

**Nairn West & Suburban Community Council**  
**Meeting: Mon 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Attendees:**

Kristin Duncan (KD)  
Alastair Noble (AN)  
Joan Noble (JN)  
Kevin Reid (KR, Chair)  
Graham Stuart (GS, Minutes)  
Phill Stuart (PS)

**Ex-Officio:**

Cllr Babs Jarvie (BJ)  
Cllr Paul Oldham (PO)

**Members of Public:**

Zak Gillan (ZG, Parkdean)  
Karen Stuart (KS)

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

- Apologies were received from Cllrs Michael Green and Laurie Fraser and from member Cory Jones, there were no declarations of interest on agenda items.
- KR announced the resignation of Gillian Hodge for personal reasons and expressed the hope that Gillian would be able to re-join the CC in the future as a co-opted member. There are many places open for co-opted membership should anyone wish to become involved.

**2. Minutes of Community Council Meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, for Approval ([link](#))**

- Minutes approval proposed by PS and seconded by KD.

**3. Review of Actions Log from Last Community Council Meeting (See Appendix)**

- Re: Active Travel Signs – no response received from transport team, **Action: GS** to follow-up with BJ to identify person responsible for providing update.
- Re: East Beach Signage – the CC was pleased to welcome ZG to the meeting, who was supportive of the signage to the East Beach car park etc and had already been in discussion with Ali Garrow. Prototype signs have been shared with the CC, **Action: JN** to follow-up with Ali Garrow to confirm the CC support for the design and enquire about the size of the signs.

**4. Accounts and Admin**

- PS reported that the online account application is in progress, £170 is due to be paid for room rental and £1000 has been pledged for the Local Place Plan funding, to be deducted from the current balance of £2943.66.
- There is one further room payment due before end of the financial year, PS will then prepare the set of accounts.

**5. Planning Applications Submitted Since Last Meeting for Review**

- 11 Marine Road - Erection of summer house - (24/00058/FUL) ([link](#))
- 1 Duncan Drive – Erection of extension - (24/00778/FUL) ([link](#))
  - No concerns for either proposal
- Nairn Academy – Library Relocation
  - AN reiterated that the CC does not wish to delay the planning approval of the new academy, it was agreed that as a statutory consultant, **Action: GS** to draft a letter requesting a response to the last letter submitted, requesting that the public library references be removed from the planning documentation and that a decision on the public library is not part of the school planning approval.

**6. Local Place Plan Update**

- AN updated the meeting on progress of the LPP. The first phase of consultations are going well and due to be completed this week, the data will be combined and Planning Aid

Scotland (PAS) representative will organise a second round of more targeted consultations on the most important issues arising. Timelines for the project are tight but deliverable.

## **7. Ardersier Port Community Benefit Fund Working Group**

- PS and KD attended a meeting coordinated by Haventus and Foundation Scotland to introduce the Haventus Community Fund of £100k per year over 10 years (index linked). The funding is intended to benefit the four community council areas bordering the Haventus site, Ardersier, Croy, Cawdor and NWSCC, though projects benefitting the whole of Nairn may be considered ([link](#) for info). NWSCC has been asked to propose three representatives from the area for a Working Group to consider how the fund will be administered and a discussion took place on suitable nominees. **Action: AN** to confirm to the organiser that CJ, PS and Rev. Steven Manders are proposed. KS from the floor mentioned that other organisations in the town are putting names forward. It is likely that there will overall be more nominations than places available, PS suggested that the choice of representatives should be based on those with the most experience of seeking funding.

## **8. Nairn District Planning Group – including NNCP**

- District Planning Groups are being set up to implement the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership Joint Strategic Plan 2024-27 ([link](#) for info). There are two places available to join the group from all of Nairn's CCs, NWSCC was asked to put forward a nomination and, following a discussion, **Action: GS** to confirm to organiser the AN is nominated by NWSCC.

## **9. Common Good Engagement Group (CGEG)**

- No invitations have yet been sent for the first meeting of the CGEG to be held April 24<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm at the Nairn Courthouse, but since this will take place before the next CC meeting, JN will be put forward as NWSCC representative. The CC hopes that there will be room for a second representative (as a deputy to ensure participation) and PS is the second representative proposed.
- JN made a few comments on the Common Good Accounts recently presented to the Nairnshire Area Committee (NAC) (see [link](#) for info) and will follow-up in more detail in writing in time for the next meeting.
- JN also commented on the recent comments at NAC and on social media about a voluntary invitation to pay scheme being considered by the Common Good Trustees for the upkeep of Nairn Common Good (and Splashpad in particular), a potentially unique proposition in the Highlands which she felt should be resisted and she pointed to charges being imposed on the Common Good for services which are not replicated elsewhere in the region. NWSCC is preparing a paper on Nairn Leisure funding and charges which will be presented to the next meeting.

## **10. Coastal Erosion Report Commissioned by Highland Council**

- KD summarised the Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Report on Nairn's beaches, East Beach and Central Beach (named West Beach in the report) (summary and report [link](#) here).
- Whilst the East Beach is considered to be showing relatively strong resilience (which was met with some surprise by PO and KR), the Central/West Beach has the lowest resilience and action is recommended to be undertaken.
- KD proposed that NWSCC and River CC organise a Working Group to review the situation and consider what steps may be taken as a community to protect the beaches.
- BJ and PO informed the meeting that the report is due to be presented to Councillors on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- PO mentioned that there is a general principle of owner responsibility for dealing with flood risk and that the Links is Common Good land, raising issues for the Trustees.
- PS pointed out that Highland Council commissioned the report and it is important to know

what they intend to do with it. He also proposed the CCs organise a site visit with the Councillors and other interested parties to discuss options.

- KD pointed out that a 'citizen science' fixed-point photography site has been set up near the harbour looking westwards for the public to post photos of the changes in the coastline.
- AN stated that flood defence planning was within the remit of the Local Place Plan and would receive attention.
- JN commented that Forres and Elgin had received flood defence funding and that Nairn had fallen through the cracks because the River Nairn was split between Highland and Moray Council responsibility, that neither population on each bank met the criteria for attention but together comprised a higher population need than either Forres or Elgin. JN felt strongly that Nairn as one of the main tourist destinations in the region and benefitting the region, deserved to receive funding from Highland Council for its beaches.
- **Action: KD** to connect with River CC with the proposal for a Working Group and organisation of a site visit after the Councillors' meeting and before next NWSCC meeting.
- PO additionally mentioned that Councillors received correspondence from SEPA for an open consultation (until June) on the subject of the listing of Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) that they were requested to share within the community. **Action: PO** to send GS details of correspondence and list from SEPA [**PMN- Done**, [link](#)]

#### **11. A96 Tradespark Wood to Sandown Road Speed Limits**

- KR summarised the present speed limit decreases coming into Nairn of 60mph to 40mph at Sandown Road to (trially) 20mph at the end of Tradespark Wood and NWSCC position is that the limit should be lowered to the town limit (30/20mph) from Sandown Road.
- PO suggested that it was worth contacting Nairn Access Panel who have taken an interest in the speed limits on that part of town.
- There has been previous correspondence with Transport Scotland ([link](#)) and ([link](#)) and it was agreed that **Action: GS** to organise with CJ a follow-up letter and ensure that there is liaison with Nairn Access Panel.

#### **12. AOCB**

- Nairn By-pass - compulsory purchases
  - KR acknowledged the visible progress and hoped it would continue ([link](#))
- Letter from MacLeod re Spindrift Planning ([link](#))
  - JN summarised the letter finally received, that Highland Council had agreed planning for 28 place homes on the site, up from the original 14, and that residents objecting to the approval could take legal action. JN expressed disappointment that planning has been approved for homes on a flood plain and that a small permanent retirement community is being created without appropriate amenities, non-optimal access and no developer contributions payable to the council.
- Next Meeting confirmed for 29<sup>th</sup> April

#### **For Reference - Communications from/to NWSCC Since Last Meeting**

- 20240214\_Letter\_MacLeod\_Spindrift\_ ([link](#))
- 20240226\_Email\_Jarvie\_CCTV\_Locations\_ ([link](#))
- 20240228\_Email\_Philip\_District\_Planning\_ ([link](#))
- 20240313\_NWSCC\_Email\_Lindsay\_DCs\_ ([link](#))
- 20240312\_Letter\_Transport\_Scotland\_Bypass ([link](#))
- 20240314\_Email\_Herron\_Ardsier\_Working\_Group\_ ([link](#))

**Appendix – Actions Log**

<b>(Date) Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>(25Sep23) Spindrift Planning - MG</b> agreed to follow up with Malcolm McLeod for response to the letter of 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 on Spindrift Planning.	<b>Completed</b> – letter received. ( <a href="#">link</a> )
<b>(29Jan24) Community Regeneration Funds Methodology - Action: GS/JN</b> 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.	<b>To be held over until April meeting</b>
<b>(26Feb24) - Active Travel Signs – Action: GS</b> to send reminder to Operations about status of the installation.	<b>Update</b> – simple email reminder sent 14Mar24.
<b>(26Feb24) – Developer Contributions Meeting - Action: GS</b> to contact Ross Lindsay offering to assist in organisation of the meeting.	<b>Completed</b> – ( <a href="#">link</a> )
<b>(26Feb24) East Beach Signage and Conveniences - Action: MG</b> to engage HC officers to have suitable signage installed for the East Beach Car Park, the RSPB reserve, all abilities trail and toilets.	<b>Update</b> – 20240314_Email_Green_ - NCGF Officer Ali Garrow met with Parkdean and they have agreed to additional signage. Local members and HC Officers will work up proposals.