

Nairn West & Suburban Community Council
Meeting: Mon 30th September 2024

Attendees:

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)

Ex-Officio Invitee: Cllr Babs Jarvie (BJ)

Members of Public: Hamish Bain, Susan and Tim Clay, Donald Ross, Brian Stewart (BS), Loreine Thompson (LT)

Apologies: Cllrs Michael Green and Paul Oldham

MINUTES

- 1. Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items - None**
- 2. Minutes of Community Council Meeting, 29th July 2024, for Approval ([link](#))**
 - Approved AN, Seconded JN
- 3. Review of Actions Log from Last Community Council Meeting (See Appendix)**
 - JN confirmed that the collection of Common Good charging information is still in progress and involves certain FOI requests to Highland Council.
- 4. Accounts and Admin (PS)**
 - The current balance is £1695.66, some room charges are still to be paid. The accounts have been verified by Ritsons and will need to be sent to Highland Council officials to secure the latest grant money. **(Action:** - PS to send accounts to GS)
- 5. Planning Applications Submitted Since Last Meeting for Review (GS)**
 - 24/03289/FUL – Beach Wheelchair Container, Nairn Leisure Park
 - 24/049032/FUL - Erection of dormers and extension, Ty Pobydd Sandown Road, ([link](#))
 - No concerns over the above applications
 - 24/02030/S42 - Haventus - Ardersier Port ([link](#))
 - JN proposed a letter to the planning portal outlining objection to the deferral of the roundabout until appropriate data was collected and presented. After some discussion this was agreed. **(Action:** JN to draft letter to Highland Council outlining objection to the Haventus proposal) (PMN – Completed. letter sent ([link](#)))
- 6. Presentation from Fiona Keir – Highland Climate Development Officer, Highlands and Islands Climate Hub**
 - Fiona first pointed out the error in her job title in the agenda (corrected above). See link to the Climate Hub website ([link](#)).
 - Fiona outlined her role representing Inverness and the southern Highlands, one of 22 climate hubs set up across Scotland. Her role is mainly to share information around the communities, facilitate funding for community climate related projects and to monitor and support their progress. NWSCC is a member of the hub and receives regular newsletters. Commonly, modest funding (e.g. £500) is granted to initiate a project and

examples given were community orchards, food hubs, food growing schemes and the Highland Repair café initiative. Fiona mentioned that September had been Climate Festival month and she recently hosted a Climate Café at Highland Weigh where Haventus presented their environmental initiatives around their current projects. Fiona mentioned that an interesting idea was proposed for the community to borrow the dredging machine currently being used at Ardersier to address the sand build-up around the harbour.

- JN asked if larger sums of funding were available for flood protection projects, for instance the Golspie Coastline project mentioned on the Climate Hub website ([link](#)). Fiona replied that support could be given to big-ticket funding requests. Whilst not being aware of the Golspie project in what is a new role, she offered to follow-up on GS request for status on the project since the website has not been updated in a while.
- In response to LT request on how projects are prioritised funding, Fiona mentioned she participates in Nairn Community Partnership (NNCP) to identify opportunities and participatory budgeting is encouraged. BS reminded the meeting of the last time participatory budgeting was tried in the community, with low-value projects obtaining funding.
- AN emphasised that flood management was a key priority for Nairn as set out in the Local Place Plan and others expressed an interest in how the hub could support large scale flood prevention projects. JN wondered if the hub should take a position on the NC500's impact on the environment by encouraging numerous campervans to visit the Highlands on mostly unsuitable roads. KD sought to clarify that the main goal of the Climate Hib is to identify small projects that can make a difference locally, to get people interested and involved, which has a key social dimension, and may lead to greater community engagement in the larger scale projects. These sentiments were supported by PS.

7. Delnies Development (GS)

- Delnies area residents Susan and Tim Clay and Donal Ross were welcomed to the meeting and they outlined their concerns about the development going ahead as well as the lack of notifications from Highland Council (since 2015/6). GS referred the meeting to the link to SPAC Meeting of 20 Aug video ([link](#)) where the NWSCC letter referred to from 42:39 and that whilst the community, councillors, CCs and Nairn Golf Club had done extensive research and submitted numerous objections, including local residents obtaining legal opinions, it was felt that all avenues had been exhausted in view of the extant planning approval in principle. AN felt that the lack of notification to residents should be followed-up and offered to send David Mudie's contact details to enable a letter to be written.
- AN felt strongly that the everyone in the community should continue to push for revocation of the planning approval from a political, rather than process, perspective. Letters should be written to the council and local and regional representatives, noting that Fergus Ewing had written to the council requesting a review of the decision.
- JN mentioned that the section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 gives planning authorities the power to revoke planning applications and felt that the SPAC should have been or should be made aware of this power. BS from the floor believed that Nairn's councillors should challenge the planning approval and they just need to be 'given the ammunition' to present a strong case. LT mentioned that it is possible to gain access Highland Council physical files to boost a case. GS commented that the councillors may need to be educated on the mechanism for making a challenge and agreeing to do so before the investment was made to put a case together, which BS

was not in agreement with. BJ was not aware of any steps that could be taken to challenge the planning approval. There did not appear to be any volunteers within the room to lead further action as outlined in the discussions.

- The lengthy discussion ended without any actions. NWSCC members will review and discuss the situation for the next meeting.
- It was noted by KR that formation of a Community Liaison Group was a condition in the planning and nothing has yet been organised. It was also noted that Developer Contributions will fall due from the development should it go ahead and Community Facility projects should be considered asap to avoid missing the opportunity for consideration, see item 8.

8. Highland Council Delivery Programme Draft for Consultation ([link](#))

- There was insufficient time to discuss a response to the consultation so it was agreed to work up a response outside the meeting.

9. Community Regeneration Funds Distribution (GS)

- GS drew attention to the Inverness Courier article ([link](#)) based on the original funding letter ([link](#)) and the E&I sub-committee meeting on August 27th.
- An email update was received from MG ([link](#)) noting that funding allocation did not make it on to the agenda of the Aug 27th meeting but will be discussed in November. There was insufficient time to discuss next steps.

10. Nairn Common Good Charging and Leisure and Recreation Spend in Nairn (JN)

- Original letter link fyi ([link](#))
- No time to discuss next steps on getting greater fairness for Nairn on charging to NCG and L&R spend.

11. NCG Engagement Group (JN)

- No time to discuss draft minutes of NCEG 20240802 fyi ([link](#)) and agenda for meeting 20241003 fyi ([link](#))

12. AOCB

- **Croft Road drop-kerbs – request from Nairn Access Panel**
 - Following feedback from PO that he had been in direct contact with the relevant homeowner, it was agreed that there was nothing further that NWSCC could do to influence the situation.
- **Highland Council Ecology Strategy ([link](#))**
 - Summary from KD of meeting ([link](#)), agreed no further action to be taken for now
- **Tradespark Hall Charity Trust (GS)**
 - GS referred to the letter sent to Charity ([link](#)), from which no reply had been received and therefore, regrettably, the matter had been followed-up with the charities regulator.
- **Active Travel Signage (JN)**
 - JN received a response from Gary Kennedy ([link](#)) and it was agreed to revisit the status with Gary Kennedy before the next meeting.
- **Local Place Plan**
 - Final plan for review ([link](#)), executive summary ([link](#)), not discussed due to time.
- **Nairn and Nairnshire Community Partnership (AN)**

- NNCP Minutes 21 Aug 2024 fyi ([link](#)), not discussed due to lack of time.
- **The Nairnshire Newspaper – articles opportunities** – not discussed.
- **Coastal Erosion and Flood Risks**– not discussed.
- **Ardersier Port Community Benefit Fund Working Group** – not discussed.
- **Next Meeting: 28 October 2024, 7pm**

For Reference - Communications from/to NWSCC Since Last Meeting

- 20240804_Kennedy_Active_Travel_Signs ([link](#))
- 20240813_Letter_Beveridge_Parkrun ([link](#))
- 20240815_NWSCC_Letter to SPAC_ ([link](#))
- 20240826_NWSCC_ElginCC_Gulls_ ([link](#))

Appendix – Actions Log

(Date) Action	Status
(29Jul24) - Community Regeneration Funds Distribution - 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	Completed – Email sent and Courier article published, see item 10
(29Jul24) - Nairn Common Good Charging and Leisure and Recreation Spend - Action: JN to compile list of points and questions on Highland Council charges to NCG.	- JN confirmed that the collection of Common Good charging and L&R spend information is still in progress and involves certain FOI requests to Highland Council
(29Jul24) Active Travel Signs - Action: JN to chase up Gary Kennedy on timelines for installation of active travel signs).	Completed – Email sent and response received (link)