

Nairn West & Suburban Community Council
Meeting: Mon 26th February 2024, Nairn Community & Arts Centre

Attendees:

Kristin Duncan (KD)
Gillian Hodge (GH)
Cory Jones (CJ)
Alastair Noble (AN)
Joan Noble (JN)
Kevin Reid (KR)
Graham Stuart (GS, Minutes)
Phill Stuart (PS)

Ex-Officio:

Cllr Babs Jarvie (BJ, from item 10)
Cllr Michael Green (MG)
Cllr Paul Oldham (PO)

Members of Public:

Hamish Bain
Mandy Lawson
Brian Stewart
Karen Stuart
Federica Stefani

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Apologies, Appointment of Meeting Chair

- Apologies received from Cllr Laurie Fraser
- MG took the Chair for appointment of Officers

2. Appointment of NWSCC Officers

- The following officers were appointed unopposed:
 - Chair – Kevin Reid – Nominated by GS, Seconded by CJ
 - Vice-Chair – Alastair Noble – Nominated by GS, Seconded by KR
 - Secretary – Graham Stuart – Nominated by KR, Seconded by AN
 - Treasurer – Phill Stuart – Nominated by JN, Seconded by AN
- KR took the Chair for the rest of the meeting

3. Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items

- None

4. Minutes of Community Group Meeting, 29th January 2024 for Approval ([link](#))

- Minutes proposed for approval by PS and seconded by JN.

5. Review of Actions Log from Last Community Group Meeting (See Appendix)

- See Appendix for updates.

6. Accounts and Admin (PS)

- Bank balance remains £2493.66, some fees are still due to be paid and will be settled now that the CC is active again.
- PS proposed that an online banking facility be set up in view of the future closure of the Bank of Scotland branch, all were in agreement.

7. Planning Applications Submitted Since Last Meeting for Review

- None submitted.

8. Local Place Plan Update (AN)

- AN in his role as NICE Chair updated the LPP status. Meetings have taken place with HC officials who were very positive about the preparation of an LPP and with the Nairnshire Community Partnership, now chaired by Local Area Commander Ross McCartney, to

highlight the importance of joined -up thinking from the town's service providers. Flyers were delivered to all households announcing the public consultation meetings taking place over the next few weeks. See NICE website link ([Nairnshire Local Place Plan – Recent Events](#)).

- MG reinforced that the project was progressing well and that the extension granted for completion of the LPP to September would be helpful for its consideration in the preparation of the next Highland Local Development Plan.

9. Common Good Engagement Group (CGEG)

- MG indicated that invitations to the first meeting of the CGEG were imminent.
 - CGEG consultation docs ([link](#)), ToR approved by NAC on 24Jan24 ([link](#))

10. Parking Scheme (JN)

- The CC sought support from councillors to influence removal of the permit holders marking on the Harbour parking spaces, which was not forthcoming. PO stated he was comfortable with the present arrangement, essentially that more parking places would be open for use by locals as a result of visitors being deterred from using the spaces. PS chose one word to describe this position, 'misleading', and restated the CC's position that the markings are illegal without a TRO. MG admitted that the situation was not ideal, he and BJ referred to the Highland-wide review and parking issues led by Shane Manning of TRO to be undertaken over the next year as a potential means to address the situation and were unwilling to challenge to the status quo. From the floor, KS felt that the current situation was unfair to disabled visitors desiring parking closer to front of the harbour and didn't feel represented by the councillors. BS commented that the discussion had echoes of a long time ago and described the situation as cynical, unethical and illegal. Similarly, ML felt that the matter should have been dealt with a long time ago, reinforced by HB who mentioned that Nairn River CC had long since removed the item from its agenda as it was not getting anywhere. GS mentioned that a Legal Complaint had been filed against the conduct of HC's Head of Legal, concluded that the CC had otherwise exhausted all avenues in its attempts to remove the markings, it was clear that the councillors were not minded to support and so the matter would be dropped from future agendas.

11. Developer Contributions (GS)

- GS described the correspondence with Ross Lindsay, DCs Officer ([link](#)) and it was agreed to engage with Ross to help set up an online meeting with interested community councils, possibly with an in-person option. **Action:** GS to contact Ross Lindsay to assist in organisation of the meeting. It was noted that engagement with Ross may be useful for identification of 'missing' developer contributions for prior Nairn housing developments.
- It was highlighted by JN and GS that there are inconsistencies in developer allocations from the 2018 guidelines ([link](#)) stating that Community amenity allocations should not be made to specific projects and the current process indicated on the Developer Contributions Action Group Terms of Reference ([link](#)) that allocations shall be made to specific projects at the planning applications stage. It was agreed to address the inconsistency in further correspondence with Ross Lindsay.
- MG commented that he had raised the use of existing developer contributions with Council officials (including Scott Dalgarno) and referenced the allocation of funds to what should be referred to as a multi-use room (rather than dance centre) at Leisure Centre.
- There was a short discussion on other existing Developer Contribution allocations ([link](#)) and those for the proposed public footbridge crossing the railway from Lochloy which PO stated has some support from within the Lochloy community.

12. East Beach Signage and Public Conveniences (GS)

- MG agreed to take the action to follow-up with the appropriate HC officer to have suitable signs erected at the maggot car park and at the entrance to the East Beach car park, and in response to a request from JN, a suitable sign indicating that the toilets were a public convenience, in time for the tourist season. **Action: MG** to engage HC officers to have suitable signage installed for the East Beach Car Park, the RSPB reserve, all abilities trail and toilets. PO confirmed that he supported this signage.
- With respect to the status of the Harbour Street toilets, MG stated that the proposals for the Harbour Street regeneration were imminent but confirmed that there would be no public toilets open in the area this year.

13. AOCB

- Tradespark Hall Charity
 - AN informed the meeting that a meeting has been arranged with the legal representative of the charity together with other NICE members; the status of the OSCR registered charity was discussed, AN mentioned that there is precedent for 'latent' charities to be taken over by active charities
- Dentistry Provision
 - AN updated the meeting that he had connected the Windsor Surgery with the appropriate person at NHS Highland and that options were available for the setting up of NHS dentistry at the dental suite at Nairn Hospital.
- Vaccinations Update
 - AN reported that the dangerous low levels of (MMR) vaccinations in the Highlands under the current centrally managed process were to be addressed at an in-person meeting involving Public Health Scotland and NHS Highland. There was a lengthy discussion about CC involvement in mobilising the public, including via petitioning, to influence action being taken on the situation. It was agreed to await the outcome of the latest talks before considering any specific actions.
- East Beach – Butterfly Conservation
 - JN and KD informed the meeting that Butterfly Conservation Scotland are undertaking work to regenerate a dunes environment in the land up to the Minister's Pool suitable for the small blue butterfly, which is a species under threat. Unfortunately, Nairn Dunbar GC (and possibly Parkdean) had given authority to the conservation group to do the work when approval should have been sought from Nairn Common Good. MG undertook to speak to Ali Garrow to have him remind NDGC and Parkdean of the appropriate authority for approvals of works on Common Good land. **Action: GS** to provide Ali Garrow, Common Good Officer, contact details to KD who will forward them to her contact at Butterfly Conservation Scotland **[PMN-Done]**.

For Reference - Communications from/to NWSCC Since Last Meeting

- 20240220_NWSCC_Email_Roads_Operations_Travel_Signs_([link](#))
- 20240219_Email_correspondence_Ross_Lindsay_DCs_([link](#))
- 20240216_Email_Correspondence_Derek_Brown_CEO_([link](#))
- 20240212_NWSCC_Letter_Delnies_Planning_([link](#))
- 20240205_NWSCC_Email_eplanning_Nairn_Academy_([link](#))
- 20240205_NWSCC_Email_Jarvie_Parking_([link](#))
- 20240202_Email_correspondence_Hannah_CG_Charges_([link](#))
- 20240129_Link_Brodies_NPF4_transitional_supremacy_planning_([link](#))

Appendix – Actions Log

(Date) Action	Status
(29Jan24) – Next CC Meeting - Action: GS to write to councillors to invite them to attend the first meeting of the new CC in the hope of building a strong relationship on shared issues and opportunities for Nairn.	Completed
(29Jan24) - Active Travel Signs – Action: GS to write to Gary Kennedy to ask about status of the installation.	Completed – email requesting update to Road Operations (link). Action: GS to send follow-up reminder.
(29Jan24) - Tradespark Hall Charity - Action: AN to contact Hall Chrity Trustees to start dialogue.	Completed – AN initiated discussion with Will Cowie, see AOCB
(29Jan24) - Developer Contributions - Action: GS to contact Ross Lindsay to propose broader meeting.	Completed – email correspondence (link), Agenda item 11
(29Jan24) - Parking Scheme - Action: BJ to raise continued presence of permit parking bays with fellow councillors.	See Agenda item 10 – No further action, remove from actions log
(29Jan24) - Delnies Development Site - Action: JN/GS to draft suitable letters to the Delnies Planning portals. Action: GS to post details of the Reporters’ findings and NWSCG’s actions on social media.	Completed – Planning letter (link), Facebook post (link)
(29Jan24) - Nairn Academy Application - Action: GS to draft letter to planning portal cc Robert Campbell, drawing attention to library references, requesting their removal and re-stating broad objections.	Completed – letter (link)
(29Jan24) Community Regeneration Funds Methodology - Action: GS/JN to draft email to councillors drawing attention to the huge differences between funding allocated to Nairn compared to other regions and asking them to push for a better allocation.	Deferred to next meeting, JN to circulate draft letter to other CC members
(27Nov23) – Communications from THC – GS to draft a letter to THC CEO on CCs and mentioning disappointment at the number of responses outstanding from Council officials.	Completed – Email and reply (link)
(30Oct23) Common Good Charging - MG followed-up on the £25k project contribution being debited to Common Good expenditure. Action - Letter to be sent by Lewis Hannah explaining distinction. Still outstanding. (29Jan24) Action: GS to send reminder to Lewis and JN may request copy of latest accounts.	Completed – Email correspondence (link)
(25Sep23) East Beach Signage - MG agreed to	Still outstanding. Agenda item 12.

<p>follow-up on the installation of signage at the Maggot Car Park toward the East Beach. (27Nov23) - JN emphasized need for roadside signs before Maggot Car Park directing (particularly overflow) traffic to other beach car park and amenities.</p>	
<p>(25Sep23) Spindrift Planning - MG agreed to follow up with Malcolm McLeod for response to the letter of 1st December 2022 on Spindrift Planning.</p>	<p>Still outstanding. Letter attachment referred to in Derek Brown email (link) but no attachment sent, followed up. [PMN – received]</p>