

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 8 April 2025 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church
Chair: Cllr Euan Davidson and J Yellowlees

Present: J Bishop, J Brown, R Brown, D Dawson, B Knowles, J Lamb,
J McDonough, D MacLennan, S Macpherson, E Robertson,
H Ross, G Scott, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Euan Davidson,
In attendance: Holly McPherson, Events Manager, Watchtower Live Ltd/FLY,
John McNeil, Crexcell,
11 members of the public,
Apologies: Moray Rumney, 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.

J Yellowlees asked Cllr Euan Davidson, as Returning Officer for the recent
Community Council election, to take the Chair.

2. Community Council Election

2.1 Announcing Community Council members as duly elected.

Cllr Davidson, as Returning Officer, announced that:-

(1) the following nominees, being fewer than the number of available seats,
had been elected without a vote as ordinary members of Murrayfield
Community Council ("MCC"):-

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| John Bishop | David MacLennan |
| Juliet Brown | Stella Macpherson |
| Rosanne Brown | Liz Robertson |
| Dave Dawson | Hamish Ross |
| John Lamb | John Yellowlees, |
| Jim McDonough | |

(2) the following local interest groups had nominated representatives to sit on
MCC as follows:-

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Donaldson Community Association | Gill Scott |
| Friends of Roseburn Park | Barbara Knowles |
| Saughtonhall Community Association | Moray Rumney. |

2.2 Confirmation of Community Council name

The elected members confirmed that the Community Council's name remained
"Murrayfield Community Council".

2.3 Appointment of Office Bearers

Cllr Davidson oversaw the appointment of office bearers as follows:-

- a) Chair – J Yellowlees, Prop: J McDonough, Sec: R Brown
 - b) Secretary – J McDonough explained that the Secretary’s duties had hitherto been split between the Chair, who had monitored the Inbox, and the unofficial Minutes Secretary. H Ross, who runs MCC’s website and social media, offered to monitor the Inbox and complete the paperwork required for the appointment of Secretary.
 - c) Treasurer – J McDonough, Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: R Brown
 - d) Engagement and Inclusion Officer - H Ross, Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: R Brown
- Cllr Davidson handed over the Chair to J Yellowlees, who reminded the meeting that, although the office of Vice Chair was not a requirement, MCC had found it useful to have a Vice Chair. The meeting agreed that J McDonough should assume the title of Vice Chair.

2.4 Co-option of Planning Convenor

The Chair reported that, following the resignation of J Forbes, MCC had considered how to continue to carry out the important planning function which J Forbes had performed so effectively. The Chair was pleased to report that Jocelyn Cunliffe had agreed to take on this role. He therefore proposed that J Cunliffe be co-opted to MCC as an ordinary member with the title of Planning Convenor. This proposal was seconded by J McDonough and carried unanimously.

2.5 Appointment of Licensing Convenor

The re-appointment of D MacLennan as Licensing Convenor was proposed, seconded and carried in the same way.

2.6 Community Council representatives to attend induction event on 26 April 2025

It was agreed that J Lamb and J Bishop will attend this event in the City Chambers.

The Chair reminded the meeting that a further induction event will be held online via Microsoft Teams on 28 April 2025 at 6 pm and there is no limit on the number of available spaces for that event.

2.7 AOCB

Cllr Davidson asked the newly appointed office bearers to stay behind at the end of the meeting to complete an additional item of compulsory paperwork.

Ordinary meeting of the newly constituted MCC

3. Issues raised by members of the public

The Chair introduced the following issues:-

3.1 Glendevon Park/Balgreen Road triangle – A local resident complained that this triangle of land originally contained a fenced rose garden but is now an unfenced area planted with wildflowers which is not maintained by the Council and is used as an unofficial car park. Traffic wardens ignore both this parking and pavement parking which also occurs there. Another member of the public complained of parking on the grass at Saughtonhall Circus.

Cllr Beal suggested that this issue could be raised in the review on parking near stadia which is to be conducted by the Council. J McDonough pointed out that this is an issue for the Police and the Council, not Scottish Rugby, but undertook to raise it at the next meeting which he attends with Scottish Rugby.

A member of the public asked about having white lines refreshed. J Forbes said that the Roads Department charge the home owner about £80 to refresh white lines where a curb is lowered. Cllr Beal thought there is also a charge for installing them.

It was agreed that this issue would be considered again at the next MCC meeting.

3.2 Glendevon Place – A Balgreen resident complained that blocked gullies in Glendevon Place had caused serious flooding in January. They had been reported but no action had been taken by the Council.

Cllr Beal stated that the team is now playing 'catch up' after winter was spent leaf clearing. He hoped to see more gullies cleared in the spring. He asked people to report gullies so that they are in the system and, if they receive no response, to contact their Councillors.

Cllr Davidson asked the resident to forward the report to him and **undertook to follow it up.**

Two Ormidale Terrace residents advised that it had taken the Council more than a year to remedy a similar situation there.

D MacLennan reported that Scottish Water respond quickly if the issue involves sewage.

3.3 "Pavement" parking at Roseburn Street/Place – Cllr Beal reported that he had seconded a colleague's motion on the status of these raised areas; it had been passed by the Council but dismissed by the Transport and Environment Committee. It was agreed that the law required updating to define these raised areas as either pavement or road for parking restriction purposes.

S Macpherson asked about the possibility of installing a bollard on each side of the raised "pavement" area to prevent parking there and maintain clear sight lines, especially for children travelling to school.

3.4 A member of the public, who has recently moved to Edinburgh from London and has three children at Erskine Stewarts Melville School, expressed her concern about the speed of traffic around the Murrayfield area and her surprise that there appears to be no enforcement of the 20 mph speed limit. She accepted that many of the drivers at fault are ESMS parents and added that she had contacted the school.

J Forbes, J Bishop and J McDonough all spoke to the fact that this is an issue with which MCC has been concerned for more than 10 years. It has been difficult to persuade the Council to take action but some measures have now been promised for the Ellersly/Kinellan area. The complainant agreed to J Bishop's suggestion that she join the pressure group for Ellersly/Kinellan, who have expanded their area of interest to include Murrayfield Road, Campbell Avenue etc.

J Bishop asked that this issue be a separate item on the agenda of a future MCC meeting. D MacLennan suggested that, if there are concerned parents in other Community Council areas, it would be worth getting this item on to their agendas.

The Chair suggested bringing this issue to the attention of the Police at two forthcoming events:-

Coffee with a Cop, Rosebean Café, Roseburn Park on Wednesday, 16 April between 10 am and 12 noon; and

Easter Stomp at Saughtonhall Community grounds, Riversdale Crescent on Friday, 18 April between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm. (Bring your own egg!)

3.5 Potholes – The Chair reported that a member of the public had complained to MCC about potholes on Ravelston Dykes, St John’s Road and Murrayfield Road and the fact that they are becoming more and more common. He had also complained to the Council. The Chair suggested that the increasing popularity of heavier SUVs may contribute to the problem. E Robertson agreed.

Cllr Beal said that, contrary to the Scottish Government’s assertion, Councils are not adequately funded to deal with potholes, although he and his Liberal Democrat colleagues had succeeded in getting an additional £12.5m of funding.

4. Events

4.1 Murrayfield Ice Arena – The Chair welcomed Holly McPherson, the Events Manager of the company running the FLY event to be held on 17 and 18 May 2025, and John McNeil, their public safety advisor, who works for traffic management provider Crexcell. They explained the measures which are to be put in place to prevent a repeat of the problems experienced last year with a lack of stewarding and the exiting crowds littering and exhibiting rowdy behaviour. H McPherson explained that the crowds had arrived via the tram stop and the organisers had expected them to leave the same way, but they had crossed the bridge at Riversdale to access buses and taxis on the A8. This year the Riversdale bridge will be closed to traffic, the junction at the A8 will be kept clear with barriers on either side and taxi pick-ups will be restricted to a safe distance from the junction. Uber will be informed of the restrictions. There will also be a letter drop to residents. A crowd of over 4,000 is expected. There will be stewards and some Police officers in attendance. The Arena will provide a special phone number for reporting concerns on the day.

The Chair said the next MCC meeting is before the event and any updates can be provided then.

4.2 Scottish Gas Murrayfield stadium – The Chair reported that he had attended the centenary celebration on 21 March. He reminded the meeting of the Robbie Williams concert scheduled for 31 May and the Oasis and AC/DC concerts, which will take place in August during the Festival.

J McDonough said the events team are using the arrangements for the Taylor Swift concerts last year, which were considered to have been very successful, as a blueprint for this year’s events. The Safety Advisory Group is liaising with the Festival organisers to identify any pinch points.

Gill Scott said that, although the Donaldson area is always affected by the road closures for major events at the stadium, Scottish Rugby has improved its traffic management and communication with residents.

J Cunliffe pointed out that the diversion of the buses along Ravelston Dykes causes problems and more information is needed at bus stops. The Chair reminded the meeting that he had failed to persuade the bus company to provide a bus stop on Ravelston Dykes for the diverted services.

D MacLennan pointed out that “dynamic” management of road closures, although meant to be a positive thing, means that the notices of potential times given to residents are not really useful.

5. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 25 February 2025 and Matters Arising

5.1 Shared use signage on Russell Road pavement – The Chair had noticed two rather faint roundels here. Cllr Beal said he had not been advised of the Council’s final opinion on whether this area is to be shared by pedestrians and cyclists.

5.2 The Chair had asked for the salt box to be reinstated in Murrayfield Place.

5.3 Easter Belmont Road – The Chair had attended the meeting of the Public Access Forum on 31 January and had been promised that the Forum would get back to him about MCC’s concerns. He had heard nothing so far. J Forbes said it would be as well to deal with this issue before construction of the fence and gate began.

D MacLennan was concerned that the Forum had said that they had insufficient information, when it was readily available on the planning portal.

Cllr Davidson repeated that a Public Access Officer is being recruited and **undertook to chase this up**. See also Item 10.

5.4 Parking at St George’s School – Cllr Bennett had provided no further information on this. Cllr Beal said it would form part of the Roseburn parking review.

5.5 Dog fouling in Baird area – D Dawson had provided details of the locations to Cllr Davidson, who had asked for additional patrols.

5.6 Pigeon mess at Roseburn House – This intractable problem was discussed at length again. B Knowles confirmed that the person who feeds the birds has extended her activities to the top of Murrayfield Avenue. Council officers have visited and spoken to her, but to no avail. Cllr Beal had also dealt with this in 2023 and no obvious solution could be found. Cllr Davidson had been informed by Environmental Health that she is not breaking the law. D MacLennan thought that she could be charged with common law breach of the peace. It was agreed that **the Chair would contact the Edinburgh Reporter** to see whether some adverse publicity would deter the perpetrator

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

6. Councillors’ reports

The Chair reported that he had received a leaflet asking him to complete a survey on the impact of the CCWEL. He had found that the website to which he was referred did not work but the QR code did.

Cllr Beal reported as follows:-

6.1 The potholes in Ravelston Park are to be repaired with micro surfacing. He would not have picked these as deserving priority.

6.2 He would find out whether MCC could contribute to the parking review he had mentioned earlier (Item 3.1).

Cllr Davidson reported as follows:-

6.3 Removal of the crossing guards on Roseburn Terrace and Ravelston Dykes because of difficulty in recruiting has been avoided and recruiting is to continue.

6.4 The steps from Balgreen Avenue to the tram stop have been repaired.

The Chair reminded the meeting that the consultation on the extension of the tram network to Granton will begin after the summer. He felt that MCC was unlikely to be unanimous in its approach to the proposal, but could make points to get the best result for the area, as it had done with the CCWEL.

He noted that a proposal by Heriot Watt students to revive the South Suburban Railway route, and use tram-train to link Murrayfield via Morningside with Portobello, had been taken up by the Council's Transport Convenor.

7. Tunnels

7.1 Craighleith – Lorna Hudson had reported by email prior to the meeting that the Council team are still in the process of reviewing the costs associated with the matrix system that is being proposed. This is taking longer than expected as they are keen to secure the best possible price to ensure the project can be delivered within budget. The project will not be going to the TEC.

7.2 Balgreen – Elma McLean had reported by email prior to the meeting as follows:-

1. Second part of grant received from Community Grant Fund South West Panel.
 2. Currently await update from Council regarding existing graffiti.
 3. Aiming to start work on the project w/b 14 April 2025.
 4. Lights still out (Council aware of this, as previously reported).
 5. Yellow rattle still to be planted (Council has agreed to do this).
 6. No further information about anti-graffiti summit that was previously led by the Council (Cammy Day).
- D MacLennan pointed out that yellow rattle has to be planted in November/December.

8. Ellersly/Kinellan road safety measures

The Chair reported that the contact at the Council will be Adam Malloy, who is currently finishing up in another post. In the meantime Alan Dunlop remains the contact.

9. Police Report

9.1 A Saughtonhall resident reported that in early March she had an attempted break in to the garden room/large shed at her property where bikes are stored. Two nights later the perpetrators returned, stole five bikes and set fire to the shed. The fire did not spread to the house. A number of other properties in the area were also targeted on the same night. There was one other fire. The Police had carried out door to door enquiries and put on extra patrols for a couple of days after the fire. She understood that the Police have an idea of who is involved but getting evidence may be difficult. A neighbour added that CCTV footage and footage from doorbell cams is useful and should be given to the Police. D MacLennan said that even dummy cameras can act as a deterrent. **Cllr Davidson** said that the Council's CCTV cameras tend to be located on the city's path network. He **would ask about deploying a moveable camera in certain areas.**

D Dawson agreed to see whether the Police could re-run the presentation on home security which they had given last December.

The Chair reminded the meeting of the two forthcoming events on 16 and 18 April and encouraged those present to attend and make their concerns known to the Police.

He **undertook to take up with the Community Policing team the omission of this serious incident from the report which they had provided by email prior to the meeting.**

9.2 S Macpherson reported that several days before the MCC meeting she had contacted the Community Policing team about a near miss which she had suffered on the Roseburn Path when she was almost knocked off her bike by a motor cyclist weaving in and out of the pedestrians and cyclists at speed. PC Susan Fulton had replied to the effect that safety concerns prevent the Police from pursuing anyone on a motorbike who is not wearing a helmet. The individuals involved know this.

D McLennan advised that the Police have dirt track motorbikes but he did not know when they are deployed.

Cllr Davidson undertook to find out whether changing the law on this matter is a Holyrood or Westminster matter.

G Scott intimated that the Donaldson Community Association ("DCA") will hold its AGM in the Bible Society building on 15 May from 7 to 8.30 pm. She did not know whether the Police will send a representative.

The Police Report is attached as an appendix.

10. Planning

J Cunliffe relayed the report which J Forbes had provided by email before the meeting as follows:-

21 MURRAYFIELD AVENUE: PROPOSAL FOR "ANCILLARY" RESIDENTIAL BUILDING: The status of this application is still "awaiting assessment". 33 objections were lodged. E Robertson has reported "rumours" that the plans have been turned down, but this is not reflected on the portal and no new documents have appeared (ref. 24/05827/FUL). No LBC application has yet been added to the portal.

FENCE AND GATE, EASTER BELMONT ROAD: As promised by the Council's Transport and Public Access Forum on 31 January, CEC "will get back to MCC" to discuss the implications for public access of the recent granting of planning permission (ref. 24/02310/FUL). This is no longer strictly a "planning" matter but should remain an agenda item until some resolution is obtained.

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.

E Robertson said she understood that the site had been bought by an English company specialising in providing small units for retired people and that 48 units were planned here.

J Cunliffe referred to email correspondence before the meeting on the subject of TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA and the issue of TCO applications/notifications being decided with no possibility of review by the public or the Community Council. She referred to recent applications for tree work at 87 Ravelston Dykes Road and for demolition of the existing house and construction of a new one. There was a discrepancy between the

applications in the number of trees to be removed and, although new trees were shown in the second application, their planting had not been made a condition of the planning permission which had been granted.

J Forbes added that one of the unsatisfactory aspects of the current process is that applications for tree removal and the decision not to impose a Tree Preservation Order are often made on the same day with no opportunity for input from anyone concerned about the Conservation Area.

J Cunliffe mentioned a planning application for redevelopment of a site in Russell Road for student housing, but was told by the Chair that it is outside the MCC area.

11. Licensing

D MacLennan reported that he understood 6 Hampton Terrace would be operating as a Japanese Hotel and Restaurant from about 'now' until at least the Autumn. He did not know whether it would revert to homeless accommodation in Autumn 2025.

12. Other Transport issues

The Chair had no update on the No 13 bus but was aware that bus and tram fares had been increased.

13. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported as follows:-

13.1 The Park is protected from development by Fields in Trust status. The organisation was formerly known as the National Playing Fields Association and celebrated its centenary in the Park on 5 April, when the Lord Provost unveiled the Fields in Trust plaque.

13.2 Volunteers would start watering the tubs and planters and the hedges at the new play park on 9 April.

14. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported as follows:-

February 2025

Opening Balance £1,964.71

No income received and no expenditure incurred

Closing Balance £1,964.71

March 2025

Opening Balance £1,964.71

No income received and no expenditure incurred

Closing Balance £1,964.71 (bank charges not included)

He was expecting some bank charges (less than £20) for the period January to March 2025 to be included in the closing bank statement for the current financial year. Once received he would prepare the 2024/25 Annual Accounts and present them to the Independent Examiner for inspection and sign-off.

Expected expenditure for April 2025:-

£28.66 for MCC Email Server Licence

£30.00 to Murrayfield Parish Church for Hall Hire (MCC meeting March 2025)
£84.00 to Zurich Insurance for MCC Insurance Annual Renewal Premium
£35.00 to Murrayfield Parish Church for Hall Hire (MCC meeting April 2025).

15. Engagement and Inclusion

The Chair reported that none of MCC's four new members had been recruited through the Council's engagement process.

The EACC had issued a warning that the Online Safety Act appears to introduce stringent new responsibilities for those Community Councils running social media platforms that permit user-to-user interaction. (e.g. Facebook, Instagram). The obligations include ongoing monitoring, risk assessment and record keeping in respect of illegal and harmful content. H Ross confirmed that he is not worried about these matters. He is going to send MCC members three emails about (1) biographical information for the website, (2) incoming emails and (3) outgoing emails, which should be copied to a central point.

16. Any Other Business

G Scott confirmed the details of the forthcoming DCA AGM – see Item 9.2. She reported that in response to the Council's ceasing to treat weeds, the DCA has organised a team of residents to carry out weed control one day a month and this initiative has been excellent in bringing the community together. The Council is willing to provide tools.

17. Date of Next Meeting: (AGM at 7pm and Ordinary meeting at 7.30 pm) Tuesday, 13 May 2025 in Saughtonhall Community Association's Hall, Saughtonhall Avenue

Subsequent meetings: 24 June, 2 September, 14 October and 2 December 2025.

Minutes approved at meeting of 13 May 2025.

Appendix

**Police Report
for period from 4 March to 6 April 2025**

Housebreakings

03/04/25- 04/03/2025 – Housebreaking with Intent (Garage) at Ravelston Gardens – Forcing entry into garage by unknown means, nothing stolen. No persons identified.

04/03/2025 – Housebreaking (Garage) at Lock-up's at Ravelston Heights – Forcing open garage door by unknown means, nothing stolen. No persons identified.

04/03/2025 – Theft by Housebreaking (Garage) at Coltbridge Terrace – Forcing open garage door by unknown means, stealing items from within. Enquiries still ongoing.

09/03/2025 – Housebreaking with Intent at Wester Coates Avenue – Damaging window in conservatory, nothing stolen. Enquiries still ongoing.

Vehicle Theft

04/03/2025 - Theft Motor Vehicle at Saughtonhall Crescent – Entering insecure home and stealing motor vehicle with true key – Vehicle recovered, and suspect identified.

23/03/2025 – Opening Lockfast Place (Motor Vehicle) with intent at Baird Terrace – Breaking/smashing windows of 3 vehicles and attempting to steal ***

23/03/2025 – Attempt Opening Lockfast Place (Motor Vehicle) at Western Gardens – Attempting to gain access to vehicle ***

23/03/2023 – Opening Lockfast Place (Motor Vehicle) at Saughtonhall Gardens- Smashing and attempting to steal 2 x vehicles ***

Other Theft Crimes

05/03/2025 - Intended Theft at Baird Terrace – Unknown person within curtilage of premises where it is believed to be intended for theft.

06/03/2025 – Intended Theft at Riversdale Road – Unknown person within curtilage of premises where it is believed to be intended for theft.

08/03/25- 09/03/2025 – Theft of Pedal Bike at Murrayfield Place – Stealing bike by cutting securing chain. Enquiries ongoing.

20/03/2025 – Theft of Pedal Bike at Roseburn Terrace – Removing front wheel on bike where it was secured. No persons identified.

23/03/2025 – Attempt Opening Lockfast Place (Shed) Taking item from shed and using this to smash garage window ***

*** - These crimes are all linked with a suspect identified.

Antisocial Behaviour

5 x Calls were received in relation to youths wearing balaclavas on dirt bikes/motorbikes causing antisocial behavior around the following areas, which we do continue to tackle:

Murrayfield Golf Course

Murrayfield Road

Cycle Path between Roseburn and Craigleith.

Vandalism

No incidents reported.

Bogus Caller

1 x call at Saughtonhall Drive on 21/03/25.

for approval