

## Minutes of Neilston Community Council 27<sup>th</sup> June in the Glen Halls, Neilston at 7pm.

**Present,** J Scott, A Walker, J Sheriff, R Mould, E Mould, M Pettigrew, J Connery ,R Junner, Cllr O’Kane , (Police Scotland), J Keys, N McMillan, J Robb, Jason Robb, J Kerr, S Sweenie, A Bone, I Roberts, E Melrose, C Melrose, E Hughes, U Brown, J Brown, R McDonald, C McDonald, J Maginnus, J Dunn

**Apologies:** V Wood, Cllr Buchanan

### 1. Police Report

Officers from Police Scotland attended the meeting and discussed the Police Report.

The Police report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> June till 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 is as follows

Assault & Violent Crime	Violent disturbance reported in Double Hedges Rd on 9 <sup>th</sup> June, no persons injured but windows smashed ongoing investigation. On 11 <sup>th</sup> June another disturbance occurred in Main St involving a number of males, investigations continuing.
Drug Dealing	On the 23 <sup>rd</sup> June a search warrant was executed on a house in Madras Place. A significant quantity of what is believed to be heroin was recovered. A quantity of pills was also seized. A 24 year old woman and a 29 year old male have been arrested and charged.
Drunk & Disorderly	Calls in relation to youth disorder have been very few.  There have been 2 calls in relation to youths causing a nuisance in the area of the Leisure Centre although no crimes have been committed.
House Breaking	No housebreakings or thefts of note in the period.

A member of the public raised the issue of youths in the area of Madras and had been reported to Police Scotland on a number of occasions.

The issue of use of CCTV already in the nursery was raised. Police Scotland confirmed they worked closely with ERC wardens to identify “hotspots” for youth disorder and to ensure that any such locations are patrolled effectivity.

## **2. Wardens**

No wardens present

## **3. Kirkstyle Lane development**

There was a discussion regarding the proposal by Barrhead Housing Association to build flats on the land in Kirkstyle Lane.

A presentation had been given to the Charter Advisory Group (CAG) by BHA on the proposal.

NDT indicated that they had spoken to BHA regarding the Neilston Going Places report.

ERC had no funds available to take the proposal forward but funding might be available through Scottish Government. This was discussed by various parties through the Strategic Housing Implementation Programme (SHIP)

ERC approached BHA to see if they might be interested in progressing the infill strategy as per the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).

BHA had indicated that the only site that was financially viable for them was Kirkstyle Lane.

The SHIP documents showed interest for affordable housing in both Kirkstyle Lane and Neilston Rd.

ERC had suggested the Council might lose any potential grant monies if they did not use it within the time period.

ERC at the CAG meeting had suggested it was a choice between housing and green space.

BHA are undertaking a consultation in the Bank on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

A Walker confirmed there was no association between Neilston Development Trust (NDT) and BHA.

NDT had looked previously at an option to purchase the land currently owned by ERC.

This had been looked at in the Charrette process previously carried out in the village.

It was stated that BHA had put approximately £10,000 into the Charrette that produced the Neilston Going Places report.

It was pointed out NDT had also contributed monies into the Charrette.

Discussion took place regarding the fact that the proposal by Taylor Wimpey has only 15 affordable homes in the 149 house development, whereas the SPG called for around 36.

The Community Council had already raised this issue with Taylor Wimpey and in our representation to the planning application.

The Kirkstyle Lane site is opposite the school which already has issues with parking.

The issue of increased congestion and safety at the school gates was discussed.

It was pointed out that the site is used for casual recreation by children and dog walkers as well as other more formal activities

ERC would need to sell the site to BHA but it was understood via the CAG meeting that discussion had been held with the District Valuer in this respect.

The general consensus from members of the public present was summed up as "keep the centre of the village green".

It was agreed that the Community Council should continue to review this matter and determine the individual views of the residents of Neilston with an objective of obtaining a fair and balanced representation to determine our position.

It was agreed that this would be done by all appropriate means and reported back at the next meeting as well as informally during the summer period.

Members were encouraged to determine individual views of residents and feed that back to the Community Council.

### **3. Community Council Issues**

#### **Data Protection**

Ongoing

#### **Car Park Charges Consultation**

Information Commissioner now undertaking investigation.  
(Ongoing)

It was noted that in the original proposal approx. £155K had been allocated for parking charge equipment in the first year, but only approx. £137K had been returned to the Budget.

Cllr O’Kane aged to investigate if NCC provided the details.

## **4. Planning**

### **On Line Representations in Planning**

Ongoing

This was again discussed and concerns raised again. The fact that in the “digital age” encouraged by ERC, representations by members of the public have to be viewed in person, when they were viewed on line seems bizarre.

### **Wind Turbine Noise**

The cumulative noise issue was discussed in view of the report from ERC consultants.

There have been 4 years of complaints.

It was noted that when the Neilston Community Windfarm was approved there was no issue with the noise from it; the problem has subsequently arisen from the cumulative noise from all the turbines in the area.

NDT has sold its interest in the Neilston Community Windfarm due to the difficulty in sustainability due to changes in tariffs and other financial and regulatory matters.

## **5. Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund**

Ongoing, it will probably take a year before the final details and necessary legal structures are in place.

The question was asked regarding the contribution from the Windfarm to NDT. NDT requires approximately £100,000 p.a. to run “The Bank”, and was eligible to apply for funding from a number of sources.

## **6. Community Sports Hub**

This has now been set up and the constitution being developed.

Loose combination of clubs at moment but developing.  
Competition for children to develop logo for group being held.

## **7. CAG**

Barrhead Housing gave a presentation on the proposals to the CAG.

They propose to hold an open presentation in the Bank on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The skate park and the toddlers play area funding has been approved and the work is in progress via ERC.

The funds are now in from WREN and NDT

A session has been held with the designer and the youth groups to determine final specification and locations within the confines of the permissions and funding.

This was well attended and hopefully will encourage ownership of the facility as well as community engagement.

Toddlers play area meeting still to be had with CAG and ERC to discuss detail.

The detail of the fence has still to be discussed.

## **8. Website**

The problem with our Facebook page has been resolved.

## **9. Minutes**

The minutes for the May meeting having been circulated, were proposed by R Mould and seconded by E Mould.

Approved unanimously.

## 11. Treasurers Report

Account stands at £641.64 with 95p in petty cash

## 12. AOCB

### Holiday Club

The Community Council approved a donation of £150 to the childrens Holiday Club run in the summer holidays.

The issue of ERC Community grants for this was also raised.

### Raised Beds

The issue of the condition of the raised beds in Kirkstyle Lane was brought up.

There is an issue over maintenance particularly in regards to the grass.

Cllr O'Kane agreed to talk to the Parks department in regard to this.

### Bus Bay

The busses are still waiting in the Main St bus bay

### Main St

It was indicated that some monies **might be** available to improve the environment in Main St

### Commemorative Bench

This issue has been forwarded to the Council regarding the provision of a bench round the tree in Kirkstyle Lane in memory to 2 members of the Neilston community and the Community Council.

This is ongoing especially in view now of the BHA proposal which includes cutting the sycamore tree down.

Ongoing

**AGM**

The AGM of Neilston Community Council was held after the normal June meeting.

- a. The members present and apologies were as the notice in the June meeting
- b. The minutes of the last AGM were already approved having been incorporated in the May 2016 minutes as published.
- c. The Chairman' s report was read out to members
- d. The Secretary 's report was read out to members
- e. The accounts and balance sheet having been previously submitted and independently audited and subsequently submitted to ERC was circulated.
- f. The current office bearers resigned their position
- g. Election of office bearers

**Chair**

The position of Chair was discussed and having had the constitution revised and approved by ERC the current Chair was eligible to stand.

John Scott indicated his willingness to stand and was nominated by A Walker and seconded by R Junner.

Unanimously elected by member's present vote

**Vice Chair**

The position of Vice Chair was discussed.

R Mould indicated he was unable to stand for Vice Chair or potentially membership of the Community Council due to a potential conflict of interest since he had applied for membership of the Board of Barrhead Housing Association.

A Walker indicated that all that was required was that he declared his interest and excused himself from any discussion that might create a conflict of interest in Community Council discussions in this regard.

J Sheriff reminded members that our own document on conflict of interest agreed in 2015 allowed for this.

R Mould was proposed by R Junner and seconded by J Sheriff

Unanimously elected by members present vote

**Secretary**

The position of Secretary was discussed.

J Sheriff indicated that he was willing to be considered for the position for a short period but perhaps not for the full term.

Proposed by R Junner seconded by A Walker

Unanimously elected by members present vote

**Treasurer**

The position of Treasurer was discussed

E Mould indicated she was willing to stand.

E Mould was proposed by R Junner and seconded by J Scott

Unanimously elected by members present vote.

- h. The auditor for the accounts will be appointed later
  
- i. The date of the next AGM will be in May/June 2018 in accordance with the constitution, the exact date determined by the Community Council in later discussion.

The Chair thanked members for their work in the previous year and closed the meeting.

**Note:**

**The next meeting of Neilston Community Council is on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in the Glen Halls.**