

Neilston Community Council

Draft Minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 28th February 2023

1. Members present.
Malcolm Briggs (MB), Colin McLeish (CM) Gail Squires, Ronnie Junner (RJ)
Ex-officio members – Cllr Buchanan, Cllr Morrison & Cllr O'Donnell
2. Attending
Alison McGown, Margaret Pettigrew & Oonagh McKinnon (Linking Communities)
Dr Livingston (Local health practice), Margaret Currie (Resident)
Two officers from Police Scotland.
Vincent McCulloch – Community council Liaison Officer
3. Apologies
Janice Connery
4. Police Scotland
Police report will be circulated (when it has been received)

Police reported that there has been an upsurge in the illegal use of off road motorcycles & quad bikes in and around Neilston. It is hoped that a specialist police unit which uses off road motorcycles and has more success at catching perpetrators will be able to support the local police.

CM – advised that off road motorcycles are using the field adjacent to Kirkton Road, responding to a question, the Police advised that motorcycle/quad bike issues should be reported to the police using the 101 number.

RJ - Parking at the school is getting worse – there was discussion regarding this issue.

Previously consultation took place within Neilston regarding roads and traffic and there may have been an order for additional double yellow line, which has not been implemented due to Covid. This needs to be followed up with the ERC Environment Department to ascertain if there is an order in existence.

Action – CC to email director of Environment and copy in ERC Cllrs.

It was raised that the Council is looking at new systems of traffic control – paid for by Participatory Budget. Some of these kind of decisions may be best dealt with at a local level rather than at Council level.

It was also commented that there needs to be better co-ordination between ERC & Police concerning roads and traffic.

Police – laws coming in about no parking on pavements.

5. Dr Livingstone / Local medical practice.

Dr Livingstone advised that the local medical practice is not fit for purpose, it is too small and the practice's patients list will need to close as there is not the capacity to deal with them.

When the practice moved to their present location the patient list was 1800, it is now over 4000.

They cannot employ additional doctors, as there is no space for them.

The premises are owned by East Renfrewshire council and are leased to the medical practice.

The practice cannot get a sustainability loan to extend the property, as they do not have ownership, the land ownership is an issue.

Dr Livingstone advises that dialogue with ERC has proven to be difficult and is asking if assistance can be provided in the negotiations with the Council and the Health & Social Care Partnership.

Cllr O'Donnell advised that the New Director of Environment is aware of the issue and understands that there is a willingness to try and resolve the issue.

Action - Cllr O'Donnell will speak to Director of Environment and update the CC prior to the next meeting (28th March).

6. Neilston Participatory Budgeting.

Oonagh McKinnon –(Linking communities) Advised the meeting that there is £36,000 available for groups under the Participatory Budgeting scheme, however it has proven difficult to get a group together to oversee and take ownership of the process in Neilston. Because of this; it was advised that the planned Participatory Budget event for March will likely be delayed.

MB – Advised the meeting that there had been an explorative discussion around setting up a co-ordinating group in Neilston to facilitate community activity. Its early days, but hopefully this idea will gain some traction.

There was discussion about the number of groups in Neilston that have diminished.

MB has volunteered to assist with the Participatory Budgeting group along with Margaret Pettigrew. Hopefully other individuals will come forward.

7. Building on Kingston Playing Fields / interest from a resident – possible community use.

This relates to an email from a resident enquiring about a building. The meeting was advised that this building is used for football changing and storage, it was also suggested that there are more suitable venues within Neilston for community activity.

Action – VMc to advise the resident accordingly

9. Locality Planning

Kerry Cameron (ERC) had written to the community council regarding locality planning, there followed a discussion on Community Planning and earlier versions of it, (Neilston Charter). It was agreed that Kerry would be invited to the next meeting.

Action VMc

10. Treasurer update.

Between the two accounts, there is £2600 approx.

11. AOCB

VMc advised the meeting that elections will be required for all community councils (every 4 years), this will start in August 2023 and end in October, further information will be given in due course.

GS – Advised the meeting that there has been environmental improvement works at the Leather Works, however the steps (which form part of the path) are in need of repair and restoration.

Action GS to draft email to be sent to appropriate Council officers looking for support and advice.

It was raised that Neilston Development Trust are the owners of a path adjacent to houses (old railway line), they plan to develop it as a cycleway and path, there is concern that it may become a location for anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Morrison will investigate if planning permission has been given for the path. Contact to be made with appropriate council officers (Mark Brand) regarding the development who may provide additional information.

RJ – Raised an issue regarding lighting in Broadlee Court, apparently there are 3 lights which have not been adopted by ERC, although the lights are connected to the grid.

Action – RJ to draft an email which will go to the Environment /Road Department.

12. Date of next meeting: 28th March - 7pm in the Glen Halls

THEN - 25th April, 30th May, 27th June, 29th August, 26th September, 31st October, 28th November.