

Neilston Community Council

Meeting of Tuesday 26 November 2024

MINUTES

In attendance: Julie Cloherty, Janice Connery (Vice Chair), Margaret Currie (Treasurer), Ian Davidson, Rowena Johnstone, Margaret Pettigrew, Gail Squires (Secretary & minutes), Cllr Buchanan, Cllr O'Donnell, PC Joiner and PC Fisher (Giffnock).

Visitor: Douglas Currie

1. Welcome

Acting Chair, Janice Connery, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were tabled from Malcolm Briggs, Donna Strathearn and Cllr Morrison

Visitors: Douglas Currie

Previous meeting's minutes: Proposed – Margaret Currie; Seconded – Julie Cloherty

2. Police Report

The monthly report had been received and Giffnock based officers attended for police presence purposes as local officers were unable to attend. Among the issues discussed were

- cars idling at the top of Duncarnock at school in/out times for considerable periods causing a nuisance in terms of noise and pollution, the officers will feed this back to the Community Safety Officers service. Police stated that they principally focus their efforts on educating drivers.
- firework issues as usual at this time of year. Only 11 retailers in East Ren sell fireworks so they are probably being mainly bought online which makes age restrictions difficult to apply.
- Main legislation for fireworks is that it is illegal to set them off in a public place.
- non-urgent issues are best reported via the online form, urgent issues by phoning 101

3. Approval of minutes for October meeting: Proposed: Margaret Currie, Seconded: Julie Cloherty

4. Visitors' issues:

New school campus

There are three main issues that remain unresolved:

- Light Pollution: The brightly illuminated school sign shines straight into the rear windows of the neighbouring houses in Duncarnock and the gym light has been on constantly with the same effect. Only retrospective planning permission was given for the illuminated sign and no consultation with the residents was undertaken as should be the case in all planning applications. The sign was on constantly during February and March. Most recently they have been advised that the light will be switched off by the last person to leave at night and the responsibility for this lies with the headteacher. Residents will monitor this in the next weeks.
- Fencing: the land adjacent to Duncarnock has been raised considerably and is a main pathway for those accessing the school. The effect is that anyone using it, i.e. all the children and staff plus others, look straight down into the gardens and back windows of the houses. This impacts badly on residents' privacy and also that of the children particularly those with special needs who, when problems arise, are clearly visible to the residents which is entirely inappropriate. The residents had been led to believe that a fence had been agreed to resolve this issue which would have been very welcome, however the Education Department appears to have reneged on this promise and the plan dropped. There was no communication to the residents about this.
- HVAC (Heating, Venilation and Airconditioning) Unit: This is sited on the roof of the school and the noise it generates is loud and constant and impacts on not only the Duncarnock residents but also further afield (a resident of Kirkton Road reported that it can be heard there too). This is entirely unacceptable noise pollution and requires professional monitoring by ERC and a swift remedy which may be the replacement of the unit itself if it cannot be fixed.

Additionally, the appointment of the Project Manager as liaison for the residents has been helpful but his efforts are meeting little or no co-operation from ERC rendering the residents still without a voice in an issue which hugely and negatively affects peace and quality of life in their own homes.

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Communication with ERC has, throughout the project been badly lacking and nearly all efforts have been rebuffed. While it is understood that the pandemic compromised the project in many ways, this is no longer a reasonable excuse and improving dialogue with the residents is now an urgent matter.

A vote was taken on supporting the Duncarnock residents' grievances and this was unanimously agreed.

A letter will be sent to ERC in support of the above three issues in an effort to prompt a resolution.
[Action: G.Squires]

Signage for house numbers: this issue had been raised via an email from a resident of Glen Doll Road whose property is in a block of flats that sits far back from the pavement. There is no sign at the kerb side to indicate the street numbers for these properties and so they are difficult to find particularly for deliveries. The councillors advised contacting the Roads Department to find out who is responsible for this spot and how to proceed to remedy the situation. [Action: G.Squires to feedback to the resident]

5. Matters Arising

- Basketball nets at Kingston Park: Cllr Buchanan confirmed that these have been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible.
- Manse Road: in response to NCC's queries, ERC have committed to the grass area being cut twice a year as part of their verge contract and this will be monitored over the next 12 months. With the nature of the slope and the drop to pavement level the only safe option is to cut using a tractor mounted grass cutter. Housing have completed an assessment of the damaged wall and are in the process of organising quotes for the work.
- Dog walkers using graveyard: it has been observed that dog walkers have been taking their dogs into the graveyard and letting them off their leashes. Advice is to arrange signage prohibiting the practice. To be followed up with the Parks Dept. following the Church Session's recommendations. [No NCC action meantime]
- Re-siting of electronic noticeboard: no word yet on success of funding application but expected soon.
- Community Safety Officers Service: following contact from NCC, there has been regular activity by the CSOs at the school campus to tackle the dangerous parking issues. This has led to an increase in ticketing and ERC have confirmed 29 tickets were issued between 14 August and 25 November. Cllr O'Donnell had dealt with a complaint from the public on this recent CSO activity. It was agreed that the safety agenda is the principal issue and communicating this to the community and parents of schoolchildren is crucial. [Action: G.Squires]
- Lack of sufficient car parking spaces: the village is badly underprovided with car parking spaces, especially for school purposes and access to the church hall. This was discussed and acknowledged and will be an ongoing issue. It was also noted that parking in Kirkstyle Lane had started again.
- The lack of signage on approach roads to alert traffic to the school site was discussed and with the work beginning at Dareduff Quarry, this will become even more important when their lorries are driving through the village. It was advised and agreed to follow up on all related issues at the January meeting.
- Planning applications: Cllr Buchanan confirmed that applications are available online for 3 years following the date of approval. For older applications, an appointment can be made with the Planning Dept to allow looking at historical records at the council offices in person. It was also confirmed that council planners will refer to previous planning restrictions to avoid windfarms happening by stealth. It was agreed that NCC would write to Cllr O'Donnell re putting planning information on the website. [Action: M.Pettigrew]
- British Transport Police: following contact from NCC, the BTP provided a report for Neilston for the period 1 April to 22 Nov 2024:
 - 8 incidents
 - 6 of these resulted in a crime being raised. No crimes were identified in the other 2

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- Of the 6 crimes 2 were Violence Against the Person offences (Assaults). Both were related to school children travelling from Patterton to Neilston. Both are recorded as happening on train to the station rather than at the station itself. Neither resulted in serious injury.
- 2 less serious public order offences recorded as having happened on train. Both were Railway Byelaw offences and appear to have been later in the evening.
- 1 theft of personal property.
- 1 crime of Railway Trespass where a person had gone onto the line without permission.
- Looking at the days of the week and times of day these happened there is no pattern forming. It amounts to 1 crime every 5.5 weeks approximately and an incident every 4.25 weeks.

The BTP cannot provide a monthly report for NCC but statistics are reported annually. The BTP and Police Scotland have a fortnightly meeting with ERC which NCC can feed into via our councillors, however feedback *from* the meeting *to* NCC is not currently possible. The minutes of the meeting are published on the ERC website (Cabinet Police and Fire).

The members were informed that contact had also been made with the Scotrail Safeguarding Manager who has indicated that a programme of awareness raising is underway including presentations and school visits. An increased presence on the school trains is also planned.

- Secretary's laptop: costs for 3 laptop and printer options had been sourced and were discussed. All costs were agreed to be acceptable and affordable from NCC funds. It was agreed that the secretary would purchase the one that suits the job best by personal credit card and will be reimbursed on production of receipts. As the secretary has a printer at home, this will not be bought just now but will be if the need arises, in the meantime, ink cartridges will continue to be provided. [Action: G.Squires]

6. Treasurer's Report

The change of signatories for the TSB bank account is still underway but progress has been made with the board resolution form having been signed by the current (leaving) signatories.

The current status of funds are:

- Bank of Scotland account: £1,192.49
- TSB account: £1,449.25
- Cash in hand: £9.72

7. Communications Update

Carried forward to January meeting.

8. Standing Items

- *Parking and yellow lines*: see 'Matters Arising'.
- *Expansion of CCTV*: No feedback on progress yet. Carry forward to January.
- *Status and use of former St. Thomas's school site*: No decisions made yet but site is expected to be used for council housing.
- *Swimming Pool and Library*: No decisions made yet.

9. AOCB

Kirkton Road: A sink hole has appeared in Kirkton Road, situated on the kerb and road, and is causing problems particularly for pedestrians who are being forced to walk on the road to avoid potholes on the pavement. These are serious safety issues particularly with the increase in traffic due to Aurs Road being currently shut. Cars are being driven too fast for the conditions and have been observed mounting the pavement. The options of installing bollards or raised kerbs were discussed. Contact ongoing with Roads. [Action: J.Cloherly]

10. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28 January 2025