

## DRAFT



### MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING 15 NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE OPEN DOOR

#### Present

Office Bearers Arne Strid, Chair (AS), Steve Gregory, Secretary (SG)

Goff Cantley, Planning Officer (GC), Willie Black IT Officer

Members Fiona Bell, Morris Bradley (MB), Jens Eilers (JE), Stanley McWhirter

Ex-officio members Cllr Melanie Main (MM); Cllr Neil Ross (NR)

Police Scotland PC Paul Rich (PR), PC Craig Cairns (CC)

Residents and others Hilary Davies (HD), Phillida Sawbridge, W Richardson (WR)

#### Apologies

Ian Murray MP, Aline Haggart, Irene Harris, Jill Powlett Brown, Dianne Savage, Jennifer Scarce

#### 1. Police report

PR introduced himself as a new Ward Officer for Morningside. On behalf of MCC, AS welcomed him to the meeting and to Morningside. PR reported that in the previous month he and colleagues from the Community Police Team (CPT) had been involved locally in another CC meeting, a Neighbourhood Watch meeting, a visit to a nursery school, 3 children's hearings, 2 child protection meetings, 4 surgeries and manning a crime prevention stall for the public in Morningside Road. They about to embark on a tour of shops in Bruntsfield and Morningside to advise on crime prevention in the run-up to Christmas. PR and CC noted that they are trying to improve the advertising for the police surgeries. It was agreed that MCC could promote these through notice-boards and Facebook if informed in advance.

The CPT had also assisted at Remembrance Day events and policing activities around Bonfire Night. On specific crimes, PR noted the seizure of £9,000-worth of crack cocaine, charges for speeding and arrests for theft of pedal cycles, disorder and vandalism. The last included a youth charged for graffiti, in relation to which PR and CC agreed to investigate the recent upsurge in graffiti in Morningside. The CPT has been continuing to bear down on a group of youths responsible for anti-social behaviour around the area. Individuals are now becoming identified and the potential for diversionary activities to prevent their criminalisation is being explored.

Speeding drivers remain an issue for the CPT, which has been in discussion with Daniel Johnson MSP about the possibility of training residents to use speed-guns. PR and CC took note of Newbattle Terrace and Morningside Grove as future targets for speed patrols.

FB noted that the theft of headstones from Morningside Cemetery, though difficult to establish, remained a concern and requested that the police keep an eye out for suspicious activity there when other duties allowed.

#### 2. Matters raised by residents

2.1. "Rendez-vous" lunches for the elderly, Elim Church Bruntsfield WR introduced herself as an Elder of the Church and asked MCC to publicise the free lunches provided every 2nd Thursday (next on 23 November), 12.00 – 2.00 pm. Dates and details at [www.edinburghelim.com/rendez-vous](http://www.edinburghelim.com/rendez-vous)

2.2. Pavement hazards JE noted instances of pavement signage damaged by vehicles becoming hazards. All were encouraged to report such hazards through the City Council's website.

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### **3. Consultation on the proposal by the City Council to introduce a surcharge on parking permits for diesel vehicles**

SG noted that as a CC in the Controlled Parking Zone, we had been specifically asked to consider submitting a view. After brief discussion with views expressed both for and against, it was agreed that no submission would be made though individuals were encouraged to respond (details in appended Office Bearers' Report, item 1.2)

### **4. Office Bearers' Report (OBR) and matters arising**

The OBR had been circulated in advance and is appended to these minutes.

#### 4.1. "Working together to de-clutter our Streets" - workshop 13 November (OBR item 1.1)

MB reported that there had been 30+ attendees divided into groups for discussion. All ideas were recorded with no attempt to reach consensus. Consideration was confined to "temporary advertising structures" (chiefly A-boards). Despite a request from MCC, the parallel problem of goods displayed on the pavement was excluded on the grounds that it is subject to different legislation. Most participants were in favour of the City Council's proposal to impose a City-wide restriction like that currently in place in parts of the City Centre. However some traders objected. There was an interesting discussion on the question of how the regulations could be better presented to get buy-in from traders. Most agreed that the regulations must be clear and permit no exemptions which could lead to an "arms race" of advertising. It was also felt that a piecemeal approach should be avoided, the best idea being to set an defined end-date but allow different speeds of approach to it. Traders failed to advance a convincing business case for retaining the status quo.

In discussion, HD recommended all interested to listen to the BBC Radio 4 programme "In Touch" from 14 November 8.30 pm, available on i-Player. The second item focusses on attempts to reduce street clutter in Bradford. Cllr NR noted his ongoing discussion with Morningside Traders' Association about improving the local streetscape.

4.2. Scottish Government consultation on Low Emission Zones (OBR item 2.1) In view of the complexity of the consultation document, and the fact that very few members had read it, it was agreed that MCC would not formulate a response.

4.3. Heriot-Watt University Healthy Aging Project (OBR item 2.2) SG drew attention to this valuable research project and offered information sheets to anyone interested.

4.4. Planning (OBR item 3) GC reported on the following matters:

- Proposal to build flats on the site of the former public toilets in Canaan Lane. GC had met the Reporter, along with neighbouring residents and traders. She had made a careful examination of the site and made extensive notes of comments.
- The application to build 2 blocks of flats in Midmar Drive has been refused; an appeal may be expected.
- There have been no further meetings on either the Astley Ainslie site or the REH. It seems likely that progress has been delayed by the complexity of drawing up the clinical master-plan that has to precede physical planning.
- There are local concerns about a rumoured plan to put a large car-park for REH staff at the rear of Morningside Park. This isn't on the REH Phase 2 plan.

4.5. Licensing (OBR item 4) SG noted that the consultation is directed at eliciting comments from key stakeholders on the current Licensing Policy in preparation for a full review during which specific changes are likely to be consulted on. He and JPB (MCC Licensing Representative) had studied the current policy and agreed that, while we might argue with some of its provisions, it offered a reasonable balance between the interests of the licensed trade and those of residents. Consequently he recommended that we make a brief response to this effect and stating that we would not want to see any changes that weakened protections for residents. He further recommended that we should suggest more information in the policy about the Licensing Forum, a statutory advisory body on which

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communities are represented but which receives relatively little attention. These recommendations were accepted and preparation of a response in these terms was delegated to Jill and SG.

**Action SG, JPB**

4.6. Finance and post of Treasurer (OBR item 5) AS informed the meeting that Brian Auld had resigned as a CCllr (and hence as Treasurer) with immediate effect due to pressure of work. SG will cover the post for the immediate future but a volunteer is urgently required to take it up full-time. If none of the existing members can take it on, it is possible to co-opt a new member (who must be a resident within our boundary) for this purpose.

AS reported that current balance stands at £1456.39, of which £130 is reserved for projects by the Cemetery Sub-committee. Payments of £42 (room rent at the Open Door) and £66 (Chair's expenses) are due.

### **5. Minutes of the meeting of 18 October and matters arising**

The draft minutes, which had been sent out in advance, were approved by members without amendment and signed off by AS.

5.1. Deteriorating property in Morningside (minutes 18 Oct item 1.2) AS drew attention to an excellent article in the Edinburgh Evening News on 23 October giving details of the support for co-owners provided by the City Council's "shared repair service".

5.2. Proposed amalgamation of GP practices (minutes 18 Oct item 1.3) Cllr MM confirmed that no decision has been made although there is a future problem with accommodation for the practice in Hermitage Terrace.

5.3. Housing Land Audit and Delivery Programme (minutes 18 Oct item 3.2) GC reported that he had studied this and there are no implications for Morningside.

5.4. Proposed changes to Priority Parking Area B2 (minutes 18 Oct item 4.2) Cllrs MM and NR stated that the meeting originally planned for 4 October has been rearranged for 23 November, 6.30 – 8.00 pm at Greenbank Parish Church. In response to questions, they clarified that the meeting will cover the whole of B2 and the proposed extension east of Comiston Road and will consider detailed plans for those areas. It will not consider anything west of Comiston Road outside the existing controlled area. All residents in B2 and the proposed extension have been notified by letter. Both Cllrs acknowledged that many residents would like an extension westwards but this will be taken up as a separate issue by officials. This could take some time because the officials concerned are tied up with digitising their maps (see also item 7.2 below).

5.5. Proposal for Park & Ride at Lothianburn (minutes 18 Oct item 6.2) Cllr NR expressed some concern that MCC had not been consulted by officials preparing the report to go to the Transport & Environment Committee (TEC) on 7 December. Cllr MM reiterated her strong support for the scheme as a means of reducing the problems of commuter parking and traffic congestion in Morningside. Most members present agreed but SG repeated his view that it would make little impact on either problem and hence the expense and erosion of greenbelt land would not be justified. He recognised that his is probably a minority view in the area and joined the consensus that MCC should send a deputation to support the scheme. GC observed that Fairmilehead-Morningside is the only arterial route into the City without a Park & Ride but it is difficult to judge the issues in the absence of the traffic modelling data.

5.6. Reinstatement of streetscape in Newbattle Terrace (minutes 18 Oct item 6.3) Cllr MM reported that plans are now advanced. She confirmed that money remained set aside from 2015/16 when MCC had made a successful bid under the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (Roads Capital) for improving drainage channels and restoring tree-pits. JE suggested that Morningside would benefit from more street trees. Others noted that

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promoting this would require getting residents' views about the potential loss of on-street parking spaces and nuisance from leaves.

### **6. Minutes of meeting of the Friends of Morningside Cemetery Sub-committee on 7 November**

The minutes had been circulated in advance and were approved without amendment and signed off by AS. AS commended the work of the volunteers and also the assistance and support of the City Council staff. It was agreed that a letter of thanks from MCC should be sent to the staff concerned.

**Action FB, SG**

### **7. Correspondence**

7.1. St. Peter's Church SG noted that he had been copied in to correspondence from the Church's Property Administrator complaining to the City Council about the insensitive siting of parking signage against the Church wall in Falcon Ave. The sign had been moved but the Church is still dissatisfied and may request support from MCC to obtain further redress.

7.2. Parking west of Comiston Road SG noted correspondence pressing for extension of the Priority Parking Area west of Comiston Road. The correspondent has been informed of the survey carried out by Dianne Savage and the subsequent undertaking by the City Council to carry out a full residents' survey.

### **8. Any other competent business**

6.1. Glass recycling in Falcon Ave AS and SG noted the absence of the glass bin outside Waitrose and the dangerous pile of bottles on the road and pavement there. Cllr MM confirmed that there should be a glass bin there and undertook to look into the matter.

**Action Cllr MM**

### **7. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 20 December 2017**

AS closed the meeting at 21.25.

**Steve Gregory  
Secretary**

## **APPENDIX – OFFICE BEARERS' REPORT FOR MEETING 15 NOVEMBER 2017**

### **1. COUNCIL, LOCALITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

#### **1.1. "Working together to de-clutter our Streets" - workshop 13 November**

Morris Bradley will attend on behalf of MCC and report back. The City Council has recognised that, despite having guidelines in place, "*concerns remain that temporary advertising structures such as 'A' Boards in the city's streets remain a hazard to free pedestrian movement and detrimental to visual amenity.*" The workshop has been organised to gather views from key stakeholders and help shape a wider consultation.

#### **1.2. Increased parking permit charges for diesel vehicles**

Through its Parking Action Plan, the City Council is reviewing parking permits in Edinburgh "with the aim to improve air quality and enhance quality of life". As part of the review, residents and businesses are being consulted on a proposal to apply a surcharge on parking permits issued to owners of diesel vehicles. The consultation lasts until 28 January 2018. CCs within the Controlled Parking Zone have been specifically invited to comment and members will be asked to decide whether we want to do so and, if so, in what terms. The consultation is online at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/parking-permit-diesel-surcharge>. Paper copies are available at libraries within the Controlled Parking Zone, including Morningside Library.

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## **2. GENERAL**

### **2.1. Scottish Government consultation on Low Emission Zones (LEZs)**

The Scottish Government has committed to introducing LEZs in some cities including Edinburgh. It has launched a consultation paper "Building Scotland's Low Emission Zones" available at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/transport-scotland/building-scotlands-low-emission-zones/> Because this has nearly 50 pages of quite dense reading and 23 consultation questions, we do not recommend trying to achieve consensus on the full consultation. However there is provision for submitting general comments by e-mail. We recommend that members read the document and decide whether MCC should send such a response and, if, so, in what terms. The consultation closes on 28 November.

### **2.2. Heriot-Watt University Healthy Aging Project**

This is a long-standing project that we have promoted on a number of occasions. The current phase is studying how taking up a new activity might benefit people's thinking skills and wellbeing as they get older. The project team is looking for people aged 65 and over in Edinburgh and the Lothians to take part. Volunteers will first complete some assessments at Heriot-Watt before being helped to take up a new activity in the community. After following the new activity for about 10 weeks, the researchers will assess how it might be associated with changes in thinking skills, health and wellbeing. There is more information about the research at [www.healthyageing.hw.ac.uk](http://www.healthyageing.hw.ac.uk). If you are interested, you can get the full study information by e-mailing the research team at [healthyageing@hw.ac.uk](mailto:healthyageing@hw.ac.uk) or calling 0131 451 8009.

### **2.3. Columcille Centre - Cancer Research UK, Exhibition & Sale of Art Jewellery & Craft, 18/19 November**

A very worthwhile opportunity for some early Christmas shopping. 10 am to 5 pm. Entry £4, children free.

## **3. PLANNING**

GC will give a verbal report at the meeting.

## **4. LICENSING**

We've been asked to contribute to the initial (and informal) stage of a consultation by the Licensing Board on its Statement of Licensing Policy. Our Licensing Representative, Jill Powlett Brown, and SG will consider whether there is anything on which we can usefully comment and report back to members. The consultation details are at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/cg/edinburgh-licensing-board-consultation-on-statement/>

## **5. FINANCE**

A verbal report will be given at the meeting.

**Arne Strid (AS), Chair**  
**Brian Auld (BA), Vice-chair/Treasurer**  
**Willie Black (WB), IT Officer**  
**8 November 2017**

**Steve Gregory (SG), Secretary**  
**Goff Cantley (GC), Planning Officer**