

Neilston Community Council

Meeting of Tuesday 25 June 2024

MINUTES

In attendance: Malcolm Briggs, Julie Cloherty, Margaret Currie (Treasurer), Kenny McKenzie, Margaret Pettigrew (Acting Chair), Gail Squires (Secretary & minutes), Cllr Buchanan, Cllr Morrison, Sgt Eddie White (Police Scotland), Andrew Reid (CC Liaison).

Visitors: Donna Strathearn, Andrew Ferguson, James Carberry, Shona Urquhart, Moira Aitchison, James Carswell, Louise Devlin.

Apologies: Janice Connery, Cllr O'Donnell

1. Welcome

- Margaret Pettigrew (Acting Chair) welcomed everyone.
- Previous meeting's minutes: Proposed – Julie Cloherty; Seconded – Margaret Currie

2. Police Report

The monthly report was summarised and discussion included: the stabbing in May raised at the previous meeting; the limited CCTV in the village (only two - at Double Hedges and the shops); the ongoing yellow lines issues and a noisy neighbour issue. The Police then left the meeting.

3. Visitors' Issues

Housing Development at Kirkton Road

Discussion included: public funding; no information on who is the owner now that Dawn Homes have pulled out; valid planning consent was renewed after re-assessment in June 2023 and will last for 3 years; 25% of stock must be for affordable housing; 20 Minute Neighbourhoods; impact on roads/traffic/pedestrians including road widths, pavement parking legislation and visibility; any conditions re road upgrades have to be implemented before a developer can begin building work; why a previous petition objecting to the site with approx. 2,000 signatures (slightly less than half the total Neilston population) had not had any impact on planning; environmental and social impacts, among others.

When Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3) is being consulted on, objections could include reference to the 20 Minute Neighbourhoods law which could not be implemented at this site; and, as local authorities are obliged by the Scottish Government to build affordable/social housing, if alternative sites were suggested that would give weight to objections.

Self-seeding trees

This mainly involves Sycamores that have self-seeded and are encroaching over pavements etc. Issues include, leaves becoming slip hazards, impacting on parking, growing out of/obstructing drains, no pruning of the trees or street sweeping to remove fallen leaves. The Councillors clarified that this is primarily the responsibility of the property owners, ERC cannot interfere with plants on private property unless they become dangerous to the public and the residents have been previously approached. Issuing notices to homeowners can become necessary but it is preferable that they should undertake this voluntarily. The situation is particularly bad in Station Road, Braehead Avenue and the lane behind the Killoch.

Dog fouling

This is an ongoing situation for everyone and the reluctance of dog owners to remove their animals' waste from public spaces is regrettable. Various initiatives have been tried including posters, stickers, free bags available at the library etc, but the behaviour continues. The Wardens can only impose fines if they witness it happening which is rare. Additionally, even if waste bags are used they often get dumped in situ and not put in bins (any public bin can be used for this).

Public bins

The lack of adequate numbers of public bins was discussed. Providing new bins will incur not only the cost of purchasing but also of maintenance/emptying etc.

Unused land being used for dumping

There was discussion on how this could be resolved and as with dog fouling it is tricky to catch fly tippers in the act but they would be charged if caught, and a fine imposed. The main contact to report instances is the ERC Ring and Report line **0800 013 0076**

4. **Matters Arising**

All actions were undertaken with following outcomes:

- Ronnie Junner had been formally thanked for his service to the CC and had kindly acknowledged.
- The ERC CC Liaison Officer had agreed to attend the meeting to discuss processes.
- Raised beds at Kirkstyle Lane: Incredible Edible Neilston will provide a forward plan.
- Filing cabinet has still not been delivered. To follow up with Culture and Leisure ([Action: Gail Squires](#))
- Neilston Wood: the landowner has cleared the path along its full length which was welcomed and much appreciated. There is, however, a particular worry regarding the safety of the wooden bridge which has areas of significant rot. Councillors advised that this is the landowner's responsibility and referred to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Contacting the landowner to discuss this and how NCC could help was agreed. ([Action: Janice Connery](#))
- The grass at the cemetery has now been cut and it was noted that the job had been done very well indeed, so thanks to those involved.
- CCTV blackspot: enquiries have been made with Community Safety and the Police and it is hoped to expand provision around the junction of High Street and Main Street in all directions. ERC have issued NCC with a Freedom of Information Request for this and will respond by the end of the month. This is ongoing. ([Action: Gail Squires](#))
- Traffic calming in Neilston Road: Cllr O'Donnell had advised that the residents have been contacted and agreement reached on two immediate issues – replacement of the faulty speed detection unit and repainting of the SLOW signs on the road. The 'Safe Route to Schools' officers will look at this again when it becomes relevant in a couple of years' time.
- Cllr Buchanan clarified that the machine for filling potholes had been trialled on loan by ERC and found to be unfit for purpose and they have therefore reverted to filling the holes manually for now.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Margaret Currie confirmed the current status of funds remains the same as last month:

£1,449.25 (TSB - unrestricted funds)

£829.83 (BOS - ERC funding)

£67.70 (Cash in hand)

Adding the necessary signatories is ongoing and is a complex task. The audit will be arranged after this is sorted out.

6. **Communications Update**

- The online 'Whats On' grid is working well. There is a lull just now as a lot of groups are off for the summer.
- A new newspaper called 'Good News' was discussed which covers Neilston and other areas. It is hoped that the editor can come to a subsequent meeting to discuss how NCC can get involved. ([Action: Malcolm Briggs](#))
- The NCC Facebook page has not yet gone public as a few issues remain to be ironed out but in the meantime, agendas/minutes will continue to be posted on Neilston Chat along with any other relevant information.

7. **Community Councils' Processes**

Andrew Reid (ERC CC Liaison Officer) advised on a number of issues of administration, running meetings etc, and it was felt that NCC is more or less adhering to these already. It was confirmed that approval of minutes cannot be done electronically, only at the subsequent ordinary meeting. Andrew will send further info in due course.

8. **Yellow Lines:** this is an ongoing issue. See item 2.

9. **Planning**

- Kirkton Road Development: discussed in detail at item 3.
- Nether Carswell Farm wind turbine: there was discussion re the worry that, as individual turbines are getting permission more and more, the area is becoming a wind farm by default although a report on this had deemed the area to be unsuited to siting of a wind farm. The resident who brought this to our attention was not in attendance to discuss this in detail but will be contacted by NCC to follow up. ([Action: Margaret Pettigrew](#))

10. **Local Transport Strategy**

NCC was unable to attend the public workshop on this and will request an update from the Community Transport Association. ([Action: Gail Squires](#))

11. **Post Office**

It was agreed to contact the Post Office for an update on the service in Neilston and to clarify collection times at the post boxes in the village. (Action: [Gail Squires](#))

12. **NCC Chairperson Role**

It was agreed that the members would take this in turns until a Chair can be appointed. The Vice Chair will be requested to chair the next meeting and from then it will rotate.

13. **East Renfrewshire Community Councils' Chairs Meeting**

This has been suggested for late July/early August. As we don't have a sitting Chairperson currently, the organiser will be contacted to discuss. (Action: [Margaret Pettigrew](#))

14. **AOCB**

- There is currently a lack of adequate school crossing patrol cover. ERC to be contacted for assurance this will be rectified for the schools starting back in August. (Action: [Gail Squires](#))
- It was discussed that the pedestrian crossing at the school is badly sited being on the wrong side of the school vehicle entrance which therefore also needs crossed. It was agreed that it would be safer and more rational to have it moved a few yards along and re-sited at the lane that connects Kingston Rd and Main St. (Action: [Julie Cloherty](#))
- Donna Strathearn was co-opted as a member of the CC.

15. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 27 August 2024