

Neilston Community Council

Meeting of Tuesday 27 August 2024

MINUTES

In attendance:

Malcolm Briggs, Margaret Currie (Treasurer), Margaret Pettigrew (Acting Chair), Gail Squires (Secretary & minutes), Cllr Buchanan, Sgt White and Constable Kilpatrick (Police Scotland).

Visitors:

Kerry Cameron and Christine Cairns (ERC Community Learning and Development), Ian Davidson, Moira Aitchison, Andy Ferguson, Ellen McCormick, John McCormick.

Apologies:

Julie Cloherty, Janice Connery, Kenny McKenzie, Donna Strathearn, Cllr O'Donnell, Cllr Morrison.

1.	<p>Welcome Margaret Pettigrew (Acting Chair) welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Previous meeting's minutes: Proposed – Malcolm Briggs; Seconded – Margaret Pettigrew</p>
2.	<p>Co-option Rowena Johnstone was co-opted unanimously to the CC. Nomination form to be copied to Andrew Reid (CC Liaison) [Action: Gail Squires]</p>
3.	<p>Police Report The officers attending talked through the report for the period since the last meeting in June. The period had been very quiet. A number of other queries were raised including the alleged setting of animal traps in the field at Kirkton Road which constitute a danger to people walking there, particularly children, and the police will check out the legality of setting traps in public spaces. Also raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• speeding in the village by diverted traffic due to the closure on Lochlibo Rd• concern re the possibility that dogs have been ingesting drugs in Kingston Park and becoming ill• dangerous driving of motorbikes/quads posing a danger and generally disturbing the peace and safety of others in the area of the path across the NDT land that links Wellpark Lane and Double Hedges Rd• restrictions around the use of fireworks <p>The police officers took a note of the above and shared contact details. They reiterated the need for the public to report any issues as soon as possible to allow them to be dealt with as they arise. The police also confirmed that discussions towards increasing the provision of CCTV in Neilston is ongoing. The police then left the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting was interrupted for a planned fire drill which took place successfully.</p>
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCTV: info from an FOI request had been received that indicated there are 2 CCTV cameras in the village; one at Broadlie Court and the other at Bank Street. They will be reviewing expanding coverage when the school campus is completed.• Post Office: awaiting information from the Post Office on progress with reinstating the service in the village. Collection times are confirmed as 9am Mon-Fri and 7am on Saturday.• Planning: wind turbine at Nether Carswell Farm. The concern is that this area, previously deemed to be unsuitable for a wind farm, is slowly becoming one by stealth as more and more individual turbines get planning permission. Planning should be taking this into account and ensuring it does not happen. Cllr Buchanan confirmed that local issues should be considered during the planning process, usually via impact assessments that the public can feed into. There were concerns re oil leakage and poor maintenance that were impacting on the environment and doubt that the removal at end of life does in fact include, as it is supposed to, safe removal of the entire structure including the concrete base embedded in the land.• East Ren Community Council Chairs Meetings: NCC was unable to provide a Chairperson to attend the first meeting on 15 August. Contact will be made to update on the position, request feedback from the meeting and offer support remotely if needed. [Action: Gail Squires]
5.	<p>Treasurer's Report Margaret Currie confirmed the current status of funds are: <i>Bank of Scotland account:</i> £1,192.49 (£829.83 plus £362.66 received from ERC for current year) <i>TSB account:</i> £1,449.25 (no change)</p>

	<p><i>Cash in hand:</i> £9.72 - £67.70 less £57.98 paid to Gail Squires for printer ink cartridges.</p> <p>Adding the necessary signatories to the two bank accounts is ongoing. The audit will be arranged after this is sorted out.</p>
6.	<p>Communications Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Facebook pages continue to be used to good effect for CC communications with the community The new 'Good News' newspaper was discussed and its benefit for sharing information. The Editor will be invited to the next meeting to discuss its potential. [Action: Malcolm Briggs] Electronic noticeboard: the need for repositioning of the noticeboard was again discussed and will be followed up with ERC [Action: Margaret Pettigrew]
7.	<p>Community Wardens Service</p> <p>Visitor, Ian Davidson, provided a wealth of information on the Community Wardens and it was clear that the service is hugely understaffed to cope with all the demands on their time. Facts shared from an FOI request included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 FTE CWs for a population of approx. 80,000 residents main areas of work are issuing parking penalty notices, and safety at the 35 or so ER schools reduction of observation times for parking violations to 5 minutes will help; but introduction of pavement parking ban will add a new and substantial element to the work Other duties in areas such as anti-social behaviour, dog control and fouling, littering and a range of community-focused areas is therefore sadly neglected through no fault of the CWs themselves. <p>There was discussion around why the situation exists and what impact community councils could have on this.</p> <p>In Neilston the main issue currently is around parking and traffic violations involving the work at the new school campus. It was highlighted that lorries are operating at school start/finish times when they are supposed to avoid these times. They are therefore posing clear dangers to the children and other pedestrians which make the likelihood of an accident high. Cllr Buchanan undertook to address this issue on behalf of NCC [Action: Cllr Buchanan]</p> <p>Ultimately, it is clear that the understaffing issue has a much wider impact than parking alone and, ideally, additional funding to increase the numbers of CWs is very much needed.</p>
8.	<p>Locality Plan</p> <p>Visitors, Kerry Cameron and Christine Cairns (ERC Community Learning and Development), wished to enlist support from NCC to help with promoting the Locality Plan which exists to address and facilitate community priorities. The events held last summer to engage the community were successful, but interest has since dwindled significantly. Strategies for connecting with local residents, groups and organisations are needed and there was discussion about pooling disparate groups resources/expertise etc to achieve targets. Suggestions included, online surveys, interactive website, using Facebook to link in, visiting groups when they are on, visiting the library, swimming pool etc., using the electronic noticeboard to raise awareness. Kerry and colleagues are already working with the school pupil councils amongst others but would appreciate help to stimulate interest and get things achieved for the community.</p> <p>Malcolm agreed to act as NCC liaison for the Locality Plan.</p>
9.	<p>Village Cycling Event</p> <p>Malcolm outlined a cycling event idea that would encourage the community of all ages to use their bikes that could be supported by NCC. During discussion it was agreed that this was an excellent idea and NCC could possibly provide prizes as well. For safety reasons, it was agreed that this should probably be delayed until the work at the campus is complete, but contact will be made with the schools in advance. [Action: Malcolm Briggs]</p>
10.	<p>Self-seeding Trees</p> <p>Following a visit to the NCC in June on the subject of self-seeding trees overgrowing the footpaths in certain areas of the village, the CC was delighted to be informed by one of the visitors that there had been extensive cutting back of such trees, principally in Station Rd and Kingston Rd, and the footpaths were now in a good, usable condition again.</p>
11.	<p>AOCB: None.</p> <p>As the meeting had run out of time, the AGM planning item was deferred to the next meeting.</p>
12.	<p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24 September 2024</p>

