

Morningside Community Council

DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 7:30 pm Wednesday 20th December 2023

At Open Door, 240 Morningside Road

People present:

MCC office bearers-

Willie Black(WB),Chair, Goff Cantley (GC),Planning, Carol Duncan(CD),Secretary.

Members-

John Robson (JR), Rebecca Diggle (RD)

Ex officio-

Cllr Mandy Watt.

Attendees-

Alastair Webb, Paul Bailey, Tamsin Kilgour, Kerr Fraser, Arne Strid, Sarah Hunt, Amanda Richardson, Ken Harvey.

Apologies-

Daniel Johnson MSP, Abby White, Caroline McKinley, Jennifer Scarce, Theo Spanellis.

PLANNING.

Presentation on a proposal for the redevelopment of the Old Post Office site.

The first part of our meeting was well attended and gave everyone to have an opportunity to have an informative discussion with the developers. A note of this part of the meeting is attached seperately.

GC planning reported that a meeting was held with CMcK and CD and its was agreed that MCC should submit a local place plan for Morningside

POLICE REPORT.

Email received from the Police Sergeant.

“Since our last attendance we have continued to have a focus on youth-related antisocial behaviour, which has included working closely with retailers along Bruntsfield and Morningside Roads. I hope to build on this to ensure retailers are confident in reporting as we have been successful in charging several people for offences. I am keen to bolster this by having the whole community team working closely with the high schools in the area to deliver inputs to young people on responsible citizenship and will update on this as it progresses.

At this time of year we are paying particular attention to road safety, carrying out road checks with breathalyser tests in the majority of cases – we posted some images on our X/Twitter feed about this.

We are continuing to monitor housebreakings but I’m pleased to say that we have not seen a spike like we did earlier in the year.

As I mentioned at the last meeting I attended, members of the community team are regularly assisting with Operation Winter City covering the city centre Christmas markets and other attractions, however, we are doing our best to do as much as we can and be as visible as possible in the area.”

Attendee reported that the community garden at the Royal Ed hospital was recently vandalised.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING.

Minutes agreed.

No update from Cllr Munro on the progress of the local bus trackers. Also no update from Cllr Munro re damaged surfaces to pavements at the SE corner at the traffic lights and near Mia Kitchen. (Already reported on Council website.)

Attendee reported trampoline at Morningside Park is filling up with water following the heavy rain.
Action: CD to contact Parks.

TRAVELLING SAFELY.

An attendee listed a number of concerns about the ‘parklet’ that MCC is proposing. The chair explained that the term is not used by MCC. At the last meeting MCC voted to submit a bid to reimagine the space in front of M&S and Superdrug, making it greener and safer. It was explained that there have been many discussions on the matter. MCC understands not everyone agrees with the removal of 2 parking spaces but there is a problem in pedestrians crossing Morningside Park while cars cross to park in front of M&S and Superdrug. Because of the differing views, MCC undertook a survey of the users of the place and found nearly 70% of the responses supported the re imaging of the space.

At a previous meeting it was stated that M&S would close if the proposal to reimagine the space was to go ahead. Following this serious concern, Cllr Parker and CD met with the M&S Communications Manager and she informed us that this is not the case.

The M&S Communications Manager is happy to attend a future meeting. Her main concern is that M&S retain the parking spaces at the side of their store.

Another attendee suggested widening the footway opposite Waitrose as an alternative bid. It was explained that this work is already on the Council’s capital list.

TREASURER

WB reported £1066 in MCC’s account.

SECRETARY.

No update on the request to find out the number of tenements that have had loft insulation grant.
Action: CD to request an update from Cllr Parker.

Friends of Morningside Cemetery received an award of distinction from Keep Scotland Beautiful.

An attendee raised concern about the bus stop along Morningside Drive, at the horse chestnut.

The problems appear to be cars parking over the bus parking space and the watershoots.

Greenbank Crescent residents received a redetermination order that they gave them concern and may have delayed the 5 and 16 bus at busy times. In response the Council has agreed to remove the short advisory cycle lane and maintain the carriage width as is.

Rebecca Diggle has stepped down from managing MCC facebook. Alastair Webb has agreed to post documents as required on our Facebook page.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 7.30pm at Open Door.