

Neilston Community Council

Meeting of Tuesday 24 September 2024

MINUTES

In attendance:

Malcolm Briggs, Julie Cloherty (Acting Chair), Margaret Pettigrew, Gail Squires (Secretary & minutes), Donna Strathearn, Cllr Buchanan, Cllr O'Donnell, PC Woods and PC Kilpatrick (Police Scotland).

Visitors: Margaret Fraser (Good News newspaper), Nimrod Kerem and Ed Minisci (Glanderston Wood), Allan Ogg, L. McKinlay, Ishbel Fox (Manse Road).

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| 1. | <p>Welcome</p> <p>Acting Chair, Julie Cloherty, welcomed the attendees and everyone introduced themselves.</p> <p>Apologies were tabled from Janice Connery (Vice Chair), Margaret Currie (Treasurer), Rowena Johnstone and Cllr Morrison.</p> <p>Previous meeting's minutes: Proposed – Malcolm Briggs; Seconded – Margaret Pettigrew</p> |
| 2. | <p>Police Report</p> <p>The officers attending talked through the report for the previous month which comprised of a few isolated incidents. They were advised of the issue of kids climbing the scaffolding at St. Thomas's church and will give extra attention to that. They highlighted the importance of issues being reported to them so that they can take action, either by phoning 101 or using the online form.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Visitors</p> <p>Glanderston Wood</p> <p>There is an ongoing problem with litter, drug taking and other anti-social behaviour; also instances of vandalism including the use of chainsaws to cut trees down and lighting bonfires. It appears to be mainly high school age individuals that are involved, however approaching the local schools has not provided any support. The problem was discussed and suggestions included a 'Friends of Glanderston Wood' concept, i.e. inviting youth and other community groups to visit, and the use of signage to give information and deter misuse. Effective communication and stimulating a sense of ownership, appreciation and understanding of the woods was agreed to be key to this. The Police gave advice on the use of CCTV and encouraged reporting of incidents to them; NCC agreed to provide contact details for appropriate community groups [Action: Malcolm Briggs]; and an offer to bring a group of local teenagers to visit was well received [Action: Donna Strathearn]. NCC requested to be kept informed and the visitors agreed</p> <p>Good News Newspaper</p> <p>The concept of the paper, produced by TLC (Together Leading Communities), and how communities can make use of it to share positive information and good news stories was explained by the Editor, Margaret Fraser, and she is always on the lookout for material for articles. To submit a story, simply email news@togetherleadingcommunities.com. The paper is produced monthly, is free, and is available in paper and online formats. In Neilston, copies will be available at the library. NCC is supportive of the newspaper and will promote it where they can.</p> <p>Manse Road</p> <p>There was discussion around the extremely poor state of the grass verges and also the manse wall which is deteriorating with roughcast falling off. Some trees have grown to massive heights and overhang the road creating the usual fallen leaves problems. It was agreed that the area is a shocking eye sore and reflects poorly on the village. The visitors had discovered that the grass outside the manse is not being cut by ERC due to health and safety issues and has now been deemed by ERC to be a wild area. Cllr O'Donnell will make enquiries to confirm who owns this piece of land and also what the health and safety issue is for no longer cutting the grass. [Action: Cllr O'Donnell] NCC will look into the background/history of the situation. [Action: Margaret Pettigrew]</p> |
| 4. | <p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post Office: Confirmation received that there's been no progress in reinstating the service. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village cycling event: in progress • Lorries operating at school start/finish times: Cllr Buchanan updated that the Community Wardens along with school staff had looked at the situation and the school gates are now being closed at these times. Heron Brothers have adjusted their lorries' movements accordingly. Cllr Buchanan also confirmed that the demolition work was on track to be completed in November. • Community Wardens Service: the lack of sufficient CWs was discussed and the role NCC could have in addressing this. The councillors explained that the new pavement parking legislation may, in due course, force ERC to employ additional staff, and they advised that NCC can put in a request for an increase in CWs and that it is useful for them to be aware of need. [Action: Gail Squires] • Wind turbines planning (Nether Carswell Farm): the councillors advised that NCC could contact ERC Planning and ask what the grounds for refusal were when planning for this was refused; and also how the term 'wind farm' was defined (ie. how many turbines = a wind farm) as this area now has a substantial number of individual turbines and planning may not be applying this definition to new applications in the area. The danger being that the area could become a windfarm bit by bit as individual applications are approved. [Action: Margaret Pettigrew] • Electronic Noticeboard: A quote for the cost of relocating this had been received (total £2,814). It was agreed to apply to the Neilston Windfarm Legacy Fund for the cost. [Action: Julie Cloherty] There will be further discussion at the next meeting on canvassing community opinion on the best site. |
| 5. | <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Margaret Currie was absent but had advised that the change of signatories for the bank account was now completed and the current status of funds are unchanged from the previous month:</p> <p><i>Bank of Scotland account:</i> £1,192.49 (£829.83 plus £362.66 received from ERC for current year)</p> <p><i>TSB account:</i> £1,449.25 (no change)</p> <p><i>Cash in hand:</i> £9.72</p> |
| 6. | <p>Communications Update</p> <p>Discussion on the potential of the Good News newspaper was deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Standing Items</p> <p>The former St.Thomas's School site: Cllr Buchanan advised that demolition has started and the site is likely to be used for social housing but no confirmation yet; also that the new swimming pool and library are likely to be constructed at their current site.</p> <p>Due to lack of time, parking/yellow lines and CCTV expansion were skipped as no new information currently.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Emptying of public bins</p> <p>Recent complaints about a bad smell at Kirkstyle Lane being due to the community composters was investigated and revealed that the public bin was the culprit. Currently awaiting reply from query to ERC re the rota for emptying the bins [Action: Donna Strathearn] and Cllr Buchanan will also check this out [Action: Cllr Buchanan].</p> |
| 9. | <p>Nets for basketball hoops at Kingston Park</p> <p>In response to an email query, there was discussion about the missing nets being reinstated and this led to the issue of the weeds at the court being out of control and the blocked drains. Cllr Buchanan offered to investigate and feedback at next meeting. [Action: Cllr Buchanan].</p> |
| 10. | <p>AGM</p> <p>Due to lack of time this has been carried forward to the next meeting.</p> |
| | <p>Filing Cabinet</p> <p>The new NCC filing cabinet is in place in the Hall Keeper's office. It was agreed the keys should be kept by the secretary and treasurer who will use it the most. Gail has both keys and will pass one on to Margaret Currie. [Action: Gail Squires]</p> |
| 11. | <p>AOCB</p> <p>Julie agreed to chair the next meeting if Janice is unable to attend.</p> |
| 12. | <p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 29 October 2024</p> |