



Nairn River Community Council
Jointly with
Nairn West and Suburban Community Council

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**Minutes of Joint Public Meeting of
Nairn River Community Council and Nairn West and Suburban Community Council
Held in the
Nairn Community & Arts Centre
on
Wednesday, 22nd May 2024 7:30PM**

Present: NRCC 5 Community Councillors
Hamish Bain (Chair); Veronica Mackinnon (Secretary); Loreine Thomson; Alan Calder; Billy Milne; Brian Stewart.
NW&SCC 6 Community Councillors
Kevin Reid (Chair); Graham Stuart (Secretary); Phill Stewart (Treasurer) Alastair Noble;
Joan Noble; Kristin Duncan.
Ex Officio Members – Cllr Jarvie; Cllr Green
7 Members of Nairn Golf Club
7 Member of the Public
Apologies: David Thomson; Bill Spark; Ian Gordon; Cllr Oldham

Nairn West and Suburban Community Council Meeting

Item	Note	Action
1. Members Present, Apologies and Declarations of Interest	As Above No declarations of interest	

Nairn River Community Council Meeting

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2. Minutes of previous meetings	April, 2024 - Minutes of Ordinary Meeting. Minutes proposed by: LT Seconded by: AC – Approved	



3. Treasurer Report	As Treasurer was unavailable the Treasurers financial report was provided by the Chair. Balance £3033.11	
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Joint Meeting

Item	Note	Action
1. Presentation from Nairn Golf Club	<p>Presentation from Nairn Golf Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Kane, presented an overview of Nairn Golf Club's (NGC) position in relation to the proposed Delnies development. NGC was founded in 1887, has around 1400 members, employs 32 full-time and 18 part-time employees, brings visitors to the town amounting to around 5.5k visitor rounds annually and is estimated to contribute around £8M to the local economy. NGC is suffering land erosion along its coastal perimeter, it has already invested £0.5M in sea defences and is due to invest up to £2.5M over the next 10 years. There is the prospect of seven holes being lost to rising sea levels and a prior non-binding agreement had been in place with Cawdor Estates to reserve land for acquisition for expansion as required, which was set out in the Delnies Masterplan and was a condition of the Delnies planning in principle (tbc). Under the current Delnies development proposal, no land is being reserved for the future golf course expansion and NGC has been unsuccessful to date in discussions with Barrat and Cawdor Estate to commit to the prior agreement. In a round-table discussion, AN referenced the importance of NGC to Nairn as a business as well as its cultural heritage contribution with the name of Nairn being synonymous with golf. The Local Place Plan (LPP) will strongly support sustainable business and employment in the town and the plan will explicitly zone the land in question for NGC expansion. There were various comments from around the room on what was described by BS as the 'moving of the goalposts' on the development plan, from a multi-use facility linked to the originally proposed Sandown development to the current position that the development, is a housing only plan and is isolated from the rest of the town, which consequently does not comply with current planning policy, ie NPF4. LT reminded the group that the Scottish Reporter for IMFLDP2 specifically stated that the Delnies development was inappropriate and THC has not included it in the proposed final development plan. In relation to the proposed SuDS location on originally reserved land, JN mentioned that this deviation from the Delnies Masterplan may provide a basis for the planning committee to reject the final application and cited the influence of the many deviations in the Sandown Masterplan in the refusal of that application. With respect to the relationship between Cawdor Estates and NGC and whether the CCs should try to influence Cawdor, PK felt that the present focus should be on influencing the planning review process. HB and LT both advised NGC to be wary of relying on conditions in any planning approval, since there is effectively no planning enforcement team in THC and, unofficially, officials prefer to take a mitigation approach with developers. HB suggested that NGC also contact Cawdor and West Nairnshire CC about the issues since the land in question falls within that CC boundary. GS confirmed that 	



	<p>NWSCC is drafting a further letter of objection in relation to the SuDS location, which all agreed should be expedited for submission to the planning portal.</p> <p>Note: Neither Cllr Green or Cllr Jarvie made any contribution to the agenda item.</p>	
<p>2. Coastal Erosion.</p>	<p>LT gave a presentation on the Nairn Coastal Erosion and Flooding around Nairn, Coastal and Rivers. Nairn unfortunately falls between THC & Moray Council when it comes to Flood prevention. Coastal erosion along Nairn Beaches could be catastrophic for Nairn. The worst case scenario could be that the Links, Park Street, the Caravan site and the Golf course could be under water along with the loss of the SSSI Ministers Loch to the sea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Erosion is accelerating year on year and its impact on our coastal areas and amenities, housing, and farming land is now clear for all to see. At present coastal erosion is happening at different speeds depending on location and exposure to tides and wind exposure. Nairn this year has had its fair share of north easterly winds, with more rain, stronger storms and ever increasing higher tides. • As a tourist destination Nairn has no alternative but to tackle this head on with as much vigour as possible. the reason why tourists come to Nairn is its beaches, links. Golf courses and open green flat spaces. If our beaches are washed away in storms or storm surges are so high they flood through onto the Links and into Fishertown, our distinctive conservation area, then this would be a disaster for Nairn. • This is a major priority for the very existence of the people of Fishertown and of the local economy. • Cllr Green mentioned that previously a Task Group had been set up to investigate coastal erosion. NRCC Chair suggested that this Task Group group be set up again with Ward Cllrs, both Nairn CCs, NICE and Members from other groups/individuals. NRCC will circulate an email. <p>The whole presentation is now available to read on NRCC website.</p>	
<p>3. Masterplan Consent Areas.</p>	<p>Late in April 2024 THC wrote a paper to be submitted to the Scottish Government consultation on Masterplan Consent Areas. While other Councils chose to present their submission paper to their Planning Committee THC decided to present theirs to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee, a committee not known to deal with planning matters. The paper was to answer twenty questions set by the MCA consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In essence THC proposed that the MCA be set to over-rule Communities; Community Councils; Scottish Examining Reporters, NPF4, the Community Empowerment Act and the Councils own Planning department. THC would then be in a position to build whatever they wanted, wherever they wanted, whenever they wanted. This would include areas currently excluded from development by the Examining Reporters and removed from the just adopted LDP. Four such sites were included in their submission, Tain, Invergordon, Evanton and Nairn. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once alerted to this position NRCC, NW&SCC and NICE organised a group, at very short notice, to discuss the situation with the Nairn Ward Councillors. NRCC contacted many Community Councils, THC Members, MSPs and MPs. NRCC received a lot of supporting feedback from different CCs and others. A briefing and position paper was written and provided to the vice chair of the E&I Committee. The work carried out by both Nairn CCs and the Nairn Ward Councillors successfully led to Cllr Green and Cllr Oldham meeting with the Head of E&I and with Planning Officers, prior to the E & I Committee, where THCs response to the MCA Consultation Document was very slightly amended. All four Councillors spoke up at the E&I meeting to support Nairns case. • NRCC, NICE and NW&SCC all provided a submission to the MCA consultation in which it was made clear that Communities; Community Councils; Scottish Examining Reporters, NPF4, the Community Empowerment Act should all take precedence over the aggressively over-ambitious position THC are wanting to take. 	
<p>4. Community Centre funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nairn Community and Arts Centre (the 'Centre') was opened in 2007, the building is owned by Highland Council and has been successfully run to date by an independent board. The Centre initially received grants of £65k pa, dropping to £38k from 2018 but now funding has been withdrawn completely under a model that the organisation was eventually to be self-funding. The Centre is now in financial trouble mainly due to heating and staff costs and furthermore, Highland Council is claiming that the liability for required roof repairs (est £500k) lies with the Centre. • JN related the Centre funding to the overall 'Leisure and Recreation' funding for Nairn, where Nairn receives approximately £1.20/head compared to other areas which receive approximately £29/head. Highland Council provides funding of £250k pa to 6 community centres in Inverness and via High Life Highland runs other community centres in the region. There are also numerous examples of funds that have been directed to projects elsewhere (Northern Meeting Park, Castle and Castle Energy Centre, Eden Court, Highland Folk Park) and Nairn deserves a fairer share. • BJ commented that the Centre is an asset to the all of Nairnshire and the population served by the Centre is underestimated. PS felt it was reasonable that the centre should aim to be self-funding and the CCs should discuss how they can help the Board. Sheena Baker from the floor noted that Elgin Community Centre had been shut down and that was a disaster for the city. LT commented that the Centre was effectively being penalised for being well-run in the past. BS mentioned that the Centre Board had recently met with the Councillors to discuss their situation. The Action was agreed that the CCs would dovetail the Councillors' support for the Centre by writing to the Board offering assistance. 	
<p>5. AOB.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRG attended the meeting and again raised their request for a report from 2020 about a walk-about meeting that took place that year. NRCC Chair repeated that no such report had been received by either of Nairn's CCs and it was understood that no such report had ever been written by the engineer who led on the walk-about. When questioned further by the QPG on why the CC was biased towards Grantown Road NRCC Chair advised that the CC was not 	



	<p>biased towards any area and that the Grantown Road issue had been investigated but no improvements were forthcoming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As to Cawdor Road and Mill Road speed surveys, both of these roads have been restricted to 20mph for some time while the majority of the Town was still restricted to 30mph. The Council have repeatedly refused to carry out speed surveys on these roads. Once the Council have made a refusal on such matters any CC will not be able to have that position changed. Any speeding should be reported to the Police. 	
6. Future meeting date	<p>The NRCC AGM is proposed for 19th June 2024 with the Ordinary meeting immediately after. The next NWSCC meeting is scheduled for 24th June 2024 at 7pm.</p>	
7. Chair closes meeting.	<p>Meeting closed at 21:30</p>	

Proposed Meeting Dates 2024	
24/01/2024	24/04/2024
21/02/2024	22/05/2024
20/03/2024	Proposed AGM 19/06/2024