

DRAFT MINUTES OF MCC MEETING, OPEN DOOR, WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2026

Present

Members: Alastair Webb (Chair), Caroline McKinley (Secretary), Carol Duncan (Engagement Officer), Theo Spanellis (Treasurer), Goff Cantley (Planning Officer), Ken Harvey (Keep Edinburgh Moving), Kerr Fraser (Morningside Heritage Association), Callum McLeavy, Tamsin Kilgour (I Love Morningside), Serena Naismith, Moira Gibson (taking Minutes).

Attending: Polly Purvis (Chair of Local Place Plan sub-committee), Arne Strid, Louise Ballantyne, David Rogers, Liz Robertson, Roy Robertson, CEC Cllr Neil Ross.

1. Apologies

Jane Brown, Iain Meiklejohn, Paul Bailey, John Robson CEC Cllr Ben Parker.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- Tamsin Kilgour to be recorded as an Apology for the January meeting. The Minutes were otherwise approved.
- Following last month's visit by the Robertsons enquiring about loose cables swinging from tenement buildings, Polly Purvis contacted Open Reach, which advises that old cables and connections should be tied up or removed. Where cables are left in situ in case a new tenant wants to be re-connected, the cable should nonetheless be tidied up. Carol Duncan and Neil Ross both advised that the Council's Shared Repairs team may be able to help.
- Louise Ballantyne and David Rogers, representing roads in Greenbank, reported that an application has been made to the Local Traffic Improvement Programme. If accepted, this could include consideration of traffic flows over a wider area. Cllr Ross will advise on progress once the Council's Transport Committee has met. An informal traffic survey of Greenbank Lane conducted by the MCC Chair during George Watson's half-term holiday demonstrated that this route is continuously busy. Cllr Ross to contact Watson's to see if their community liaison group, including several community councils, can be reconvened.

3. Planning

No specific issues to report. Cllr Ross to check whether the blue container in Spring Valley Gardens has the required permission, and how long it will be there. The welfare Portacabins for the new hotel on the former Post Office site have been located in consultation with the Council. Serena Naismith asked for any news on the Cluny Centre as the For Sale sign has gone? Planning permission for this site expires after three years. The Chair will make enquiries.

4. Local Place Plan

Polly Purvis reported that the Key Priorities document has been completed and is about to go to graphic design prior to a public consultation in April. Carol suggested that the Key Priorities be uploaded to the MCC website in advance.

5. Travelling Safely

- Cllr Munro has asked the Council's tree experts to do a site inspection on Braid Avenue.

- Crossings are being put in at Morningside Drive and Craiglea Drive, in pursuit of safer routes to school. No information is yet forthcoming on Comiston Drive.
- The Chair is continuing discussion with the Council (Gareth Barwell) about greater transparency in their approach to repairs and upgrades to roads and pavements. Potholes continue to be a problem: a solution lies in individuals reporting them.

6. Financial Position

£2,583 is in the account, some of it ringfenced.

7. Correspondence

Nil

8. Any Other Competent Business

- Following last meeting's exploration of local events (outcomes posted on MCC website), it was agreed that, as an initial foray, guided walks (Heritage, Literary etc) would be easiest to organise. Morningside Heritage Association already has a suggested trail and Kerr agreed to find out if a volunteer guide could be found to lead a walk. Other suggestions for future action were markets - perhaps in the green space at Hermitage Terrace or behind the Merlin (McLarens is out of our area); community stalls around the clock; concerts to showcase young local musicians – perhaps in the theatre in Braidburn Valley Park; eco-events – for example, planting bulbs. Sponsorship should be explored.
- MCC agreed to donate £100 to buy an umbrella for the Umbrella Festival in light of its inclusive community programme of events involving diverse aspects of the community. This is not a contribution to the Church nor should it set a precedent.
- Several post-boxes are still out of action. The Chair agreed to explore this.
- The MCC website is not working. Information on local services and facilities has disappeared along with the boundary map, the list of office bearers and elected officials, the history of MCC meetings and other useful information. This is not the first time crucial information has disappeared so consideration should be given to a more stable provider and sustainable structure.
- Cllr Ross reported that Craighouse Road will get a new crossing in 2027 between Morningside Gardens and Sassoon Grove.
- Reports of bike and e-bike menace in Myreside/Craiglockhart area. Cllr Ross to find out who owns area around Craiglockhart Woods. The public is encouraged to report e-bike and e-scooter misuse via so that community police can map where problems are occurring. Note that it is illegal for e-scooters to be ridden on any public road or pavement. The email address is: EdinburghCPTSouthEast@scotland.pnn.police.uk
- Voi bikes being parked/dumped in an unofficial spot should be reported via the Voi app.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Open Door at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 March 2026.