

Nairn West & Suburban Community Council
Meeting: Mon 25th November 2024

NWSCC Members: Kevin Reid (KR, Chair), Alastair Noble (AN, Vice-Chair), Kristin Duncan (KD),
Graham Stuart (GS, Sec, Minutes),
Ex-Officio Invitees: Cllrs Laurie Fraser, Michael Green, Babs Jarvie

Apologies: J Noble (JN), Phill Stuart (PS), Paul Oldham (PO)

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Apologies

2. Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items

- Noted for completeness that GS, AN, KD and MG are members of Nairn Golf Club

3. Minutes of Community Council Meeting, 28th October 2024, for Approval ([link](#))

- Minutes approval proposed AN and seconded KR

4. Review of Actions Log from Last Community Council Meeting (See Appendix) (GS)

- GS reviewed the actions log and mentioned that no response was received from Nairn River CC on the possibility of a joint article in the Nairnshire newspaper.

5. Accounts and Admin (PS)

- No changes to the bank account from last meeting.

6. Planning Applications Submitted Since Last Meeting for Review (GS)

- 24/0456/FUL – Nairn Golf Club – Decking, pagoda ([link](#))
- 24/04769/FUL – 30 Beech Ave – Extension ([link](#))
 - The applications were briefly reviewed and no concerns were raised.

7. Harbour Street and Links Toilet Facilities (JN/GS)

- In JN absence, GS explained that the CC wanted to minute some points since the status of toilets at Harbour St and Links had recently been discussed at the NCG Engagement Group and Area Committee Meeting. It was noted that the feasibility study for the development of the Harbour St toilets area did not present an attractive proposal, that the estimated cost of repairing the toilets was high and it was decided at the Area Committee meeting to move attention and funds to improving the Links toilets. Portable toilets will be set up for the next tourist season and the toilet block issue will be deferred to a later date. MG confirmed that Highland Council CRF money ear-marked for Harbour St will be redirected to the Links facility upgrade. The funds in the Common Good from the sale of the Grant St garage ear-marked for the Harbour St toilets will be redirected. GS pointed out that the CC position is that the Grant St Common Good funds should not be used towards the Links toilets upgrade, this is Highland Council responsibility.

8. Highland Council Parking Survey ([link](#)) (GS)

- The Highland Council parking survey has been circulated on social media and JN is collecting comments from CC members for a consolidated response by the deadline at the end of the year.

9. Standing Item - Community Regeneration Funds Distribution (GS)

- Original funding letter fyi ([link](#)), E&I sub-committee meeting agenda 21Nov ([link](#))
- MG reported that he had devoted much time and energy to the topic of a fairer reallocation CRF (particularly Coastal Communities Fund) funding and it had become a hotly discussed and debated topic, so much so that the 21Nov meeting was postponed for further deliberations between the committee members. The rescheduled date has not been set. MG referred to the options set out in the original agenda, where a de minimis £50K would be awarded to each local area. He believes this figure is too low and £150k would be more reasonable funds with which to do something meaningful. MG will continue to argue for a more level playing field on funding distribution. As a secondary point, the E&I sub-committee is concerned that allocated funding is taken up and used effectively or else there is a risk that the money may be reclaimed by central government. The unclaimed monies and proposals to deal with the situation are set out in the linked agenda.

10. Standing Item - Nairn Common Good Charging and Leisure & Recreation Spend in Nairn (JN)

- Original letter link fyi ([link](#))
- No updates

11. AOCB

- **Food Growing Project Sandown**
 - Noted that this will no longer be pursued
- **The Nairnshire Newspaper– articles opportunities**
 - Noted that the summary of the October meeting was not accepted for publication since Delnies developer and Haventus had not been given opportunity to respond
- **Active Travel Signage**
 - Email sent by JN to Mark Greig to try to progress the installation of signs ([link](#)). AN mentioned that JN will join a group from John O' Groats trail on the path from Forres to Nairn in response to their social media post and interest in developing the coastal route from Forres to Inverness. KD gave some perspectives on the more challenging aspects of designating a coastal path along this section, ranging from specially protected areas for wildlife, MoD land, the Port of Ardersier and two golf courses etc.
- **Coastal Erosion and Flood Risks - River Nairn Flood Assessment and Dynamic Pathways Report ([link](#)), exec summary ([link](#))**
 - No response had been received from Nairn River CC about a joint article bringing attention to the published flood reports. MG expressed again his frustration at the lack of funding available from central government on flood prevention. Nevertheless, he is supportive of appropriate communication of the reports and the forming of a community group to enable the community to become fully aware of the issues and to start to discuss what options are available for the community to address them. AN mentioned that the flood risks were part of the LPP and this topic will undoubtedly be addressed in the working groups going forward.
- **Next Meeting: 20th January 2025, 7pm**

For Reference - Communications from/to NWSCC Since Last Meeting

- 20241101_NWSCC_Ardersier_Fund_Parkrun ([link](#))

- 20241101_NWSCC_Aurora_Planning_Response_([link](#))
- 20241104_NWSCC_Courier_CC_Complaints Article ([link](#))
- 20241104_Keir_Climate_Hub_follow-up_([link](#))
- 20241114_NWSCC_Greig_Active_travel ([link](#))

For Reference – Information of Interest

- **Nairn Local Place Plan** - Final plan for review ([link](#)), executive summary ([link](#))

Appendix – Actions Log

(Date) Action	Status
(28Oct24) – Action: PS will follow-up on an alternative bank account for the CC funds.	
(28Oct24) – Aurora Planning Application - Action: GS to draft objection letter for review.	Completed. letter sent via planning portal (link)
(28Oct24) – Parkrun Presentation - Action: GS to draft short letter of support for the Nairn Parkrun to the Ardersier Port Fund.	Completed. Email sent to Foundation Scotland (link)
(28Oct24) – Flood Reports - Action: GS to organise a Nairnshire article with coordination from Nairn River CC. Action: GS to contact Hamish Bain to get feedback on coordinated newspaper articles.	Completed. Email sent to Hamish
(28Oct24) – Flood Reports - Action: NWSCC team to consider organisation of a Flood Meeting.	Ongoing
(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. (30Sep) - 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	Ongoing