

Neilston Community Council

Minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 25th October 2022, 7pm

1. Members present.

Janice Connery (JC), Malcolm Briggs (MB), Colin McLeish (CM) Gail Squires

Councillor Morrison.

2. Attending

Vincent McCulloch ERC Community Council Liaison Officer

Kerry Cameron – ERC Community Development Officer.

Margaret Pettigrew – Participatory Budgeting.

Members of the Public

3. Apologies

R Junner, Cllr Buchanan, Cllr O'Donnell

4. Police Scotland

Ongoing issues with parking at the school, JC -neighbour could not get her car out of the driveway.

Police have been out to the site but are constrained with resources; Police have also used a speed camera at this location and will continue to monitor the situation.

5. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting held on September 27th 2022 were approved.

6. Neilston Locality Plan (Kerry Cameron ERC)

The Neilston Locality Plan sets out three priority themes:

- *Life learning, skills and rights*
- *Community pride in the built up and natural environment*
- *Accessible leisure for health and wellbeing*

This post-Covid period provides the perfect opportunity to reflect on these priorities and for us to work together towards either achieving these or identifying new ones.

Community empowerment is about communities being able to do more for themselves and having more say in decisions that affect them. One way that we are working to achieve this is through partners in specific communities working together to prioritise and jointly deliver the actions that tackle inequalities.

Partnership work is key to the locality planning process and it is imperative that local people are involved.

Kerry is working in partnership with other agencies and is looking for local people to get involved. Ideally looking for the services involved in the plan to come together to engage with local residents.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Kerry.

7. Participatory Budgeting - Margaret Pettigrew

Funding is provided by the council and is organised through Linking Communities and the community council.

Community groups can apply and there is voting system and groups with the most votes get grant funding, £12,500 was distributed in grants to groups in Neilston in June 2022.

The next round of funding takes place in December 2022, groups previously funded are not allowed to reapply for more funding, only available to groups who did not apply earlier in the year, £13k available this year. £25k next year. Posters have been put round the village and it is on social media. All groups who received funding earlier in the year can re-apply in 2023.

It's important that groups are encouraged to apply for a grant, as Covid played a part in halting some local activities.

Some points about Participatory Budgeting.

- It cannot support local business.
- Established groups can support small groups who do not have a bank account.
- Groups will advertising their activities at a community event, and why they are looking for a grant.
- Members of the public are invited to put tokens into the pot belonging to the groups.
- Winners are announced on the day, although there is the possibility that there will be losers.
- The event takes place on the 3rd of December in the Glen halls.

8. **New campus construction –**

Duncarnock Residents in attendance made the following comments regarding the building of the new campus.

- Heron (Construction company building new school) are not complying with the planning conditions.
 - There has been meetings between the Council and Heron. Heron has agreed to request permission from ERC when the planning conditions are required to be breached. Planning need to communicate, with residents, about occasions when Heron need to 'break' the conditions.
 - Resident stated that there is no proactive monitoring of the works, residents should not be tasked with monitoring the project. The council is not fulfilling their responsibilities seriously, and where the council is the client – it needs to fulfil its responsibilities.
 - GS – no points in having planning conditions if they are not met.
 - Some vehicles running engines unnecessarily, creating fumes which affect residents
 - Cllr Morrison – there has been school parents complaining about the traffic issue.
 - GS – will the council start undertaking monitoring, - Cllr Morrison will ask about that.
 - MP – There is the safety of the children – parking – residents. -the case is a special one and there should be a monitoring officer. In charge of the councils side of the contract.
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- Draft traffic consultation took place end of June – but no action since.

9. **Dareduff Quarry traffic issues**

- “The development has not commenced on site and it could take several months for the applicants to discharge the many conditions on the planning permission. Once the development is underway, the Roads Service will monitor the impacts of the development at that time”.

10. **The Parish Church grounds**

- ERC has previously maintained the ground at this location.
- ERC does not own the land (and has never owned the land) surrounding the church.

11. **Collaboration with other village organisations.**

There was discussion about the various initiatives taking place or planned for the purpose of ensuring the more vulnerable residents have a safe warm place which they can go to, particularly with the cost of energy, which means some people may not be able to heat their homes.

If the various services being offered in Neilston were co-ordinated, it may assist more people, reduce duplication and break down social isolation.

Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire (VAER) have funding available – 5k for humanitarian work,
JC – Can the glen hall be used for community activities?

Letter to NDT suggesting a meeting to discuss how groups in Neilston could co-ordinate and work together,
(copy Jan Hay jan.hay@neilston.trust.uk)

DATE of next meeting – Tuesday 29th November at 7pm in the Glen Halls.