported as follows:-

June 2025

June Opening Balance £1,793.21

No income received

Expenditure of £66.25 (Hall hire charges £60.00 and bank charges of £6.25)

June 2025 Closing Balance £1,726.96

July 2025

July Opening Balance £1,726.96

No income received

Expenditure of £4.75 (bank charges)

July 2025 Closing Balance £1,722.21

Expected Expenditure for August 2025

£10.79 for MCC Domain annual renewal

£4.75 bank charges

At the last meeting he had been asked to look into changing MCC's bank account to a different bank which did not impose a monthly charge. He had decided against this, as most of the banks have now impose such a charge and the hassle involved in changing banks is too great. This decision was accepted and his offer to pay the bank charges himself, if this decision did not meet with approval, was rejected.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Community Wealth Building – J McDonough reported that he had attended the recent online consultation for Community Councils hosted by the Council. 16 Community Councils had been represented. Community Wealth Building is a Scottish Government policy adopted by Councils across Scotland. The consultation focussed on vision rather than practical actions and discussed the Council's procuring goods and services locally, paying the Living Wage, persuading more local businesses to do the same and retaining more income from local events within Edinburgh.

The Chair expressed the view that prompt payment of bills is also important.

In reply to a question from H Ross about the policy's relevance to Community Councils, J McDonaugh explained that the Council hoped Community Councils would help in creating micro wealth.

A member of the public, who works at Napier University, said he believed there were to be similar meetings between the Council and the universities.

13.2 In reply to a question from a member of the public about the future of the Hampton Hotel, J McDonaugh reported that the Hotel has been bought by the GI group, which owns the Scotsman Hotel, and will eventually be combined with the house next door. In the meantime it will be rented out for two years.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

Subsequent meetings: 2 December 2025 **on Zoom**.

Minutes approved at meeting of 14 October 2025.

for approval

POLICE REPORT
24 June - 2 September 2025

- 4 x Attempted theft housebreakings
 - 10 x Theft housebreakings
 - 5 x vehicle stolen
 - 1 x Vehicle registration stolen
 - 1 x Attempted Theft from within vehicle
 - 1 x Theft from within vehicle
 - 1 x Vehicle recovered
 - 1 x Theft of pedal cycle
 - Several calls were received in relation to youths wearing balaclavas on Suron Bikes causing anti-social behaviour around the following areas (which we do continue to tackle):-
 - Roseburn Park
 - Roseburn Street
 - West Coates
- During one incident, a member of the public confronted youths who pulled out a knife and threatened the member of the public.

Murrayfield Community Council

Engagement Report for meeting of **02 Sept 2025**

Liaison

- 29-07-2025: Scottish Rugby Local Residents Meeting (re concerts)
- 28-08-2025: Community Wealth Building Meeting
- 01-09-2025: Western Neighbourhood Network Meeting

Consultation Response

- 01-07-2025: Scottish Water – Tell Us What You Think (generic)
- 07-08-2025: Edin. Assoc. Comm. Councils – Survey
- 10-08-2025: Survey seeking community councillor views on Community Council elections
- 20-08-2025: Survey on future shape of Community Grants Fund

Newsletter Circulation

- 10-07-2025 Newsletter: 72
 - 25-08-2025 Agenda: 89
- (~ 35 of the above have transferred from our previous circulation list)

New website/email contact from individuals since last meeting

- another concern about parking at bottom of Murrayfield Gardens
- request to advertise Firework Control Zone (FCZ) consultation and concern about limited extent of proposed FCZ in the area
- concern about adequacy of Craighleith Tunnel proposed works
- request to discuss and respond to Community Payback Consultation 2025
- thanks to all concerned in Balgreen Tunnel Project
- concern about behaviour and communication around Oasis concerts (x 2)
- Balgreen Tunnel Update
- request for info re taxi/minibus concert drop-off area

Website anonymous survey responses since the last meeting

- Unspecified interest in Craighleith tunnel
- Unspecified interest Balgreen tunnel
- Lack of access for emergency services to Western Gardens due to cars parked on roads resulting in Emergency Ambulance access problem to take resident to Royal Infirmary

Facebook commentary topics

- Illegal parking in/around Roseburn Park for Ice Arena boxing event
- Further discussion about pavement parking Roseburn Place/Street
- On-going improvement to, and defacement of, Balgreen tunnel
- Concert drone and kite restrictions
- Roseburn Path tram consultation

Website page views (26 July – 22 August)

- 1152

Facebook Data (28 days to 22 August)

- Followers: 318 (total)
- Views: 5883
- Post reach: 1758
- Post engagement: 455
- Reactions: 51

Murrayfield Community Council

Treasurer's Monthly Report

June 2025

OPENING BALANCE	01 June 2025	£1,793.21
Income		
	Total Receipts	£0.00
Expenditure		
MPC Hall Hire April & June 2025	09/06/2025	£60.00
Bank Charges 10th May - 9th June 2025	23/06/2025	£6.25
	Total Expense	£66.25
CLOSING BALANCE	30 June 2025	£1,726.96

Bank charges are £4.25 monthly fee and £0.50 per transaction

Murrayfield Community Council
2025-26 Year To Date Treasurer's Report

June 2025

Opening Balance at 1st April 2025			£1,959.96
	Income	Expenditure	
April	0.00	158.25	1,801.71
May	0.00	8.50	1,793.21
June	0.00	66.25	1,726.96
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
January			
February			
March			
	0.00	233.00	1,726.96
Surplus/(Deficit) YTD	-233.00		
Closing Balance at 30 June 2025			1,726.96

Murrayfield Community Council

Treasurer's Monthly Report

July 2025

OPENING BALANCE	01 July 2025	£1,726.96
Income		
	Total Receipts	£0.00
Expenditure		
Bank Charges 10th June - 9th July 2025	22/07/2025	£4.75
	Total Expense	£4.75
CLOSING BALANCE	31 July 2025	£1,722.21

Bank charges are £4.25 monthly fee and £0.50 per transaction

Murrayfield Community Council
2025-26 Year To Date Treasurer's Report

July 2025

Opening Balance at 1st April 2025			£1,959.96
	Income	Expenditure	
April	0.00	158.25	1,801.71
May	0.00	8.50	1,793.21
June	0.00	66.25	1,726.96
July	0.00	4.75	1,722.21
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
January			
February			
March			
	0.00	237.75	1,722.21
Surplus/(Deficit) YTD	-237.75		
Closing Balance at 31 July 2025			1,722.21