

**Nairn West & Suburban Community Council Ordinary Meeting (by Zoom)****Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021****MINUTES****Present:**

Sheena Baker (Chair) (SB)  
 Jimmy Ferguson (Secretary) (JF)  
 Ally Macdonald (Comm Liaison Sec) (AM)  
 Alastair Noble (Vice Chair) (AN)  
 Brian Stewart (BS)  
 Bill Young (Treasurer) (BY)  
 Alan Hampson (Planning) (AH)  
 Joan Noble (JN)  
 Cllr Peter Saggars (PS) will join during the meeting

**Apologies:**

Dick Youngson (DY)  
 Lorraine Mallinson (LM)  
 Cllr Liz MacDonald (LM)  
 Cllr Tom Heggie (TH)

**Also present:**

Donald Wilson Press (DW)  
 Shane Manning HC Roads and Transport Manager (SM)

5 Members of the public

Item	Description	Agreed motion/action
1.0	<b>Welcome:</b> Chairperson SB welcomed Shane Manning HC (Roads and Transport) and members of the public. Apologies, reminder meeting being recorded. No interests declared.	
1.2	The Chair welcomed, in her absence, our new Acting Ward 18 Manager Emma Tayler to her new post. All present were reminded that the meeting was being recorded. She asked NWSCC members to identify themselves by a wave of their hand and reminded everyone that they should make a declaration of interests if anything being discussed related to a personal interest, financial or otherwise, in any matters being discussed tonight.	
2	There were no amendments to previous minutes or appendix circulated and were passed	Proposed: AN Seconded: AMcD All members agreed.
3	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes</b>	
3.1	<b>Speeding Restrictions:</b> The Chair advised she had emailed Richard Porteous for any possible update on SIDS and the proposed 20mph highland wide speed limit in built up areas. She had also thanked him for the work completed on the accident black spot including the Thurlow Rd junction. No response had been received. JN conveyed thanks to Donald Wilson for the article in the Inverness Courier which had assisted resolution.	
3.2	<b>HC Consultation:</b> on Sandown lands is due to be presented and discussed at the Nairnshire Committee meeting on 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2021. The papers should be available to view 2 <sup>nd</sup> June and the Chair asked for the first NWSCC member to see them to pass the link to the other members. Any final decision has to go before the full Council.	Date now understood to be 23 June, papers 16 June
3.3	<b>Correspondence - none</b>	
4.0	<b>Treasurers Report:</b> The only cost was for spanglefish for the domain. A show of hands indicated agreement. Bank Balance: CC Funds £1,414.76 Fireworks Account £3,261.12	Proposed – AN Seconded - JF
5.0	<b>Developers Contributions past and the process for future allocations:</b> The Chair had emailed Scott Dalgarno (SD) requesting advice regarding when the updated figures would be available, so far there has been no update received. She reminded the meeting that SD, at our previous meeting, had indicated the Nairn Community could get involved in suggesting how DC's should be allocated. She felt it important that tonight's meeting initiates a public discussion and consultations with Nairn residents.	

BS noted that his hope was for clarity on the past history of DC's at Lochloy and the process for decision making on future DC contributions. He queried the decision to allocate the DC's to HLH and hoped that future discussions would result in consultation on what pots are identified (for DC's) and filled. PS stated that his understanding was that the allocation of DC's was an operational planning matter. The Chair advised that Iain Vernal of Osprey Crescent had similarly requested information on DC's collected by HC and had shared the figures he was sent in April with us, SB had since thanked him for his input.

Tom Heggie had requested and received information on DC's from Springfield properties. PS was now in receipt of the information and spoke to it on Tom's behalf. Springfield indicated that the 2009 and 2013 phases had developers' contributions collected of £2,000 per home built towards the pedestrian bridge across the railway and a further £60,000 had been collected for public transport provision. Their records showed that all monies collected had been paid to HC. In that period no contributions for education were required or paid. Springfield had advised a total of £1,101,000 had been paid to HC for those phases.

Springfield had also forwarded figures for the latest phase. They had collected £2,022 per home, excluding one bedroom's flats etc, for primary education. Community facilities DC's collected were £1,009 per home and transport a sum of £2,417 per home for the railway crossing. School Transport £400 per home, public transport £417 per home and coastal trail fund £232 per home. All in all, this total £685,000 was due to HC and at the time of writing they had paid a total of £472,000 to Highland Council for the latest phase. BS stated that he assumed Springfield figures were accurate but he still wished to get clarity from HC.

PS advised that the criteria for educational provision are set by Scottish Government.

JN referred to an earlier email from David Mudie where he had stated there was no record of the decision to allocate the DC's totalling £90,000 to HLH. She felt that no assessment had been made regarding the proposed dance studio to be attached to the swimming pool, she felt there is a much wider need for funding to go to other leisure facilities in Nairn not just HLH. AMacD asked who had suggested the dance studio. It appears that HLH decided they wanted to build 6 dance studios in the HC area, JN noted that there appears to be no record of community consultation on this in Nairn. BS stated that the Ward records held the answer to who was lobbying for this at Ward Business meetings, he declined to name who was involved.

AN remarked on the need for a thorough review on all sporting and leisure provisions in Nairn. He had recently spoken with Steve Jack of the Nairn Sports Club and Donald Wilson of Nairn County. He felt many other sporting facilities should have a higher priority than the dance studio. SB reverted to her wish to let Nairn residents know they can have input about DC allocations and questioned how best to get that fact out and into the public realm.

AH remarked that this all stems back, in his view, to the fact that the CC's have no council forums that allow us to participate. He felt that discussions are held in private and the Elected Members had no method of canvassing the views of Nairn residents. He repeated he wanted to see some forum/local community group set up, what it was called he felt did not matter. BS concurred and remarked that AH's comment was pertinent as it allowed for a process that ensures all relevant parties are engaged with the electorate

AMacD suggested we place draft proposals concerning DC allocations on our website and if the NRCC did similar, when their new website is in operation, that would give 2 platforms for the consultation. The input from the consultations, when gathered, could

	<p>possibly lead to further discussion with Scott Dalgarno. The results of such a consultation would allow discussion papers to be prepared and presented to our Elected Members. AMacD said we should start the discussion by utilising the website and Hamish Bain (HB) confirmed the new NRCC website is up and running and due to go live soon. This seemed to meet with general agreement although no specific proposal was decided regarding the content and placing of a consultation questionnaire.</p> <p>Donald Wilson (public and reporter) asked to contribute as he had knowledge on the history of sport in Nairn over many years. He likened it to a third world country. He remarked that he would be happy to assist and contribute to such a consultation. PS mentioned that a previous group had been set up to look at car parking issues at the Links and had come to nothing. The forum being suggested by AH is wider than the one PS mentioned. Mandy Lawson (ML) felt the town is on the cusp of an opportunity with the new academy being built with a need to house leisure facilities. She mentioned that as well as websites the towns new noticeboards could be utilised to get messages passed to the wider community. HB felt TH and others should be invited to a joint meeting in June to discuss the setting up of a forum or similar.</p> <p>Matter is ongoing and requires further discussion before any action is taken by the CC.</p>	
6.0	<p><b>CC Membership</b></p> <p>The Chair advised that during the CC's operational discussions when setting the agenda, the subject of membership was discussed and the need to widen younger ages represented. Some parts of our area have no representation which needs to be addressed. This could be by co-option and youth membership. A Co-opted member has a vote but there is a limit on the number of co-opted members any one CC can have. The duration of the co-option would be until the CC is up for re-election.</p> <p>She advised that the ongoing discussion had resulted in a suggestion that NWSCC could place a notice on the NWSCC website and ask both Des from the Gurn and Andrew Randerson from Nairn our Town Our Views facebook if they could set up a link from their sites to ours and encourage folks to use the link.</p> <p>She widened the invitation to Donald Wilson (Inverness Courier) and suggested he might consider assisting spreading the need for a wider representation in our area by featuring this initiative. She was concerned that not everyone engages with social media and we want to let as many people as possible know there is an opportunity for them to join us.</p> <p>There followed a short discussion and general agreement to the proposal was obtained. The Chair suggested that the notice also be placed in the Community and Arts Centre and the Castle Street noticeboard, JN suggested local supermarkets noticeboards also display the notice. HB (Chair NRCC) when asked, agreed to place the notice on the Castle Street location when sent to him. The Chair to follow up and ensure the notices are displayed at the other venues. A show of hands approved these suggestions.</p>	
7.0	<p><b>Strategic Priorities and the formation of a subgroup</b></p> <p>The chair gave some background information advising that Jimmy Ferguson had circulated an email suggesting that the time is now right for us to be working on the strategic priorities the CC and hopefully our residents identify. Three members are prepared to work on a such a subgroup, if one is agreed. They are Jimmy Ferguson (JF), Brian Stewart (BS) and Alan Hampson (AH). BS spoke of his willingness to take the lead on the group, JF remarked that he felt it tied in with the other discussions about consulting the public about what their priorities are.</p> <p>The meeting agreed to the formation of a strategic priority's subgroup.</p>	Proposed: SB Seconded: AN

<p><b>8.0</b></p>	<p><b>Car Parking Installation of Ticket Machines</b></p> <p>The Chair gave a fuller welcome to Shane Manning, HC Roads and Transport Manager who she had invited to join the meeting and to answer questions that may arise.</p> <p>She advised that the installation of the meters has caused many views to be posted on social media. She noted that the Gurn has carried out a straw poll and the current results reflect that townfolks do not agree with the prospect of charging to park when visiting the Links, the Harbour, or the Maggot area.</p> <p>SB read out an emailed noted received from Tom Heggie which relates to the Inverness Courier article on the subject this week. He wrote - With reference to use of funding from car parking charges – I am unaware of making reference to use for CCTV (if so it was by mistake). There will be a full discussion around priorities of all funding available from a number of sources with our new Ward Manager and stakeholders. There will be full discussion with stakeholders and partners over the coming months to better understand the priorities and ambitions of the area. The landscape is quite complex at present and the pandemic has impacted lives and organisational priorities in different ways, having a collaborative approach to ‘place planning’ will enable internal and external (funding) resources to be directed more effectively to priority areas of development.</p> <p>Lido – “I am unaware of any consultation with Elected Members or Officers.”</p> <p>Before handing over to Shane the Chair declared an interest and read out a statement relating to her current knowledge on possible future motorhome stopover/overnight parking provision in Nairn. This is attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p>Shane Manning spoke of his present role as Principal Traffic Officer in HC and the changes following the 2016 decriminalisation of parking enforcement which had necessitated his role. Our ethos is supporting communities with their traffic management. On a specific question from the Chair regarding whether the HC intended to recover the costs of the various Nairn installations he advised that this would not happen as he had received an extra pot of money for Visitor management and had used some of it to fund the recent meter installations. He appreciated the report about possible future motor home overnight parking provision in Nairn and amplified this with the present HC policy that motorhomes are presently prohibited from parking in HC car parks after 10pm. He mentioned he was working with Colin Simpson to find a pragmatic approach to the situation. He is currently compiling a paper to allow Officers to promote 24 hour stays in some HC car parks and advised that he has had conversations with CAMBRA to better understand the issues. A paper, when finalised, would require a policy change being agreed by HC Elected Members. He gave a figure of £47 being the known financial benefits each motorhome brings in a 24-hour period to a community.</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting for questions and invited AH to have first input. His point was that there had recently been consultation on parking charges and that the community had rejected it. SM reminded the meeting that that consultation had been highland wide and that more recently Covid had created problems with completing that process but it will restart later this year – the meter installation addressed the current situations following relaxation of covid restrictions and was to help make a better case to the community of the benefits of generating income. He noted that the three sites were all on Common Good land and that he consulted with the Common Good Officer to ensure that statutory requirements will be met. AH also remarked that SEPA had had to have a planning application for the bathing water sign and asked why one had not been needed for the meters. SM said it was not required under the Roads Scotland Act 1984. AH made mention of the extensive parking over the bank holiday weekend which was well out with the boundaries of the Links car park vehicles had been parked on the grass</p>	
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banks. SM was aware of this and had seen the spread of the parking himself when visiting Nairn over the weekend. He was uncertain how to address this aspect. It might require an increase to the size of the Cumming Street car park.

BS remarked that he felt there were two serious points of criticism. A real disquiet that the meters appeared to have been installed by stealth which brought out the issue of trust. His second point was that HC appeared to be launching into this on the basis of unknown costs and uncertain benefits. He noted that this was HC third attempt to get this initiative off the ground. SM stated that the business case had been widely publicised through earlier discussions and that he had conservative projections available from other HC car parks. He had annualised costs of £53 per bay per year based on 2018 figures. He added that as of 31<sup>st</sup> May £1,252 had been collected on a voluntary basis which was an approximate uptake of 40% voluntary payment rate. For example, on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> 845 hours were sold from available 2124 hours per day. He touched on the subject of trust with stakeholders and remarked that proof would be in results and gave the example of ; - over the last three years the Portree & Braes Community Trust and other landowners (not CG) had worked with the Council and delivered in excess of £1 million investment based on car parking charges. He hoped to have a similar case in Nairn. He stated that whilst he absorbed views from social media, they were just one group of people with some valid points.

The discussion continued and ranged over various other concerns. JF highlighted the plight of the Fishertown residents and felt that specific aspects need to be addressed. JF asked about a consultation and how long will the invitation to pay be/will local residents be provided with passes. JN made several points including that she felt the Marina area in general is underprovided, that folks pay substantial berthing charges and the facilities were not good. Lack of showers being just one aspect. She remarked on there being an unfairness as Nairn appears to not be receiving money from the HC budget that other towns do, some of whom also have CG asset. She made specific mention to Nairn not receiving a fair share of the leisure budget. JN also stated that in her view no overnight parking should be allowed on Cumming Street as the residents already had many issues through the year to contend with. SM agreed. JF asked why motorhomes could, in the future, not use existing facilities overnight. SM repeated that this needs to be taken as a paper to the full Council and advised that he envisaged that where no facilities were available a flat charge of £5 for an overnight stay would be appropriate, where facilities were provided he felt a flat rate of £10 would be fair. He advised he is reviewing CAMBRA advice on the whole subject matter.

BS addressed the matter of other stakeholders and SM reflected that in Fort William and Skye local residents can apply for a Local Parking season ticket for £10 per month for unlimited parking in specific car parks. On a wider discussion of town centre parking and it being FREE the reality is the problem referred to as "ICING". This is where locals such as office and shop workers take over the parking for the working day and freeze out visitors from using the facility which does not benefit businesses.

The signage around the East Beach car park was brought into the conversation by JN. She noted that the 44 car parking spaces at that location were very underutilised. SB requested that SM make a point of looking at the lack of signage from the A96 to the East Beach generally. She felt that if it were more prominent, visitors would follow the signs and then find both the East Beach and the car park. BY addressed the Sec 73 Traffic Order point and asked if it overrode the Common Good legislation. SM responded that he would take that question to the Common Good Officer. BY's second point related to owners of boats berthed in the marina. He asked if they would be expected to pay to park their boats on a hard standing at the harbour. SM stated that boat owners already paying a berthing charge would have exemption possibly via the

	<p>Harbour Master. His view was that the harbour facilities primarily are there for use by the harbour users ahead of ordinary car parking.</p> <p>SM mentioned that car parking income is vatable, BY observed that if it remained as a donation it would be out with the scope of VAT legislation. SM said he would take that point to the Finance Officers for discussion.</p> <p>The Chair closed that agenda item by thanking SM for so freely giving up his evening to join the meeting and for the information imparted. SM noted that he would be prepared to come back in the future if required and thanked those present for their reasonable approach to the discussions.</p> <p>Matter is ongoing and requires further discussion before any action is taken by the CC.</p>	
<b>9.0</b>	<p><b>Involvement of Community Councils in Common Good Management</b></p> <p>Common Good Matters continued from the April meeting. Councillor Heggie advised by email that the Involvement of Community Councils/CGF – again needs to be updated in consultation with the new Ward Manager and fellow elected members. Members will be in further discussion regarding how to involve stakeholders in the preservation and development of Common Good assets. A collaborative approach to place-based planning will open up opportunity to discuss how CG assets can meet the needs of the community in an effective way.</p> <p>BS observed that in his view this statement should have been shared with the members prior to the meeting.</p>	
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Request for verbal update from Councillors</b>	
<b>10.1</b>	<p><b>Update Common Good rental/maintenance in lieu of rental income</b> continued from April minute 8.1. PS advised there had been no progress.</p> <p>Moving on he was disturbed that it appears HC are unwilling to cut the grass at the Farmers Showfield without making a charge possibly totalling £1,750 for fortnightly cuts. His view was that it should be cut and the discussion as to who pays for it could be later. This revelation drew several comments including JN remarking that the Farming Society own the field and that Nairn St Ninians FC use it for games and practice. BY noted that there is a lack of proper playing facilities and PS suggested that the HC are not providing sufficient recreational facilities in the town. AN stated there is a statutory duty to provide these facilities. DW gave a brief history from 1975 of the use of the field and the basis it had been used. JN reiterated there is a need to look at the leisure budget as a whole, including the use of this field. BS remarked that he endorsed AN's remark and that he thought it was bizarre that HC are now re-siling from mowing the Showfield grass.</p> <p>No decision on follow up action was taken.</p>	
<b>10.2</b>	<p><b>Fair share</b></p> <p>PS advised that his contribution had been covered in the above points, however, he advised it is difficult getting numbers together as HLH figures are not ready for this area. JN reminded him she had previously sent him the figures for 2019 and would resend them.</p>	
<b>10.3</b>	<p><b>Public Toilets &amp; Signage</b></p> <p>Continued from April minute 8.3. PS advised that the Harbour Street toilets will reopen and the CGF will be paying for them. SB asked if there is capital spend required – PS advised no. JN noted that there are 75 public toilets in the HC area, the Nairn allocation should be four. She noted that Parkdean pay for the East Beach public toilets, HC the Links, and central car park and so far, they are not paying for the Harbour Street toilets. This means that HC are only covering the cost of two of the four toilets they should be providing. ML asked PS when the Elected members and HC were proposing to bring</p>	

	this discussion to the NRCC meeting as the Harbour Street toilets are located in their CC area.	
<b>10.4</b>	<p><b>Highland Council Recovery plan</b> Continued from April minute 8.4. Councillor Heggie advised by email that the Highland Recovery Plan is ongoing with discussions at HC level. Local consultation will be planned.</p> <p><b>Town Centre Regeneration Update</b> Councillor Heggie advised by email - no further contacts.</p>	
<b>10.5</b>	<p><b>The New Academy Update</b> Councillor Heggie advised by email that the senior officer will be in touch re a stakeholder meeting in June. The Chair added that it is her understanding that we will be asked to have a representative on that group. If that happens AN has offered to do that task, AMacD will stand in if AN cannot attend, if neither can attend then JN will represent us.</p> <p>This was approved by a show of hands from the members present.</p>	
<b>10.6</b>	<p><b>Litter and Fly Tipping</b> Councillor Heggie advised by email on the subject of litter and fly tipping – that this is for the local services. He noted the CC had followed this up with the Ward Manager. In this respect the Chair had previously circulated an email detailing a proposed walkabout meeting between Calum MacKenzie and Jimmy Ferguson. This would allow JF to present the issues and make suggestions re remedies with the local operations officer.</p> <p>JF confirmed that the meeting was now due to take place 1<sup>st</sup> June and that he would report back to the CC on the outcomes.</p>	JF to report back
<b>10</b>	<b>Questions or contribution from members of the public</b> – there were none	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>AOCB:</b> AOCB – The Chair had added the Active Travel Consultation which includes Nairn to the agenda under AOCB. This had been initiated by an email from a member of the public to our website asking what action the CC was intending to take in relation to the consultation. BS lead on the topic and advised that it is a HC/Hi Trans survey with an end date of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021. It is a map-based consultation with an online link. He advised that the CC had submitted a Covid related active travel submission in 2020 which is now on the NWSCC website for public viewing. He also noted that it had been dismissed at a Ward business meeting. In 2010 Halcrow had been commissioned to complete a thorough survey on patterns of travel and other related matters. He remarked that none of it had been implemented. His suggestion was that we need to consult via the website then review and update our previous submission and enquire if there is any means of submission other than the map-based method. The CC agreed to the public being consulted then updating and submitting as suggested by BS.</p>	
	<b>Meeting closed</b>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Ordinary Meeting:</b> Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. The Chair stated that <i>if</i> a meeting is required before then normal notification will occur to allow the public to participate.</p>	