

DRAFT MINUTES OF MCC MEETING, OPEN DOOR, WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2026

Present

Members: Alastair Webb (Chair), Carol Duncan (Engagement Officer), Theo Spanellis (Treasurer), Goff Cantley (Planning Officer), Tamsin Kilgour (I Love Morningside), John Robson, Ken Harvey, Kerr Fraser (Morningside Heritage Association), Serena Naismith, Iain Meiklejohn (Chair, Friends of Midmar Paddock), Moira Gibson (Minutes).

Attending: Arne Strid, Jane Brown, Paul Bailey (Chair, Friends of Braidburn Valley Park), Adrian Rainford, Paul Findlay, John Halliday, Helen Sang (AACT), Sarah Hunt, Scott Gibson, Dale Hughes, Kirstin and John Everett, CEC Cllr Neil Ross.

1. Apologies

Caroline McKinley (Secretary), Callum McLeavy, Polly Purvis (Chair of Local Place sub-committee). Jennifer Scarce.

Presentation on Community Grants Fund by Naomi Dixon, City of Edinburgh Council

Naomi, from the Council's Community Empowerment Team, explained the current mechanism for accessing Community Grants whereby constituted groups with a bank account in any of 13 neighbourhood areas can apply for up to £5,000. The Council wishes to make the process and decision-making more transparent. The number of areas could be reduced to nine and Panels could be expanded to include more local people, and not just Councillors and representatives of Community Councils. Another option would involve expanded Panels identifying funding criteria relevant to their area. A further future option is Participatory Budgeting which operates in Leith (Leith Chooses). For each option, voting could be online or in-person: if the latter, funding is available for event organisation. Closing date is 4 May 2026.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of 18 March were approved with two amendments:

- remove 'Keep Edinburgh Moving', not associated with Ken Harvey;
- under the Planning section, the reference to tree roots on Morningside Drive should have included the Action Point that Cllr Watt would arrange for an investigator to examine this problem.

Planning

- The Planning Officer drew the meeting's attention to a fresh application at 1 The Crescent, Morningside Drive, and requested comments on this application, particularly from the MCC Secretary and Community Engagement Officer, both of whom are neighbouring residents. The application is reference 26/01354/FUL and the closing date for comments is Friday 8th May.
- No further information on sale of Cluny Centre. Caroline to ask Archie.
- No progress on Canny Man hotel as yet.
- Pits (open and therefore rather dangerous) have been prepared for new trees on Braid Avenue.

Financial position

- £1,983 is in the account. £1,000 donation from Goff Cantley ringfenced for Local Place Plan.

Year end account due to be submitted shortly, which will trigger next year's grant.

Local Place Plan

In the absence of Polly Purvis, Carol Duncan reported on the Local Place Plan. The public consultation events will take place on:

- Saturday 25 April, 10.30am-12.30pm, in Morningside Library;
- Sunday 26 April, 12.30-2.30pm, Greenbank Church Halls, Braidburn Terrace.

Publicity materials (posters, leaflets etc) are being printed. Information about the consultation is being circulated to the MCC and AACT mailing list, and via I Love Morningside, schools etc. A good turnout is always weather dependent, but we hope local people will participate.

Travelling Safely

- The Chair's Tracker document, published on the MCC website, reports on progress on concerns raised about local problem roads and pavements. A local walkabout is requested. Action: Cllr Ross will identify an appropriate Council official to be invited on a walkabout.

- Introducing the long-running subject of the Quiet Route and the Braid Estate, the Chair recognised the strong and differing feelings of those present and appealed for a civil discussion in what has been recognised as our safe space. The saga has been going on for at least five years. The recent meeting of the Council's Transport Committee decided that the TRO sub-committee, meeting on 2 June, should decide whether or not to make changes to the existing scheme – either in whole or in part – or to revert to the pre-Covid status. Their decision will be final. MCC is not permitted to make a deputation to this sub-committee. However, individuals may wish to write to Councillors with their views.

After lengthy discussion on the history of the project and on options for the future, it was agreed that the Chair, on behalf of MCC, would write to the Cllr Jenkinson (the transport convener) explaining that:

- the lengthy process had been very divisive locally, though there are elements of the current scheme that do have reasonably wide-spread support, and people do want 'a quiet route'
- MCC doesn't have a view on 'the right answer', but regardless of the results of the TRO sub-committee, it is felt that there's opportunities to further improve the scheme (for walkers, cyclists, drivers and local residents), and to reflect on wider local transport environment
- Therefore, following the TRO sub-committee decision, MCC would like to work with Councillors, Council Officers, and local residents to get agreement on suggested improvements, and (hopefully) help residents to work together and feel that they have greater 'ownership' of the solution.

Cllr Ross informed the meeting that the TRO Sub-committee may hold a special meeting on 12 May.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Open Door at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 May 2026.