

**Nairn West & Suburban Community Council**  
**Meeting: Mon 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

NWSCC Members: Kevin Reid (KR, Chair), Alastair Noble (AN, Vice-Chair), Kristin Duncan (KD), Joan Noble (JN), Graham Stuart (GS, Sec, Minutes), Phill Stuart (PS, Treasurer)

Apologies: Cllrs Michael Green, Babs Jarvie, Paul Oldham

Members of the Public in Attendance: Andrew Came

**MINUTES**

- 1. Apologies** - Apologies were received from Cllrs Green, Jarvie and Oldham
- 2. Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items** - None
- 3. Minutes of Community Council Meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024, for Approval** ([link](#))
  - Approval of Minutes proposed by AN, seconded by JN.
- 4. Review of Actions Log from Last Community Council Meeting (See Appendix)**
  - GS reported that outstanding actions had been completed.
  - 20mph Trial - It was noted that a letter had been sent from Highland Council to local community groups indicating that the 20mph trial had been completed and, save for a stretch of the B9090 (Cawdor Rd) which will revert to 30mph, was to be made permanent across Nairn.
- 5. Accounts and Admin**
  - PS reported that there has been no change to the bank balance in the past month, that the digital account application needs to be restarted following loss of forms sent by post and that liability insurance has fallen due and has been paid.
- 6. Planning Applications Submitted Since Last Meeting for Review**
  - Update from the agenda, full planning application 24/0214/FUL, proposed perimeter fence at 29 Wyvis Drive, was reviewed and there are no concerns in principle.
- 7. Delnies Development**
  - The Community Councils are awaiting the outcomes of an evaluation being taken by Nairn Golf Club to review the planning decisions, other local residents are also considering seeking legal advice. The full planning application is expected to come before the Aug Planning committee, flaws in certain conditions not yet addressed, such as the width of access paths to schools along the A96 were highlighted.
- 8. Local Place Plan Update**
  - The draft LPP has been issued for public consultation (<https://ournairnshire.org/>). NWSCC will collate comments for feedback before the deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> August.
- 9. Community Regeneration Funds Distribution** (original letter ([link](#)))
  - MG reported by email that the allocation of funds was to be discussed by the E&I sub-

committee on 27<sup>th</sup> August. It was agreed to offer support for MG and his colleagues to influence a fairer share of funding for Nairn by raising awareness of the issue in the local press. **(Action: GS** to contact MG to offer support and share plan to contact the Courier for an article prior to the meeting, to cc Nairn River CC). GS suggested of a protest group with placards outside Council offices on the day of the meeting.

#### **10. Nairn Common Good Charging and Leisure and Recreation Spend in Nairn** (original letter [\(link\)](#) (JN))

- AN reported that the Community Centre leads are taking an interest in the relatively low spend on L&R by Highland Council in Nairn. JN has received a spreadsheet of Nairn Common Good invoicing from Highland Council and shared some initial reactions. It was agreed that the details and arising queries should be addressed to the Common Good Engagement Group (CGEG) Officer, Ali Garrow. **(Action: JN** to compile list of points and questions on Highland Council charges to NCG). It was noted that there is a CGEG meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August at 2-4pm. [PMN – AN shared the agenda for the CGEG meeting [\(link\)](#) and the minutes of the previous meeting [\(link\)](#)]. With respect to comparing Highland Council services and charges to Nairn Common Good with other Common Goods in the region, JN plans to make an FOI request.

#### **11. AOCB**

- **Masterplan Consent Areas**
  - Highland Council Published MCAs Statement [\(link\)](#). It was noted that Highland Council's Officers' interpretation of their powers under MCAs seems to have been challenged in Council meetings. Nairn councillors and CCs will keep a close eye on developments in this area.
- **Highland Council Ecology Strategy** [\(link\)](#)
  - KD confirmed as NWSCC representative and a first meeting is planned in August.
- **Community Food Growing Consultation** ([Link](#) to survey)
  - NWSCC has responded to the consultation, generally not in favour of the use of Sandown land for a food growing project. In the comments section: "NWSCC supports community food growing projects in principle but does not support the configuration of Common Good Sandown land for such a use. As highlighted in the Highland Council food growing strategy, community food growing projects are most suitably (for ease of management) on a relatively small-scale, opportunistically using land in built-up areas. In contrast, Sandown is a huge field of existing arable land already leased for farming activities on the outskirts of Nairn. There is concern that the activities indicated in the consultation on a large scale may present direct competition and economically impact existing local food growers and retailers. NWSCC considers the presented options as a temporary measure until the long-term use of the Sandown land is determined and is concerned that the timespan for a community food project lease to justify set-up costs and get a return (financially and/or socially) on investment would need to be longer than desirable. NWSCC is neutral towards the location of beehives and/or extensions of the land allocated for allotments on to the Sandown land for relatively short-term leases. The CC is also neutral about installation of solar panels as an income generator but this would require another feasibility study and, we expect, a relatively long-term lease for a project that may be determined by the community not to be the best long-term use of the land."
- **Community Wealth Building Strategy Consultation** ([Link](#) to survey)

- NWSCC has responded in support of the proposed strategy (response [link](#))
- **Tradespark Hall Charity Trust (GS)**
  - Further to notification that the Trustees had declined to meet with NWSCC, a letter has been sent to the Trustees outlining concerns with the operation of the Charity in the hope of getting engagement ([link](#)).
- **Active Travel Signage (JN)**
  - The active travel signs have not been installed. (**Action: JN** to chase up Gary Kennedy on timelines for installation of active travel signs).
- **Coastal Erosion and Flood Risks (KD)**
  - There was a discussion on the SEPA Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside Draft Flood Risk Management Plan ([link](#)) and the lack of Highland Council support for funding a flood risk management plan in view of the Scottish Government Flood Resilience Strategy Consultation ([link](#)). It was agreed that NWSCC should promote a community-wide task force to identify the issues and explore community-led solutions. Noting that flood risk and coastal erosion are covered in the draft Local Place Plan, it was agreed that this initiative should start after the Place Plan is finalised.
- **Nairn and Nairnshire Community Partnership**
  - Priority list is in place ([link](#)) and being worked up in the group, a meeting is due on 21<sup>st</sup> August.
- **Ardersier Port Community Benefit Fund Working Group**
  - The fund was originally planned to be in place by July, likely delayed due to holiday season.
- **Vaccinations**
  - AN reported that the vaccinations situation has not improved.
- **Next Meeting: 30 September 2024, 7pm**

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

- 20240710\_THC\_Highland\_Council\_Ecology\_Strategy – ([link](#))
- 20240716\_THC\_Published\_MCAs\_Statement - ([link](#))
- 20240716\_NWSCC\_Email\_Rush\_Speed Limits - ([link](#))
- 20240720\_SLCC\_Fraser\_Complaint\_Response – ([link](#))
- 20240722\_NWSCC\_Letter\_Tradespark\_Hall\_Charity ([link](#))
- 20240724\_NWSCC\_Community\_Wealth\_Consultation\_Response ([link](#))

**Appendix – Actions Log**

<b>(Date) Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>(24Jun24) - Delnies Development - Action:</b> GS to coordinate further engagement with River CC to discuss possible next steps.	<b>Completed</b> – Email sent on 9Jul, response from HB on 17Jul

<p><b>(24Jun24) - A96 Tradespark Wood to Sandown Road Speed Limits (GS) - Action:</b> GS to contact Mandy Rush with NWSCC position and offer support for her advocacy going forward.</p>	<p><b>Completed -</b> 20240716_NWSCC_Email_Rush_Speed Limits - (<a href="#">link</a>)</p>
<p><b>(29Jun24) Tradespark Hall Charity Trust - Action:</b> GS to draft letter to Tradespark Hall Trustees.</p>	<p><b>Completed –</b> Letter sent 22July (<a href="#">link</a>)</p>