

**Nairn West & Suburban Community Council**  
**Meeting: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 Nairn Community & Arts Centre**

Attendees: Kevin Reid (KR, Chair), Alastair Noble (AN, Vice-Chair), Kristin Duncan (KD), Joan Noble (JN), Graham Stuart (GS, Sec, Minutes), Phill Stuart (PS, Treasurer), Cllr Babs Jarvie (BJ), Cllr Paul Oldham (PO)

Members of Public: Hamish Bain, Murray McRae

Apologies: Cllr Michael Green

**MINUTES**

- 1. Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items - None**
- 2. Minutes of Community Council Meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025, for Approval ([link](#))**
  - Minutes proposed by AN and seconded by KD, approved
- 3. Review of Actions Log from Last Community Council Meeting (See Appendix) (GS)**
  - GS reviewed the actions log and drew attention to the linked Scheme Establishment Review response.
- 4. Accounts and Admin**
  - PS reported the bank balance as £1378 and that the application for an online account with the Co-op Bank is on-going. There was a short discussion on signatories for payments, proposal for four names (two signatures required), PS, KR, AN and GS.
- 5. Planning Applications Submitted Since Last Meeting for Review**
  - Variation of Premises License – Invernairne Guest House – letter sent [link](#) – GS summarised the CC position supporting the extension of the Invernairne’s offering to the public with the proposal that restrictions are imposed to avoid late night outdoors noise nuisance to the neighbours.
- 6. Delnies Development Update**
  - Scottish Water FOI update, Correspondence – No response to the latest FOI requests had been received. There had been much offline correspondence on corresponding with senior officials related to Scottish Water. The letter drafted by Nairn River CC would be progressed in the names of Nairn River CC and NICE and offline discussion had focused on the need and content of any letter drafted separately by NWSCC. There was some discussion on the goals of a letter, whether to challenge SW on their process or to push for a new waste water treatment solution for Nairn. No decisions were taken at the meeting and KR proposed to continue discussion offline.
  - Delnies Liaison Group – Feedback from First Meeting – KR presented a summary of the first meeting, which was also attended by PO. There were lots of questions and many ‘fluffy’ answers in response from Barratts, who claimed not to be aware of the water/sewage concerns of the community. Both KR and PO felt that Barratts were addressing issues up to a point, PO said he had had followed up on many requests from residents and sometimes got a quick response, other times it took a number of days. KR, as a resident adjacent to the development, had observed issues with the excavating of the path to Altonburn Road not complying with Health and Safety requirements, which were quickly resolved when he drew attention to them. PO mentioned that the council was close to

adopting a stretch of Altonburn Road, which would facilitate further works.

#### **7. Local Place Plan Update (AN)**

- AN reported that the LPP team was due to present the plan to the Nairn Area Committee on Thursday for adoption. The Delivery Team is working on prioritisations with James Turner assistance, no date has been set for the next Delivery Teams meeting.

#### **8. Developer Contributions (GS)**

- GS summarised the Highland Development Plan (HDP) Webinar from 13 March, where Community Organisations were tasked to identify any gaps in the infrastructure needs of their communities proposed in the plan and to bring evidence (not opinion) on those needs. In response to a GS question in the webinar, Tim Stott acknowledged that he had received feedback from JN at the last Common Good Engagement Meeting and that there was little written guidance on how the new process for community input into identifying facilities for developer contributions would work in practice. He said there was an opportunity to address this since the Developer Contributions policies were being reviewed alongside the HDP. GS warned that projects from Delnies developer contributions may be sought any time soon and the community, particularly NICE under the LPP, should be ready to list projects. Tim Stott's comment that proposals need to be costed will require community groups to find funding to prepare proposals and JN made the point that developer contributions are paid per house completion, taking years to come in and projects are almost always immediate needs. AN reminded the meeting that as well as looking forward, there is still a need to identify what happened to the large sums of developer contribution money received for Lochloy developments. JN reminded the meeting of the Lochloy pedestrian bridge link money which is still unused and the monies allocated for a multi-use room at the Leisure Centre which is in dire need of expensive reparations before there is any consideration of a new space. NWSCC had responded to the initial HDP consultation and received a follow-up email from Tim Stott's colleagues asking for more details on which facilities could be assigned developer contributions. A letter of response is in preparation.

#### **9. Coastal Erosion and Flood Risks Update**

- Summary of Flood Risk Meeting with Fiona Keir and Councillors ([agenda link](#)) – KD summarised the useful meeting convened by Fiona Keir and hosted by Mark Greig (Community Development Manager) together with Common Good Officer Ali Garrow plus three Councillors in attendance. The aim was to bring all up to speed with the issues and opportunities. The area from the groyne to the harbour is a focus for attention from the Coastal Erosion report and a key, but not particularly expensive, project is marram grass planting at vulnerable areas, particularly at the groyne and in front of Marine Cottages. The outcome of the meeting was that a community organisation that is able to apply for funds should be found to take a lead and KD and Fiona Keir will discuss this with Nairn and Nairnshire Community Partnership. Furthermore, expert advice on marram grass translocation would be required to identify key areas for treatment and to oversee the planting. There was a short discussion on public and private investment opportunities and PS felt that, with no beach there is no business, and public private partnerships would be great for PR. A question was raised as to whether Hventus would be interested/able to assist with beach replenishment, if needed, but this would need compatibility testing and licenses. There was some discussion on protection of the dune system from the groyne to the harbour, KD said there are obvious points where the marram grass is suffering on trampled dunes and restricted access would be an obvious way to regenerate the area. BJ was in favour of signs and erecting temporary fencing to get the project off the ground since it could take time to

get funding and action, KD was concerned about compliance without full context and an exercise to get full community buy-in. Hamish Bain from the floor said that fences were erected at East Beach some years ago and compliance was good, KR wondered if that could be relied upon now with a different generation.

#### **10. Standing Item - Community Regeneration Funds Distribution**

- Original funding letter fyi ([link](#)). MG informed the CC by email that the next meeting of the E&I sub-committee reviewing funding was on 28<sup>th</sup> April and he would attend the NWSCC meeting that evening to report the outcome.

#### **11. Standing Item - Nairn Common Good Charging and Leisure & Recreation Spend in Nairn**

- Original letter link fyi ([link](#)), letter of 6<sup>th</sup> February explaining charges ([link](#))
- JN referred to the 2025-26 approved Common Good Budget and was disappointed to see that maintenance charges of £75k were being paid to Highland Council for maintenance even though these should be considered as spaces the council should provide and maintain through its public service obligation. JN also noted that staff costs were still very high. GS pointed out the last Nairnshire Area Committee Meeting did report that, on the back of NWSCC's letter drawing attention to examples of inconsistent charging to Common Goods and Nairn and Inverness Common Good paying for projects related to other Common Goods, Highland Council has agreed to undertake a review of its charging for services to Common Goods across the region. JN suggested that the budget and this information should be taken to the next Common Good Engagement Meeting.

#### **12. AOCB**

- **Motor Home Parking – Caithness & Sutherland HC Meeting Motion 27 March ([link](#))**
  - JN drew attention to the motion put forward to ban overnight parking for campervan in Caithness and Sutherland. PO confirmed that the motion was not able to be considered by the council since it contradicted the approved budget. PO questioned the enforcement of such measures and that closing car parks would likely just move the problem elsewhere. PO said the Nairn Committee was reviewing campervan parking at the harbour, where the front row and opportunities for best views are taken up by campervans. KD mentioned that Nairn's councillors should also consider the Leisure Centre car park where campervans are blocking access and there was an example of a van parking up on the grass area.
- **NNCP Well-Being Survey (Link <https://forms.office.com/e/3esHdgwCMZ>)**
  - AN has been involved with Nairn and Nairnshire Community Partnership and its goal to use available funding effectively. He believes it is clear that the most effective use of funds is by professionals rather than well-meaning but limited charities and there needs to be reliable data on the use of the money. AN strongly believes in Nairn's integrated care model and the Community Centre and URC and the first and second priority buildings for delivering services.
- **Active Travel Signage**
  - JN believes there are still opportunities for utilising the majority of the available active travel signs made during the pandemic and would like to arrange a meeting with the active travel team to discuss further. PS mentioned some information signs initiated by a BID grant that were installed by a Council dept and have now been taken down by a different department. GS and JN will follow up on the active travel signs, the action is already listed in the actions log.

- **Beach Steps at Leisure Centre**
  - NWSCC was encouraged by Highland Council's quick turnaround, at the CC's prompting, of repairs to the storm-damaged beach steps at the Leisure Centre to re-enable a popular beach access point and avoid potential damage to the rock armour from people clambering down.
- **Nairn Parkrun**
  - KR was pleased to report the success of the first Nairn Parkrun the previous weekend and reminded the meeting that a pool of volunteers is being sought to help out at the weekly event.

### 13. Public Comments

- Harbour St. Toilets - Murray McRae from the floor asked about the status of provision of toilets at the Harbour Street site for the forthcoming holiday season. PO and BJ were disappointed to admit that there was a risk that there would be no temporary toilet provision at the site over the holiday season, mainly due to timelines and anticipated costs. BJ referred to the Changing Places scheme (<https://www.changing-places.org/>) as a potential long-term solution. GS said he would be embarrassed if there is another season with no public toilet facilities near the Maggot Cark Park / East Beach access point. Though the local businesses were unwilling to sign up to the 'Comfort Scheme', there is anecdotal evidence they have been willing to allow non-customers use of their facilities. PO and BJ were asked to provide a timeline for decisions on the project.

**Next Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 7pm, including AGM**

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

- 20250313\_NWSCC\_Scheme\_Consultation\_Response ([link](#))
- 20250323\_Haventus\_Dredging\_Notification ([link](#))
- 20250327\_NWSCC\_License\_Board\_Invernairne ([link](#))

#### **For Reference – Information of Interest**

- **Nairn Local Place Plan** - Final plan for review ([link](#)), executive summary ([link](#))
- **Community Councils Scheme of Establishment Review Consultation** – ([link](#))

## Appendix – Actions Log

<b>(Date) Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>(24Feb25) – Delnies Developer Contributions - Action:</b> JN to review, update and send developer contributions letter.	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>(24Feb25) – Scheme Review - Action:</b> CC response to the consultation to be drafted for approval and to reach out to Nairn River to agree a joint response.	<b>Completed – Letter sent (<a href="#">link</a>)</b>
<b>(24Feb25) – Active Travel Signage - Action:</b> JN/GS to look into request for meeting with Active Travel team to discuss the signage issue face to face.	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>(23Jan25) – Scottish Water Delnies - Action:</b> NWSCC will prepare a letter to Scottish Water after the latest FOI information is received and digested, with consultation with River CC and consideration of releases to the press and social media.	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>(28Oct24) – NWSCC Bank Account - Action:</b> PS will follow-up on an alternative bank account for the CC funds.	<b>Ongoing</b>