

Neilston Community Council

Meeting of Tuesday 28 January 2025

MINUTES

In attendance:

Malcolm Briggs, Julie Cloherty, Janice Connery (Vice Chair), Margaret Currie (Treasurer), Ian Davidson, Rowena Johnstone, Margaret Pettigrew, Gail Squires (Secretary & minutes), Donna Strathearn, Cllr Buchanan, PC Kilpatrick and PC Houston.

Visitors: Neil Guy, Douglas Currie, Jackie Malloy, Alison Findlay, Alison Carswell.

1. Welcome

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

Apologies were tabled from Cllr O'Donnell and Cllr Morrison

Previous meeting's minutes: Proposed – Malcolm Briggs; Seconded – Margaret Currie

2. The recent death of ex-Councillor Charlie Gilbert was noted with reference being made to his long years of public service, his support to Neilston Community Council and the wealth of contributions he made to the community as a whole.

3. Police Report

PCs Kilpatrick and Houston attended and updated on the period from 31 December to present as follows:

- Antisocial behaviour and disorder 1x Incident – Report of youths driving dirt bike in Kingston Park.
- Violent crime 1x Incident – Assault between two youths on the train and school related. This is ongoing and BTP also involved.
- Drug dealing and misuse Zero.
- Road Traffic No incidents of note.
- FRAUD 1x Incident – Internet related fraud.

It was highlighted, in relation to the assault on the train, that the school campus police were not present at the Neilston end of the journey. There was discussion on the issue of driving on the pavement in Kirkton Road which was also raised at the last meeting; and an update on the arson attack on a car was requested – the police advised that there have been no arrests made but enquiries are ongoing.

4. Visitors' Issues

New school campus

The visitors updated on the three issues brought to the November meeting:

- Light pollution caused by the illuminated school sign, apart from one 48-hour period when it shone constantly, has otherwise been unlit. This issue seems to be resolved.
- The fencing issue has not yet been addressed by ERC and will remain on the NCC agenda until the matter is resolved. Cllr Buchanan agreed to follow up on this. (Action: Cllr Buchanan)
- HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Airconditioning Unit) - although the original unit was recently replaced, the new unit is in fact noisier as it can now be heard by residents further away than before. As it is on constantly, the noise it emits is also constant being at its worst during night time hours. This is clearly unacceptable noise pollution and will remain on the NCC agenda until the matter is resolved. Cllr Buchanan advised that there had been problems with the HVAC in terms of the temperature levels in the school which may be a factor and he agreed to follow up on this. (Action: Cllr Buchanan)

NCC will also follow up on their original email with ERC. (Action: G.Squires)

Dareduff Quarry – Lorry Traffic

The potential danger and clear pollution issues posed by the expected volume of HGV lorries using the route from the quarry through the village was discussed in response to the visitor's wish for more information particularly as she felt the community were largely unaware. NCC has discussed this many times since at least 2019 when the planning application went through at East Ayrshire Council. Cllr Buchanan advised that ERC had raised the issues of the school campus on the route and the likely damage to the roads. However, the lack of activity/more information seemed to indicate that the plans

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had been abandoned until work began in the last month or so with no prior warning. It was revealed that the traffic management plan had been approved by EAC and ERC in May 2024 with 12 lorries per hour being estimated through the village on weekdays, less at the weekends, however, this has not been shared or discussed with NCC. While Cllr Buchanan did not have information on this to hand, it was agreed that NCC should write to ERC and formally request sight of the traffic management plans that have been agreed for the village. (Action: G.Squires)

It was also agreed that if the worst case scenario does happen and lorry traffic cannot be stopped, then the community needs to be assured that effective management will be in place. A suggestion was to install a similar traffic calming system to that seen in another local authority area (D&G) where a sensor activates red traffic lights if vehicles are in excess of 30mph.

Defibrillator at School Campus

The lack of a defibrillator at the school was raised as an urgent concern. Children and adults with health issues that may require this at a moment's notice do not have access to this life saving equipment at the school which is the major hub of activity in the village. Funds need to be raised to rectify this and NCC are in full support of the initiative. Cllr Buchanan undertook to investigate and feedback to NCC on how the situation could be rectified, and also on the issue of how a national campaign to install defibrillators in all schools in Scotland could be progressed (Action: Cllr Buchanan). This issue will be carried forward to the next meeting.

5. Matters Arising

- Basketball nets at Kingston Park: now installed.
- Manse Road: the grass outside the manse has been cut and rubbish cleared. Wall repairs still outstanding. Cllr Buchanan will follow up on the timescale for this. (Action: Cllr Buchanan)
- Dog walkers using graveyard: signs have been installed prohibiting this practice.
- Re-siting of electronic noticeboard: the NCC application to the Windfarm Legacy Fund was successful and the work will now be progressed. (Action: J.Cloherly)
- Community Councils Chairpersons meetings: Ian Davidson had attended on behalf of NCC in the absence of a sitting Chairperson. While this group is not currently useful for NCC, it was agreed that collaboration with Uplawmoor CC and Barrhead CC (when active again) would make more practical sense. Any future Chair can elect to attend if they wish to.
- The sink hole in Kirkton Road has been filled, but traffic are still driving on the pavement.
- Secretary's laptop has now been purchased and all documentation has been stored in the filing cabinet and electronically.

6. Treasurer's Report

The change of signatories for the TSB bank account is ongoing. The new signatories will be Julie Cloherly, Margaret Currie and Margaret Pettigrew.

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

Managing incoming emails was briefly discussed and it was agreed that everyone was equally responsible. Deleting junk messages can be done by anyone. It was agreed to address this more fully at an interim meeting (ref Item 9).

8. Standing Items

- *Parking and yellow lines:* it was acknowledged that the situation has improved vastly since the work has finished at the school, however there is a clear problem with parking at the doctors' surgery, opposite Robb's Garage, and the parking spaces between Dundonald PI and Station Rd.

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All are causing visibility and therefore safety issues. Cllr Buchanan will speak to Roads re the necessity for an assessment on this. [\(Action: Cllr Buchanan\)](#) Inviting a member of the Roads Dept to a subsequent meeting may be considered.

- Slippery plastic kerbs and flooding issue in Station Rd: carried forward to next meeting.
- *Expansion of CCTV*: carried forward to next meeting.
- *Status and use of former St.Thomas's school site*: carried forward to next meeting.
- *Pool and Library*: carried forward to next meeting.
- *LDP3*: carried forward to next meeting.

9. Interim CC Meetings

It was unanimously agreed to hold informal meetings when necessary to address issues that don't require the presence of councillors or the public, such as email management (ref item 7), development, forward planning, AGM etc. The first meeting will be booked for 3 March at the Glen Halls from 6-7pm, and confirmation will be emailed to all members. [\(Action: G.Squires\)](#)

10. Fly tipping and discarded blue gloves

Fly tipping is a constant problem and is needing addressed at national level in terms of increasing the fines for those that do get caught. The discarding of blue gloves in the road has become a big problem especially around care homes. It was agreed that a polite request to address this with their staff will be sent by NCC to Westlea Care Home where the issue is particularly prevalent. [\(Action: R.Johnstone, G.Squires\)](#)

11. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 February 2025