

DRAFT MINUTES OF MCC MONTHLY MEETING, OPEN DOOR, WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026

Present

Members: Alastair Webb (Chair), Caroline McKinley (Secretary), Carol Duncan (Engagement Officer), Goff Cantley (Planning Officer), Tamsin Kilgour (I Love Morningside), Serena Naismith, Theo Spanellis (Treasurer), John Robson (Spokes), Moira Gibson (Minutes).

Attending: Cllr Ben Parker, Arne Strid, Douglas Grozier, Sarah Hunt, Alex Mawson, Lee Green, Harry Ness (on behalf of Ian Murray MP).

Apologies

Members: Callum McLeavy, Iain Meiklejohn (Chair, Friends of Midmar Paddock), Ken Harvey

Others: Polly Purvis (Chair of Local Place sub-committee), Jennifer Scarce.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes 17 June were approved apart from one correction to the Planning minute which should be corrected to read:

The Council approved George Watson's College's application to improve sports provision. Although the report referenced the Active Travel Route Safeguard in the City Plan 2030 between the Union Canal and Morningside, objectors said this was not properly considered, missing a chance to extend the existing route through the Royal Edinburgh Hospital site. Since the NHS had been required to provide this route, why was GWC not similarly required to do so north of the boundary wall given the constraint of the railway to the south? MCC was also concerned that, despite public discussion about reopening the South Sub and recent tram-train proposals, officials described it as a 'disused railway line'. It is in regular freight use and provides a relief route around Waverley Station for moving rolling stock or diverting trains.

Action: John Robson to draft a letter to the Council complaining of failure to 'join the dots' and asking for an explanation about the Council's approach to both these concerns.

There were some Matters Arising:

- 1) Cllr Ross is still trying to identify an appropriate person to liaise with us on the 'hotspots' outlined at the last meeting. Since he is on holiday, Cllr Parker offered to pursue this. This matter continues to be important as another person was knocked down last Saturday.
- 2) John Robson will seek information on plans for Canaan Lane.
- 3) There has thus far been no response to the 'Problem Statement', outlining the problems associated with the high volume of traffic on Morningside Road and posted on the MCC website (www.morningside.org.uk). MCC would like to have discussions with a traffic officer so that the problem can be examined holistically. Cllr Parker offered to review matters.
- 4) Following the cancelled police liaison meeting and despite various MCC requests for a further meeting or at least some information on local policing matters, there is still no report, oral or written, from Police Scotland. Will the proposed increase in police capacity arising from the Tourist Levy improve community policing and alleviate concerns about lawlessness in Edinburgh? Some recent

local examples were discussed, including:

- four masked youths were found shoplifting at Sainsbury's at 7.30am this morning after which they ran off; Police Scotland now has a form which shops can fill in to report shoplifting: details at [Report shoplifting - Police Scotland](#);
- thefts of cycles are again on the rise but local CCTV or Ring doorbells are no use as the thieves are always masked;
- a new CCTV camera has been installed outside M&S by the Council.

Actions: The Secretary to contact Police Scotland yet again. Iain Meiklejohn to raise concerns at the EACC and find out if other CCs are having similar difficulty in getting crime reports.

5) The Secretary has written to the Convener of the Council's Education Committee to ask for an immediate copy of the Options Appraisal they have promised to the Working Group established to find solutions to the current and future overcrowding at Boroughmuir and James Gillespie's High Schools. There has been no response so far.

Planning

- The revised proposals for 1 The Crescent on Morningside Drive have been accepted.
- John Robson has written to the Council with MCC's concerns about their decision to grant George Watson's College's application to improve sports provision.

Local Place Plan

The Local Place Plan draft has been sent to our four local Councillors and to other interested parties. There is a 28-day period in which they can respond.

Travelling Safely

- The filter on Canaan Lane is scheduled for removal but, in light of its proximity to three schools and a health facility, it is likely that a different closure will be proposed.
- Letters will be sent to residents of the 'Braid Estate' advising them that traffic filters erected during Covid will be removed, apart from the barrier on Braid Road. It was suggested that a right-hand filter be added to the existing traffic lights at the bottom of Braid Avenue. Surrounding areas affected by these changes will not be notified. Traffic levels will be monitored over the coming months.
- According to the Roadworks Scotland site, the crossing at Morningside Drive will be created in the autumn.

Financial position

- £275 is in the account following submission of audited annual accounts to the Council. We await the Council grant for the coming year. The grant is deemed insufficient for our needs and ambitions. Methods of additional fundraising, including other grants, should be explored and cost-cutting measures (eg cheaper web and email hosting) should be investigated.

Correspondence

- Nil.

Any Other Competent Business

- The stretch of grass at Hermitage Terrace belongs to the householders, but the Council taxpayer foots the bill for maintenance. It has become a dogs' lavatory, with dilapidated fencing and little

management, apart from the much-admired carpet of crocuses each spring. It could become an asset to the community. Creation of a Friends group could be investigated.

- Morningside Cemetery is in a similarly dilapidated state with many of the gravestones fallen or pushed over, and the grass waist high. The Friends, who are supportive of biodiversity, feel matters have gone too far and the atmosphere is one of neglect, especially compared with other cemeteries like the Grange. Friends supply tools and equipment but cannot be expected to maintain the entire site as they would wish. In addition, when clearing areas, they encounter dog poo, although dogs should be kept on short leads and cleared up after. They want action.

Action: Cllr Parker agreed to take up these concerns.

- There were complaints about the prevalence of weeds on pavement and in gutters. What measures are in place to control weeds? Is Community Payback a means of managing them?

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Open Door at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16 September 2026.