

Neilston Community Council
Meeting of Tuesday 26 March 2024
MINUTES

In attendance: Malcolm Briggs, Julie Cloherty, Janice Connery (Vice Chair), Ronnie Junner (Chair), Kenny McKenzie, Colin McLeish (Treasurer), Margaret Pettigrew, Gail Squires (Secretary & minutes), Tony Buchanan

Visitors: PC Meldrum, PC Muir, PC Stewart

Apologies: Margaret Currie, Cllr O'Donnell, Cllr Morrison

1. Welcome

- Ronnie welcomed everyone
- Previous meeting's minutes: Proposed - Kenny McKenzie; Seconded - Malcolm Briggs

2. Police Report: There was discussion with the officers around the monthly report and they provided leaflets and stickers with information about scams. They were alerted to an ongoing issue with trees being vandalised at the Sykes Terr allotments and will give it some attention. (The officers then left the meeting)

3. Matters arising

- **Yellow lines/parking:**
 - The yellow lines opposite Robb's Garage are still not in place
 - Signage to fully activate the yellow lines has yet to be installed along with the kerb markings
 - Duncarnock Crescent parking issues are ongoing and potentially dangerous.
 - The only feasible solution is regular ticketing by the Wardens but their availability is patchy at best
 - Uncompleted signage and yellow lines on the kerbs are at the heart of the problem.
 - This has been raised at every CC meeting since the work at the school began and it was agreed that it needed to be resolved as soon as possible. Cllr Buchanan will pick this up with Roads as a matter of urgency.
- There is a problem of constant water flow in Sykes Terrace due to the lack of drains following a partial road repair approx. 15 years ago when tar was laid blocking all the drains. This has the effect of washing down debris (mainly from the unrepaired section now in a poor state) which is impacting on residents' property, septic tanks etc.
- There has been a request for a traffic calming island, or similar, to be installed in Neilston Road (left hand side of the road after you go down the hill from the village and round the first corner) there is considerable danger trying to cross the road there due to no pavement on one side of the road.

[Action on all the above: Cllr Buchanan]

- **Tree Planting at Kingston Playing Fields:** Gail updated that three groups of school children had done most of the planting along with members of NCC, Incredible Edible and the community. TCV were excellent at making it educational for the kids and involving everyone. 30-40% of the trees are expected to survive.
- **Electronic noticeboard:** this is now up and running. Re-siting to face Main Street is an ongoing objective.
- **Filing cabinet:** still no word on a replacement. To be followed up. [Action: Ronnie]
- **East Renfrewshire Equalities Forum:** Gail had been unable to attend the March online event as planned.
- **Neighbourhood Watch Schemes:** Kenny updated that this is now run online by 'Safer Communities' who have a wider remit that includes NW. It is up to individuals to approach Safer Communities to arrange this for their own localities.
- **Update on ERC 2023/24 Budget**
Cllr Buchanan clarified:
 - a new leisure centre is planned for Neilston but is a few years ahead. However, in the meantime the existing leisure centre/swimming pool and library are protected
 - services that are not ring-fenced generally take the hit when cuts are needed
 - as the Scottish Government have no funding uplift from Westminster, they have no additional funds to pass on to local authorities
 - although a proportion of ERC reserves will be utilised this year, other proposals for using more of these funds had been rejected
 - ERC looking at improvements for town and village centres and supporting local businesses.

Other discussions were around the possibility of introducing an option for a 6-month brown bin permit as well as an annual permit; and the unresolved problems of new accommodation for the medical centre.

- **Gravestones safety issue:** Ronnie provided documentation confirming that the graveyard at Neilston Parish Church is the responsibility of ERC and therefore the gravestones safety issue is as well. ERC have been in attendance to assess the situation, but no feedback has yet been received. Cllr Buchanan agreed to make enquiries. [Action: Cllr Buchanan]
- **Pig Square:** There was brief discussion about the 'open' aspect of the grass which is the only remaining central space for the community to use for outside events in the village. There are concerns that this space is being compromised by the bull sculptures installed more or less in the middle of the grass (probably not removable) and the Incredible Edible Neilston planters amongst the trees (removable).

4. New school

There was discussion around the issues of overcrowding at the school gates at the end of the day; concerns over fire safety planning being unclear although assembly points are in place; the retrospective planning application for the illuminated signs. It was agreed that the chaos at the school gate is mainly due to the ongoing work demolishing the old school building and should be at least partially resolved on completion.

Progress on appointing a *Liaison Officer* was not yet available. The need for this role was strongly reiterated by the members present. Cllr Buchanan agreed to update on this at the next meeting. [Action: Cllr Buchanan]

5. Participatory Budget Event on 16 March

Margaret had provided a report on the event which had been very successful indeed with an excellent attendance, information sharing and networking opportunities. Only two groups had been unsuccessful on the day and there was discussion about the possibility of NCC donating some of its own funds to them to encourage and support them both. It was agreed to fully discuss this at the next meeting. [Action: Margaret Pettigrew]

6. Communications Strategy

Malcolm updated that the online 'Neilston - What's On' Grid had been of great interest to other groups at the PB event. Malcolm is working with Kerry Cameron on this and when it launches there will need to be effective publicity to engage the various local groups. This is ongoing. [Action: Malcolm]

7. Treasurer's report

Colin reported that the bank balances are:

TSB a/c	£1,449
BOS a/c	<u>£1,184</u>
Total	£2,633

Gail submitted a receipt for the purchase of printer ink and paper, total amount - £45.25

The third bank signatory arrangements are in hand.

Annual Audit: There was discussion about the annual audit of accounts which will be arranged for the current financial year. [Action: Colin and Janice]

8. AOCB

Consultation for development at Shilford

This application had been received in NCC's email on 25 March with a response date of 15 April.

Julie had also been approached by neighbouring residents with a list of concerns including: noise and light pollution, fire risk of refuelling facilities, impact on the roads, number of car parking spaces needed, potential size of the new buildings, vehicle activity during night-time hours. 10 homes would be impacted.

There was discussion on these points; on the planned removal of roughly 50% of the established mature trees on the site and the fact that replacements would not have an environmental impact for a good many years to come; and on the very short response time that has been imposed.

It was agreed that a site visit would help in understanding the scope of the project and how the issues expressed are being addressed in order to reach a considered response.

[Actions: Ronnie will contact Murdoch's re arranging a site visit. Gail will contact ERC to request an extension to the response date]

9. Next meeting: Tuesday 30 April 2024