

Neilston Community Council
Meeting of Tuesday 30 January 2024
MINUTES

In attendance: Malcolm Briggs, Julie Cloherty, Janice Connery (Vice Chair), Margaret Currie, Ronnie Junner (Chair), Kenny McKenzie, Colin McLeish (Treasurer), Margaret Pettigrew, Gail Squires (Secretary & minutes)
ERC Councillors: Tony Buchanan, Owen O'Donnell.

Visitors: PC Meldrum, PC Muir, Alan Walker (NDT), Matthew Drennan (NDT)

Apologies: None

1. Welcome

- Ronnie welcomed everyone.
- Previous meeting's minutes were approved (Proposed: Margaret P; Seconded: Colin McLeish).
- There was a minute's silence to acknowledge the passing away of a former NCC Chairperson, John Scott. Flowers and a card will be sent on behalf of NCC. (Action: Margaret P and Janice)

2. **Police Report:** There was discussion with the officers around the report for the period 29Nov23 to 19Jan24, and they were alerted to a couple of recent issues including a black Mercedes car that had been driving dangerously in the area recently. (The officers then left the meeting)

3. Neilston Development Trust (NDT)

Alan Walker and Matt Drennan from NDT had kindly attended the meeting in response to our invitation. The purpose mainly being to share information and establish any opportunities for collaboration between the two organisations. A number of topics were discussed:

Neilston Windfarm Legacy (NWL)

- There are 4 trustees: 3 are independent and 1 is a member of NDT.
- NDT has a role in NWL as a conduit for grant money being paid to successful applicants.

Long term projects

- Aim to increase and develop the use of the bank for events and to produce a yearly calendar of events.
- The Mill: NDT commissioned a survey of the Mill and the possibilities for its use in the community, the report is due soon. Purchase (dependent on Lottery funding) or rent of the building are both options and ideas for its use include: a vertical farm, hydroponics, gym, small theatre, housing. This is in its very early stages and next steps will largely depend on the outcome of the report.
- Alternative power sources in the community e.g. new wind turbines, solar farm, hydro scheme.
- Cycle Route between Neilston and Uplawmoor: progress has been dominated recently by discussions with farmers re changing the use of their land. There was lively debate around all aspects of the project and included a suggestion to re-route the proposed section within Neilston so that it does not affect local residents which is a serious concern in the community. It was noted that a survey of local opinion undertaken by NDT had only a 13% response rate which is not representative. Consultations are ongoing.

There was also discussion around how NDT identify those that attend events that are by invitation, as it was known that some pensioners have not been approached while some are attending regularly, and some are from outwith Neilston. Strategies for obtaining relevant info on eligible people were discussed.

NDT is not able to provide an alternative option to mitigate the effects of the closure of the post office.

Communications with NDT should be by emailing Alan Walker or Matt Drennan as the first point of contact. (Both NDT members then left the meeting)

4. Matters Arising

Parking: Ronnie reported on the meeting with the wardens he and Janice had attended on behalf of NCC in December at the NPS site. The meeting had been very useful and clarified a number of points.

The Councillors at the meeting were requested to expedite the signage being installed to allow the double yellow lines to be fully effective **[Action: Cllr Buchanan/Cllr O'Donnell]**.

There are some damaged **plastic kerbs** that are dangerous to the public in this vicinity and a recent instance of a local resident breaking their wrist as a result of this was highlighted by Julie.

Parking in **Kirkstyle Lane** continues to present problems.

NTMZ: Ronnie reported on a meeting he and Janice had attended on behalf of NCC for raising awareness of this scheme.

Participatory Budget Funding: Margaret P provided an update on progress following her report submitted to all committee members in advance of the meeting. She has also been in touch with ERC regarding the electronic noticeboard but has had no response as yet.

Electronic Noticeboard: Still out of commission. Cllr Buchanan had followed it up but has not heard back yet. There was discussion around NCC applying to the PB for funds to pay for it being resited. **[Action: Margaret P]**

New School Opening: No date has yet been agreed for the opening or for the pre-opening visits.

East Renfrewshire Equalities Forum: Gail had attended two consultation meetings and gave a brief overview following her report submitted to all committee members in advance of the meeting.

NCC Filing Cabinet: Ronnie has emailed Andrew Reid (Liaison Officer) to request a replacement.

NCC Facebook Page: Malcolm updated on this and it will be further discussed at the next meeting.

5. **St. Thomas's Primary School Site:** The building will be demolished and the site made safe prior to change of use. The likely use will be for social housing as there is a crisis in this sector. Discussion followed on the swimming pool and library and the councillors present confirmed that ERC has a commitment to renew these and it is budgeted for. There was also general discussion about the underuse of the Glen Halls in relation to the predicament of the GP surgery.
6. **Tree Planting Initiative:** The Climate Change initiative has indicated that they may be able to plant trees in Neilston in the short term if a site could be identified and it was agreed to suggest Kingston Playing Field **[Action: Gail]**. There was also discussion about the huge importance of preserving the trees in the St. Thomas' site after demolition of the school, and the need for two new trees to be planted if established trees were removed, albeit this could be at a different place.
7. **Condition of gravestones:** some of the gravestones are in a dangerous condition and there is a fear that there could be potential for a repeat of the tragic accident at Craigton Cemetery in recent years. Councillor O'Donnell has previously raised the issue and will look into it for NCC. **[Action: Cllr O'Donnell]**

8. Treasurer's report

Colin reported that there had been no activity this month to date and the bank balance is £979.83.

Margaret C agreed to be a third signatory for signing cheques. **[Action: Colin]**

9. AOCB

- **Resignation:** it was noted that Raymond Kerr had resigned from the committee, effective immediately. Thanks to Raymond for his contributions.
- **Pig Square:** Feedback was requested from ERC on any permissions given to *Incredible Edible Neilston* to site planters on the grass at Pig Square. Councillor O'Donnell offered to check this out. **[Action: Cllr O'Donnell]** During discussion, it was clarified that the planters are sited around the base of existing trees that were planted by ERC in the last year or two, rather than on the open grass which is the case with the cow sculptures. It was agreed that the land belonged to the community and accessible open green space was crucial.
- **Bank at Wellpark Terrace** is in a poor condition and hazardous.

10. Next meeting: Tuesday 27 February. Apologies from Janice, Ronnie and Julie. Margaret P agreed to chair.