

Minutes

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 16 August 2022

Present:

Councillor Walker (Convener), Glasgow, Heap, McFarlane, McNeese-Mechan, Meagher, Mitchell, Munro, Osler, Staniforth and Thornley.

1. Cemetery Management Rules – Outcome of Consultation

(a) Deputation – Mr and Mrs Peden

The deputation made the following key points:

- Since 2015, there had trouble from some of the locals, coming to their house at all hours of the day. There had also been assault on Mrs Peden by a professional dog walker.
- Because of the anti-social behaviour, Mrs Peden had asked her family to stop visiting and was unable to get her elderly mother to come to the house from the care home, because of the aggressive behaviour of dogs.
- Mr Peden's car tyres and firm's vans had been vandalised. When the anti-social behaviour had been reported to the police, they had not been particularly helpful.
- Anytime dog walkers had been asked to put their dogs on leads in the cemetery, they had been abusive. Anti-social elements from all over Edinburgh were also coming to her door to give verbal abuse.
- She had also been subjected to abuse and false accusations on social media. None of her neighbours had been of any help.
- This was once a quiet place, but now there were now large numbers of dogs running wild, hunting wildlife. There were notices guiding

behaviour in cemeteries, but these were ignored. This was no longer a place of quiet and contemplation.

- 1) To agree to hear the deputation.
- 2) To thank the deputation for coming to the meeting to speak on this difficult subject.

(b) Deputation – Paul Irvine

The deputation made the following key points:

- Mr Irvine was the father of Xander Irvine who had been tragically killed. People had left soft toys and flowers at the scene, which they have moved to the graveside, however, some items had gone missing or been destroyed, caused by dogs off the lead.
- He had agreed that dogs on leads could be permitted, but when he approached dog walkers who were breaking the rules, they said there were no such signs. He therefore wanted to know why the signs were not in place.
- Dogs had also behaved aggressively to people visiting gravesides. Education might be a solution. It was outrageous that dog walkers let their dogs urinate or foul in the cemetery.
- It was odd that dog walkers preferred to take their dogs in to the cemetery, rather than one of the many, easily accessibility, parks in Edinburgh. There were also other rules banning dog-fouling in public places, but it seemed that these were being ignored.
- There should be more consideration for people who were trying to use the cemetery as a place for remembrance. If the new rules were not approved, many people would be greatly disappointed.
- A letter from one of the volunteer gardeners was read out. This indicated that they were concerned about dogs being out of control and were destroying items on gravesides. This would be less likely if they were kept on leads.

Decision

- 1) To agree to hear the deputation.
- 2) To thank the deputation for coming to the meeting to speak on this difficult subject.

(c) Deputation – Ella Edginton

The deputation made the following key points:

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- It was unacceptable that there was abusive behaviour from dog walkers who would not keep their dogs on leads. However, Ms Edginton walked her dogs in cemeteries.
- There seemed to be an assumption that dog walkers in cemeteries were trying to be a nuisance to people visiting gravesides, but these spaces provided a need for certain people.
- It was not necessarily the case that it would be easy for dog walkers to use parks instead, it might be the case that dogs needed spaces that were quiet and uncrowded and that some dog walkers had special needs or were elderly. Some people had no gardens and needed access to public green spaces for their mental well-being. It was important for people with special needs or mental health issues not to feel marginalised.
- Because of mental and physical issues, herself and her husband needed access to cemeteries to walk their dogs, as this provided exactly the type of enclosed space they needed.
- Walking dogs off leads in unenclosed public green spaces might be hazardous both for dogs and motorists and depriving people of this resource might have equalities issues.
- There was a lack of fenced public park spaces in Edinburgh, which forced some people to rely on cemeteries. It was the case that some families were not comfortable with dogs off leads in cemeteries and this should be given serious thought. Members could perhaps think of providing alternative spaces for people with special needs.

Decision

- 1) To agree to hear the deputation.
- 2) To thank the deputation for coming to the meeting to speak on this difficult subject.

(d) Report by the Executive Director of Place

The Cemetery Strategy report was approved by Committee on 16 November 2021 and the Committee approved the draft management rules for cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds (Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place) on 1 February 2022. Committee instructed that the proposed rules should be submitted for public consultation, known more formally as 'publication and inspection of the draft rules' within the Act. The report asked Committee to agree the proposed management rules for cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds, having considered the feedback received.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of this report, including that the Council's statutory duties

had been met in relation to the consultation.
- 2) To consider the representations received during the statutory public

consultation period, as attached at Appendices 2, 3 and 4 of the report
by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3) To agree the cemetery rules, as set out at Appendix 1, with an effective
date of 16 August 2022.
- 4) To review the information on the number of walled or fenced
greenspaces in the City including those which permitted dog walking and
update the Council's website.
- 5) To establish a short-life working group to discuss ways to better educate
members of the public about the importance of cemetery spaces and
their purpose.
- 6) To agree that officers report back to Committee in September 2023
detailing, complaints and any enforcement actions in relation to the new
management rules.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 16 November 2021 (item 12) and 1 February 2022 (item 1); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 26 April 2022 as a correct record.

3. Work Programme

Decision

- 1) To note the work programme of the Culture and Communities Committee of 16 August 2022.
- 2) To add to the Work Programme that the Executive Director of Place intended to present a report on the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe activities for 2022 to a future meeting.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Work Programme 16 August 2022, submitted.)

4. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - **Action 6 – Transfer of Management of Secondary School Sports Facilities to Edinburgh Leisure** – to note that the transfer had taken place on 1 April 2022.
 - **Action 20(3) – Business Bulletin – Librarians and Library Staff.**
- 2) **Action 10 – Parks and Greenspace Investment** – to agree that regular updates to Committee would be provided in the form of a report.
- 3) **Action 24 – Amplification of Sound in Public Spaces** – to note that the report on amplification of sound in public spaces would be brought to Committee in October 2022.
- 4) **Action 25 – Edinburgh Million Tree City** - To provide an update on maintenance and water care for newly planted trees in the next Business Bulletin.
- 5) To add the following to the rolling actions log:

Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan – Meadows and Bruntsfield Links – to request the Executive Director of Place to report in two cycles on the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan focussing on the naturalisation of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and to invite the Friends of Meadows and Bruntsfield Links to make a presentation on the matter.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log 16 August 2022, submitted.)

5. Business Bulletin

The Culture and Communities business bulletin was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the business bulletin.
- 2) To invite Tinderbox who led on Making Music in Libraries to a future meeting of the Committee to give a presentation on the project.

- 3) To arrange a visit for members to archives to view items relating to the 1822 visit of George IV to Edinburgh.
- 4) To request a further update to committee on how sports clubs and groups in the city were progressing after their return from lockdown.
- 5) To note that officers would consider editing the level of information included in the Business Bulletin, ensuring that the correct level of scrutiny and publicity was maintained.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin 16 August 2022, submitted.)

6. UCI Cycling World Championships 2023

An update was provided on the hosting of the UCI Cycling World Championships in Scotland in 2023 when Edinburgh would host the start of the Men's Elite Road Race on Sunday 6 August 2023. Committee was asked to approve a total budget of £350,000 to deliver this event.

The report by the Executive Director of Place highlighted the responsibilities of the Council in delivering this event and provided details of the wider policy opportunities to support a number of existing active travel and public realm projects being delivered by the Council.

Decision

- 1) To approved Edinburgh's participation in the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Cycling World Championships.
- 2) To agree an overall allocation of £350,000 towards delivery of the Championships.
- 3) To note that members and all stakeholders would be kept updated on the arrangements through communication and public engagement and via the Council's Event Planning and Operations Group (EPOG) and the APOG on Festivals and Events.
- 4) To note that members would be informed about the timescales for the removal of roadblocks and infrastructure once this had been confirmed.

(Reference - report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

7. Public Realm CCTV Update

An update was provided on the progress made towards developing the Public Realm Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) service in Edinburgh.

Decision

To note the update.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 26 March 2019 (item 11); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted).

8. Motion by Councillor Osler – Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Hal Osler in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Committee:

- 1) Agrees the fact that sport is not only important to individuals’ health and mental wellbeing but also is positive for the wider community.
- 2) Congratulates all the athletes representing Scotland who recently took part in the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.
- 3) Congratulates the Lionesses on their recent win of the European Cup.

Notes, however:

- 4) In football, the gulf in support and resources between the male and female game.
- 5) The recent report finding Cricket Scotland institutionally racist.
- 6) Agrees the importance of the Council having a Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and understands and appreciates the challenges the Council has faced in the last two years in bringing one forward.
- 7) Therefore, agrees to provide within 2 cycles an update on the present development of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy including a focus on how the strategy tackles inequality be it by gender, race, ability, sexuality or economic opportunity.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Osler.

9. Motion by Councillor Thornley – Parks and Greenspace Investment

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Thornley in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Committee:

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- 1) Notes the report received by the Committee on Tuesday 15 June 2021 “Parks and Greenspace Investment”, in particular Appendix 7 (Ward Summary of Priority 01 and 02 Works).
- 2) Notes that the expected cost of works was identified as £9.1 million (point 4.13), of which £4.2 million were Priority 01 and 02, and that work was to be progressed on them following agreement of the report.
- 3) Notes that this was provisional on these works being contained within capital budget allocation and any external funding secured.
- 4) Requests a report, within two cycles, to update the Culture and Communities Committee on:
 - a. Progress toward the completion of all works identified by ward, particularly those identified as Priority 01 and 02.
 - b. How much of the cost for the works was sourced from capital budget allocation, how much from external funding, and how much if any has not been spent.
 - c. The plan to deliver works identified as part of the £9.1 million, by ward, but that are not considered Priority 01 or 02.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Thornley.