

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 7.30pm by Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, D Dawson, J Forbes, P Gregson,
B Knowles, N Macdonald, J McDonough, D MacLennan,
S Macpherson, E Robertson, G Scott, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Euan Davidson,
In attendance: 10 members of the public,
Apologies: Noah Munro, Cllr Fiona Bennett, Cllr Margaret Graham, Cllr
Finlay McFarlane, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Jeremy
Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Foyso
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 those in attendance to the last meeting of the current Murrayfield Community Council. He intimated that J Forbes, A Anderson and P Gregson had decided not to stand for re-election. He thanked them for their significant contributions to the work of MCC and invited them to keep in touch. The Chair advised that N Munro had also intimated that he would not be standing. He held the distinction of possibly being the youngest ever member of a Community Council in Edinburgh, a fact which would enhance his CV.

2. Matters arising

2.1 J McDonough confirmed that he and R Brown had attended the civic reception on 24 February to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of Community Councils in Edinburgh. The Lord Provost had spoken of the useful work carried out by Community Councils and two Community Councillors had described their experience and detailed a number of successful outcomes. In relation to the forthcoming elections reference had been made to the difficulties faced by Community Councils in attracting volunteers. J McDonough understood that, with only 48 hours to go before the nomination period for candidates closed, only 19 out of the 47 Community Councils had reached the threshold for nominations. MCC was among the 19.

2.2 **The Chair** reported that Murrayfield Ice Arena is holding another FLY warehouse event on 17 and 18 May. It was agreed that he **should remind the Arena of MCC's concern that the event be properly stewarded** to avoid a repeat of the rowdy behaviour of some departing fans which had occurred last year.

2.3 The Chair reported that:-

2.3.1 a local resident had reported an issue with pavement parking at the junction of Roseburn Street with Roseburn Place to the Council. She had been told that, although there are Give Way signs, these marking are 'advisory' and the Council is unable to do anything constructive.

Cllr Beal explained that the new carriageway platform there is neither a road nor a pavement and, therefore, not covered by current regulations. He

undertook to speak to his transport colleagues with a view to investigating the status of these new paved areas and perhaps putting down a motion to make parking on them illegal.

2.3.2 the pavement parking ban has meant that at Western Gardens residents are now parking on both sides of the street, leaving insufficient space on the street for emergency vehicles to get through.

Cllr Beal stated that the same problem exists in Belmont Gardens. He had succeeded in getting through a motion to make putting down emergency yellow lines easier.

2.3.3 a current Scottish Government consultation seeks views on whether to reduce the national speed limit on single carriageway roads to 50mph and increase the speed limit for goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageways to 50mph and dual carriageways to 60mph. The Chair commented that this consultation, although of no direct relevance to MCC, demonstrates the importance of speed limits in national transport policy.

3. Community Council elections and succession planning

The Chair reminded the meeting that on conclusion of the election process the Returning Officer, Cllr Davidson, would chair the next meeting and oversee the appointment of office bearers. The Chair asked whether a private meeting before then to discuss succession planning would be constructive. It was agreed that he and J McDonough would meet privately to consider how best to fill the vacancy in planning expertise caused by J Forbes's resignation. J McDonough pointed out that this role required specific skills but could be filled by an elected representative, a nominated representative of a Special Interest Group or someone co-opted to fulfil this particular role. He asked those present to contact MCC if they knew of a suitable candidate.

J Forbes confirmed his offer to assist his successor in settling into the role.

4. Scottish Rugby – Six Nations matches and concerts (now including AC/DC)

4.1 D Dawson reported that he had attended the last meeting with Scottish Rugby. He took the fact that only seven residents had attended as a sign that the local residents are now familiar, and generally happy, with the arrangements for events at the Stadium.

In January Graham Law had promised to arrange a meeting between Edinburgh Rugby and D Dawson to discuss parking arrangements for events at the Hive stadium, but this had not yet happened.

J McDonough reported that, in his capacity as a representative of Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP"), he attends the meetings with Scottish Rugby. Because two of the forthcoming concerts will take place during the Festival and place extra pressure on public transport, he had submitted a request for additional bus services.

4.2 The Chair intimated that 12 March is the centenary of the Murrayfield Stadium. **D Dawson** confirmed that there is to be an event involving local schools and he wondered whether MCC might want to send a representative. **He undertook to ask this question by email once he received details of the event.**

4.3 A local resident requested that consideration be given to enforcing the parking restrictions in favour of residents which apply during the week, but

which do not usually apply on the days when matches and concerts are held at the Stadium. On such days the absence of restrictions means that parking near their homes is extremely difficult for residents.

J McDonough suggested that this is a matter for the Council and not Scottish Rugby.

Cllr Davidson asked the resident to email him with her specific concerns and undertook to take them up with the Council's parking team and also look at a recent report on event parking.

5. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14 January 2025 and Actions Arising

5.1 The Chair reported that the behaviour of Rangers fans before the match against Manchester United on 20 July 2024 had been investigated and a multi-agency debrief undertaken.

5.2 Bins left on Henderland Road – E Robertson confirmed that these bins, which belong to houses on Murrayfield Avenue, continue to cause a nuisance but it seemed little could be done about them. S Macpherson suggested that communal bins would solve this problem and would be a cost effective solution for the Council.

5.3 The Chair had been contacted by a resident of Coltbridge Avenue who was still waiting for the communal bins there to be relocated from outside her house. Cllr Davidson confirmed that he was still trying to get this actioned.

5.4 Yellow lines on cul de sac in Roseburn Street – Cllr Beal confirmed that he was still pursuing this.

5.5 Balgreen Road traffic bollards – Cllr Davidson has asked traffic officers to investigate how further collisions can be prevented.

5.6 Balgreen Road trees – Cllr Davidson reported that the contract is out to tender and a new contractor should be appointed by the summer.

5.7 Salt box in Murrayfield Place – N Macdonald reported that the salt box had still not been replaced. **The Chair undertook to report this request online.** The Minutes were approved. Prop: J McDonough, Sec: D Dawson.

6. Councillors' reports

Cllr Beal reported as follows:-

6.1 Parking at corners where there are no yellow lines is legal.

6.2 Shared use signage on Russell Road – He understood that this was to be done and would chase this. Cllr Davidson said that he had received a different response from a Council officer. **Cllrs Beal and Davidson would compare notes.**

6.3 Tap in Roseburn Park – there had been little progress.

6.4 "No Right Turn" at Murrayfield Gardens – this still needs to be reinforced.

6.5 Dalry Living Well Locally – The Chair added he had referred this consultation to an academic who is studying the impact of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods on urban equity and inclusivity.

Cllr Davidson reported as follows:-

6.6 Parking at St George's School – he **would inquire whether Cllr Bennett had made any progress with this issue.**

6.7 Drainage work in Balgreen Tunnel – this had been carried out during the school half term holiday.

6.8 Pansy Walk – trees were being planted and bollards moved.

J McDonough interjected that the area about which had asked was the yard where some sort of construction work was going on. D Dawson thought that the work there was related to new culverts. Cllr Davidson said he had been told that it was not the Council doing the work there.

D Dawson raised the following points:-

6.9 Baird Drive/Balgreen Road junction - It had been agreed that yellow lines were needed here. Cllr Davidson said he had chased this again. Cllr Beal said that a TRO is in progress.

6.10 Dog fouling in Baird Drive area – **Cllr Davidson asked D Dawson to email him details of the complaint with the reference number.**

6.11 Bird mess at Roseburn House – The Chair added that Council officers who had attended to interview the person feeding the birds had been treated to a “souvenir” by the birds!

7. Tunnels

7.1 Balgreen Tunnel – Elma Mclean had provided the following update by email:-

7.1.1 drainage work at the Balgreen side of the tunnel took place on the mid-term school break;

7.1.2 the Council are aware that there are still four lights out;

7.1.3 the Council have agreed to plant yellow rattle at the Balgreen side to deter weeds; the bulbs that were planted by the Community Payback Scheme last year may not have survived the drainage work;

7.1.4 the Council has turned down a request for a bin at the Saughtonhall end;

7.1.5 painting should start once the temperature reaches 10°;

7.1.6 information on another “graffiti summit” is awaited from the Council;

7.1.7 the group has been awarded over 50% of their grant application from the Western Funding Panel and are hoping the remainder will be awarded by the South West Panel. (Confirmed after the meeting.)

7.2 Craigleith Drive tunnel – Lorna Hudson reported that:-

7.2.1 the Council have shared updated plans. The aim is to keep Craigleith Drive open but make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Rather than a raised table through the tunnel they are now looking at speed bumps either side;

7.2.2 the Council are costing the plans and checking with all departments;

7.2.3 she hopes to hear about the next steps soon but as yet has no dates;

7.2.4 given the tunnel marks a Council boundary, Blackhall and Craigleith Community Council are aligned with what is going on too.

L Hudson shared the plans onscreen. J Bishop asked the meaning of “sinusoidal hump” and whether communication with the Council had been in person or by email. Cllr Beal said “sinusoidal” meant symmetrical. J McDonough elaborated that such a hump has shallower ramps and a flatter top than a normal round topped speed bump. L Hudson confirmed that all communication had been by email.

8. Ellersly/Kinellan road safety measures

J Bishop had attended a meeting of the Western Neighbourhood Network (“WNN”). He reminded the MCC meeting that the proposals from Alan Dunlop at the Council were mainly in relation to Ellersly Road and the entrance to Kinellan Road. His group welcomed the progress which had been made and

the prospect of consultation with the Transport Contracts and Design team ("CDT"). They hoped for a crossing on Ellersly Road. They need to raise with A Dunlop and the CDT their concern that the changes on Ellersly Road will impact Murrayfield Road and possibly Campbell Avenue. J Forbes has raised the point that none of the traffic calming measures has been discussed in detail. J Forbes said that J Bishop's attendance at the WNN meeting had been helpful in moving things forward. The group needs to build on the contact with A Dunlop and the CDT. They do not yet have the name of anyone in the CDT. J Forbes added that Kinellan Road seems to have been forgotten. Murrayfield Road and Campbell Avenue have recently had new road markings. Monitoring should be carried out to measure their effect on traffic calming. He was disappointed that, with the new financial year not far off, there is no firm commitment on traffic calming measures for Kinellan Road.

9. Police report

9.1 The Chair reported that he awaited details of the "Coffee with a Copper" event(s) to be held in Roseburn in early April.

9.2 He relayed the contents of the Police Report, which had been received by email before the meeting and which is annexed to these Minutes.

10. Planning update

J Forbes reported as follows:-

10.1 BT Street Hub at Murrayfield tram stop – Planning permission has been refused, the reasons given mirroring the points made in MCC's objection.

10.2 21 Murrayfield Avenue, proposal for "ancillary" residential building - As agreed on 14 January with respect to planning application 24/05827/FUL, MCC did not make an exception to its general policy of refraining from formal objection to householder applications. However, MCC did lodge a procedural objection noting the absence of a parallel application for Listed Building Consent (LBC). By the closing date of 31 January a total of 33 objections, and no supporting comments, had been registered. This should be sufficient to ensure committee scrutiny.

The status of the application now is "awaiting assessment". There is still no record of the "missing" LBC application. He recommended that a watch be maintained for any development in this regard.

J Forbes stated that, in his absence on 14 January, his remark that "the rear elevation was not mentioned in the statutory listing" was apparently taken out of context to imply that he considered the Category C listing for 21 Murrayfield Avenue not to include the whole building. He stressed that, on the contrary, the entire block from 15 to 25 Murrayfield Avenue (odd numbers), including its front and rear curtilage, is clearly covered by the listing, hence MCC's observation that an LBC application should have been submitted. Nonetheless, in considering the question of whether the proposed "ancillary" building damages the essential character of the listed property, it was appropriate to take into account the statutory listing statement.

10.3 Fence and gate, Easter Belmont Road - At a meeting of the Council's Transport and Public Access Forum attended by the Chair on 31 January, the recent planning approval given to a fence and vehicle-actuated gate with no pedestrian side gate on Easter Belmont Road was brought up. More

information is needed on who applied for the gate and why a side gate was omitted. The Council will get back to MCC to discuss the implications. The Chair said that he had chased the Clerk to the Public Access Forum about this. Cllr Davidson added that the Council currently has no Public Access Officer but is in the process of recruiting one.

10.4 Lansdowne House - No planning application or pre-application notification (PAN) has yet appeared on the Planning Portal for redevelopment of the Category C listed Lansdowne House and grounds within the Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Area. He recommended that the ongoing watch be continued, noting that the address given for the site could be either Coltbridge Terrace or Henderland Road. Local residents may become aware of any proposals before they appear on the Portal.

11. Licensing update

D MacLennan reported that he had met with Stuart MacLennan and another official of Scottish Rugby about Scottish Rugby's application to have Condition 9 of the Stadium licence removed. Condition 9 states that concert noise levels shall at all times comply with the Code of Practice in Environmental Noise Control at Concerts, or revisions thereof. It had been explained to him that technical advances since the condition was first imposed enable finer adjustments to, and greater control over, noise levels. Scottish Rugby had received no complaints about noise levels in the last couple of years. In light of this explanation he proposed **withdrawing MCC's precautionary objection** and this **was agreed**.

D MacLennan repeated his view that the Council is in breach of its statutory duty to make full details of licensing matters available to the public.

D MacLennan reported that Scottish Rugby had suggested that MCC might like to congratulate Scottish Rugby on the way in which they discharge their duties in licensing matters. The meeting agreed that it was not appropriate for MCC to do this.

12. Transport issues

The Chair reported as follows:-

12.1 He is in touch with Daryl Laing at the Council about potential changes to the No 13 bus service. He has suggested that what is required is at least a half hourly service extending into the evenings and Sundays and a better eastern destination. The current operator is Bright Bus Tours.

12.2 Granton tram consultation – The Save the Roseburn Path campaigners recently held a meeting in the Roseburn Bar. They want Edinburgh to emulate Curitiba in Brazil with Bus Rapid Transit.

13. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported as follows:-

13.1 A gang of balaclava clad cyclists had been spotted cutting up the grass; the Police are monitoring the situation;

13.2 There may be an event in early April to celebrate the centenary of Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association);

13.3 The five new bike stands near the café appear to be well used;

- 13.4 There is some work to be done in the area of the old play park;
13.5 The Lord Provost has yet to confirm his availability on 5 April to unveil the Park's Field in Trust plaque.

14. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported as follows:-

January 2025

Opening Balance £1,995.89

No income received

Expenditure of £31.18 for Zoom monthly licence fees (£15.59 for Dec 2024 and Jan 2025)

Closing Balance £1,964.71.

The Treasurer thanked the FoRP Trustees for bearing the cost of relocating the Mackie plaque within the Park.

February 2025

Expected expenditure of £15.59 for Zoom monthly licence fee.

15. Social Engagement

H Ross reported that MCC had conducted outreach activities alongside the Council's promotion of Community Councils in the run up to the elections. MCC's website contained a link to the Council's page for nominations and invited members of the public to either comment on the work of MCC or consider standing for election. Very few people had chosen to make comments, let alone stand, indicating a rather poor level of engagement.

He had responded to the Council's inquiry as to how Community Councils would like to be supported.

The Chair mentioned that at a recent Saltire Society meeting it had been suggested that the lack of younger participants should not be a cause for worry. Only those liberated from paid employment were really able to undertake voluntary work.

16. Any Other Business

16.1 The Chair assumed that the garden at Redcroft would be opened to the public as usual later this year.

16.2 P Gregson mentioned that John Lamb used to specialise in planning at SEPA and might be a candidate to succeed J Forbes. The Chair said he had gained the impression that J Lamb might be interested in standing for MCC.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 8 April 2025 (may have to be in Murrayfield Parish Church instead of Church Centre, owing to lighting refit in Centre.)

Subsequent meetings: 13 May, preceded at 7pm by AGM (at Saughtonhall), 24 June, 2 September, 14 October and 2 December 2025.

Minutes approved at meeting of 8 April 2025.

APPENDIX

Police Report

12 January – 23 February 2025

Housebreakings

13/01/25 – Wester Coates Terrace – Theft by Housebreaking – forcing lock on shed and stealing a pedal bike

13/01/2025 – Wester Coats Gardens – Attempted Housebreaking with Intent – breaking bolt on garage door but unable to gain access/entry

21/02/2025 – Roseburn Place – Attempt Open Lockfast Place – attempting to force entry into shed

6/2/25 – Ravelston Dykes Road- Theft by Housebreaking – forcing entry into garage and stealing motorbike

11/2/25 – Wester Coates Gardens – Housebreaking with Intent – breaking in door using crowbar before being disturbed and making off

16/2/25- 17/02/25 – Craighleith Rise- Theft by Housebreaking – snapping lock on door, entering and stealing two cars.

Vehicle Theft/Crime

14/01/25 – Abinger Gardens – Theft from Motor Vehicle – stealing motor vehicle by unknown means

24/01/25 – Russell Gardens – Theft from Motor Vehicle – stealing items from within an insecure motor vehicle.

Anti-social Behaviour

1 x Report of a quad bike being driven within Roseburn Park

1 x Report of people driving electric scooters in an anti-social manner along the Roseburn Cycle Path.

Other incidents of note

Around 20 January a male was observed around the Riversdale/Baird Avenue area acting suspiciously and trying car door handles; the male had left the area before police arrival.

We are still receiving a number of calls in relation to youths wearing balaclavas on dirt bikes/motorbikes causing anti-social behaviour around the areas detailed below and will continue to tackle these:

Roseburn Park
Corstorphine Road

Blinkbonny
Wester Coates

Donaldson Drive