

DRAFT MINUTES OF MCC MEETING, OPEN DOOR, WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2026

Present

Members: Alastair Webb (Chair), Caroline McKinley (Secretary), Carol Duncan (Engagement Officer), Theo Spanellis (Treasurer), Callum McLeavy, Tamsin Kilgour (I Love Morningside), John Robson (Spokes), Kerr Fraser (Morningside Heritage Association), 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, Tina Pollock, David Milne, Jill Powlett Brown.

Apologies

Goff Cantley (Planning Officer), Ken Harvey, Serena Naismith, Sheena Nimmo, Polly Purvis (Chair of Local Place sub-committee). Jennifer Scarce.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of 15 April were approved.

Planning

- A decision on the planning application at 1 The Crescent, Morningside Drive, is awaited.
- The hotel development on the former Post Office site is proceeding, but works are running late. The Cluny Centre is still for sale.
- The future of the proposed Canny Man hotel is uncertain.
- The new Braid Avenue trees have been planted and local 'adopters' are helping the Council with watering and care.

Local Place Plan

Carol Duncan reported on the Local Place Plan. The two public consultation events over the weekend of 25/26 April were very successful with over 200 people attending to offer feedback. Thanks were offered to all those who volunteered to help. The findings are being incorporated into a summarised document which is currently being laid out by a graphic designer. This draft will be submitted to Councillors for their views before a final version is complete.

Presentation on Morningside Stones by Jill Powlett Brown

Jill, a member of Morningside Heritage Association, updated the meeting on the Morningside Masons and Medieval Stones project. Research tells the story of the masons, sculptors and wrights who shaped much of Morningside. The Slater family of masons built tenements in Springvalley and elsewhere. The Morningside Stones were part of Trinity Collegiate Church, commissioned by Mary of Guelders in 1463, which was demolished to make way for Waverley

Station. When the Church was rebuilt, many stones had disappeared and are to be found all over Edinburgh, with some in Morningside. An exhibition about this is at the Museum of Edinburgh in the Canongate until 28 June. A series of talks on Saturday mornings and walks through medieval Edinburgh are free, but booking is required. Further information is at www.revivingthetrinitystones.co.uk/exhibition

Travelling Safely

- The Chair's Tracker document, published on the MCC website, reports on progress on concerns raised about local problem roads and pavements. The requested local walkabout is yet to take place. Road surfacing will take place on four roads over the summer.
 - To aid discussions, the Chair has additionally collated data from CrashMap showing minor, serious and fatal casualties within the MCC area over recent years. This highlights the most dangerous junctions and other areas where attention to safety is required.
 - The Chair had spoken with Cllr Stephen Jenkinson, Convener of the Council's Transport Committee. Currently, the road closures on the Braid Estate are recommended for removal due to mistakes in the wording of the original TRO but a further report will be presented by Officers to the Transport Committee in June.
 - A recurrent complaint was expressed about bike riders on pavements endangering pedestrians. It is not known how many prosecutions have resulted.
 - The minimum age limit for use of Voi bikes in Edinburgh is 16 years old.
 - John Robson is liaising with the schools on Canaan Lane about the measures needed to increase safety for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic on this narrow road.
- There is public concern about the high level of traffic on Comiston and Morningside Roads, as shown by local traffic surveys. Discussion points included:
- a) The A702 currently has 14,000 cars per day recorded at Morningside Clock, with attendant delays, and air and noise pollution.
 - b) It is a vital route for the highly-valued bus services.
 - c) It is a vital route for emergency vehicles which can get stuck in traffic in Morningside, risking lives.
 - d) Morningside village is heavily used by, among others, children attending several local schools and the frail elderly, who need to be able to cross busy roads safely.
 - e) Morningside is the town centre/20-minute neighbourhood for residents of Fairmilehead and Buckstone. Particularly in the case of Buckstone, a lack of public transport options means those residents need to drive into Morningside to do their shopping.
 - f) It is unclear if road closures within the Braid Estate have displaced traffic onto the A702.
 - g) The masterplan for the Royal Edinburgh Hospital shows 464 parking spaces.
 - h) The proposed development of up to 500 dwellings within the Astley Ainslie Hospital site could have a detrimental impact on local roads and infrastructure.
 - i) There is a fear that any proposed North-South road closures elsewhere in the city, eg Newington/The Bridges and The Mound, will exacerbate traffic levels on the A702.
 - j) Creation of a Park and Ride facility at Hillend could alleviate traffic and parking locally and the proposed revival of the South Suburban Railway could also help to relieve traffic pressures

ACTION: Chair to draft up a "problem statement" for refinement at next meeting

Financial position

- £1,230 is in the account, with the generous donation from Goff Cantley ringfenced for the Local Place Plan. Receipts for the past year's expenditure are being gathered so accounts can be finalised and audited, ready for the MCC's June AGM. Theo asked that all future purchases are made via invoice so he can pay online, making all transactions easy to identify and collate.

Correspondence

- Posters for The Umbrella Festival and the Open Door Makers Market have been received.
- Notice of a public consultation on Public Entertainment Licensing has been received.
- The Community Grant Fund (max £5k) is again open for applications.
- £20k is to be awarded to each Ward from the Visitor Levy. The purpose and process is unclear the secretary will investigate and report back.
- The Community Garden at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital is looking for volunteers.

Any Other Competent Business

- Congratulations were offered to Carol and her team for the lovely planters at the Clock.
- The proposed concert by school bands in Braidburn Valley Park has been postponed for now.
- Two events will take place in the Braidburn Valley Park: a brass band concert in August and the annual Tea in the Park in September.
- The possibilities of a programme of local walks continue to be explored by the Chair: as well as the Morningside Heritage Walk (details available on their website), the Ramblers' Association can offer Introductory Walks. Walking Scotland has offered to train leaders to put on short inclusive walks (details from the Chair).
- Following the cancellation of the meeting by Police Scotland of their meeting with MCC members. Secretary will contact the police to ask them to reschedule the meeting.
- Moira informed the meeting that the Chair of Boroughmuir High School Parent Council had expressed concerns that, within the next few years, demographic pressures will render the High School too small for the cohort. Moira will ask for the relevant data so that MCC can decide what action it may wish to take.

Date of Next Meeting and AGM

The AGM and the next meeting will be at the Open Door at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17 June 2026.