

NOTES FOR MINUTES OF MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 7.30pm

The Open Door, 420 Morningside Road

Present: Cllr Mandy Watt, Alastair Webb, Goff Cantley, Moira Gibson (taking notes for minutes), John Robson, Theo Spanellis, Serena Naismith, Sheena Nimmo, Jane Brown, Paul Bailey, Kenneth Harvey, Bruce Henderson, Arne Strid, David Johnson, Cllr Marie-Claire Munro, Jennifer Scarce.

The main purpose of this meeting is formally to constitute the new Morningside Community Council and its elected members. To enable this, Cllr Mandy Watt, acting as Returning Officer on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, chaired the initial part of the meeting.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Watt welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this meeting, and for being loyal supporters of this Community Council. It was particularly good to see so many of the new nominees present. Apologies had been received from Carol Duncan, Caroline McKinley, Iain Meiklejohn and Tamsin Kilgour.

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Watt asked if anyone had interests to declare (eg a relevant planning application), but none were declared.

3. Announcing Community Council Members as duly elected

Cllr Watt announced the following nominees as duly elected to the Community Council: Alastair Webb, Goff Cantley, John Robson, Carol Duncan (in absentia), Caroline McKinley (in absentia), Moira Gibson, Jennifer Scarce, Ken Harvey, Iain Meiklejohn (in absentia), Serena Naismith, Theo Spanellis, Tamsin Kilgour (in absentia). Callum McLeavy was not present, nor was Cllr Watt in possession of an 'in absentia' form from him, so unfortunately he cannot be elected, although he can be co-opted at a later date if he so wishes. If, however, the form has been submitted by post, Cllr Watt will investigate and notify us.

Action: Cllr Watt to discover if 'in absentia' form has been submitted by Callum McLeavy.

4. Confirmation of Community Council Name

Those attending unanimously confirmed that the name of the Community Council should continue to be Morningside Community Council (MCC).

5. Appointment of Office Bearers

Alastair Webb was appointed as Chair, proposed by Moira Gibson, seconded by Ken Harvey. Caroline McKinley was appointed as Secretary, proposed by Goff Cantley, seconded by John Robson. Theo Spanellis was appointed as Treasurer, proposed by John Robson, seconded by Alastair Webb. Carol Duncan was appointed as Engagement and Inclusion Officer, proposed by Jennifer Scarce and seconded by Moira Gibson.

Only these four posts require formal appointment but other members have offered to support them as follows: Goff Cantley as Planning Officer, John Robson doing IT, Moira Gibson/Tamsin Kilgour/Jennifer Scarce taking minutes on a rota basis.

For the next part of the meeting, Cllr Watt handed over to the new Chair, Alastair Webb.

6. Community Council Representatives to attend induction event on 26 April

This is an in-person event to be held at the City Chambers. Two representatives may attend, but several new members will be away.. Serena Naismith will go and Theo Spanellis will check if he is available to attend. If not, Alastair Webb offered to email others to see if they wished to go. An online session is available on 28 April, 6-8pm, for those not able to attend in person.

Action: Chair to confirm members' attendance at this event.

7. AOCB

Minutes of the last meeting on 19 March were approved.

Cllr Watt was asked whether membership of the Community Council should include nominated representatives of other local constituted groups, eg school parent councils, heritage and conservation groups, local businesses etc. She replied that they were welcome to attend on an ad hoc basis to represent their group's interests, but didn't need formal accreditation. If they wished to be co-opted as members, that was also a possibility for elected members to consider.

A short update was given on the progress of the Local Place Plan which every community council has been invited to submit as preparation for Edinburgh's 2040 Plan. The results of the online survey, created and analysed by Caroline McKinley, had yielded some 300+ responses which showed a strong overall satisfaction with Morningside but had raised some concerns including the lack of sports/leisure opportunities. The small organising group had felt it important to gather data from young people, for whom the future of Morningside would be the most important. Carol Duncan had organised meetings with local primary schools to gather their views on Morningside, and a joint meeting with the Astley Ainslie group would take place at Boroughmuir HS. Interviews with local Scouts/Guides/Brownies would take place after Easter. Other groups, such as the Traders, the Heritage Association and others, were also being consulted. Once all the information has been gathered in, a draft Place Plan will be the centre of an in-person consultation at a local venue. Originally projected for late May/early June, this event may now take place in September, as the Local Place Plans do not have to be submitted to the Council until the autumn.

The state of traffic measures, both current and future, within the Braid Estate was discussed at length. Queries were raised as to the lack of transparency about the data and the process, and the accuracy of data presented to Councillors and Committees. There is also confusion about an ETRO due to end in June, and actual measures not taking place until December. There has been a piece in the Evening News about progress, with a follow-up piece expected soon. It was decided that MCC should write to Cllrs Watt and Munro, asking them to invite Deborah Peyton, who is the Council officer in charge of these measures, to make an in-person presentation to MCC at an early date. Questions should be submitted to her in advance by the MCC so that she can prepare accordingly.

Action: MCC to co-ordinate questions for Deborah Peyton and invite her to a meeting.

Questions were asked as to whether it is legal to have goods displayed on the pavement outside Vape & Tech. Cllr Munro responded that a report on street clutter had been made to the Council

and it was likely that a licensing regime would soon be put in place to regulate this. Cllr Munro also offered to help with several other queries.

Cllr Munro, in response to a question about the temporary closure of Canaan Lane, explained that Clancy Docwra were investigating a hole in a pipe under the road which had necessitated coning off the area. She is in touch with them to ensure the situation is resolved quickly.

Bruce Henderson, representing Friends of the Braids, wished the MCC to note that there had been some objections from his group to the testing of equipment on the Braids by the Leonardo company.

Serena Naismith, on behalf of Friends of Midmar Paddock, mentioned that, while canvassing local people on behalf of her group, it had emerged that some people knew nothing of MCC or its purpose or work. A discussion ensued about profile-raising, perhaps via other local bodies, although there is no money to do so. It is an important matter so may be raised at a future meeting.

Action: MCC, at a future stage, to consider how our profile can be raised locally.

The meeting closed at 9pm, with thanks to all attending for their contributions.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 21 May 2025, 7.30pm at the Open Door.