

Nairn West & Suburban Community Council
Meeting: Monday 29th September 2025, Nairn Community & Arts Centre

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

Ex-Officio: Cllrs Babs Jarvie, Paul Oldham

Members of Public: Hamish Bain (HB), Kathleen Grant, Alan Hampson, Jennifer Kirkwood (JK)

Apologies: Cllr Michael Green, Phill Stuart (PS, Treasurer)

Minutes

- 1. Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items** - None
- 2. Minutes of Community Council Meeting, 25th August 2025, for Approval** ([link](#)) – Proposed by KD, Seconded KR and approved.
- 3. Review of Actions Log from Last Community Council Meeting (See Appendix 2)**
 - GS reviewed the actions log and noted that it was just published that the Bowling Club application at the Showfield had just been recommended for approval at the SPAC meeting to be held on 8th October.
 - GS requested assistance from JN on the No Cold Call Zone start up and will forward the information.
- 4. Accounts and Admin (PS)** – No update since PS was absent.
- 5. Planning Applications Submitted Since Last Meeting for Review (GS)**
 - 25/02503/FUL - Alterations to beach access and associated works ([link](#)) - response ([link](#))
 - 25/02566/FUL and 25/02567/FUL - footpaths through the dunes to the beach ([link](#)) and ([link](#)) - responses sent ([link](#)), link to Courier quote ([link](#))
 - The above application objections were noted in the Flood Risks Update section below.
 - 25/03140/FUL - 25/03140/FUL - Installation of replacement garage roof - Ashley Albert Street Nairn IV12 4HF ([link](#))
 - No objections
 - Prior application - 25/02499/FUL Temporary site compound Riverbank Terrace
 - Confirmation that the application was withdrawn
- 6. Scottish Water and Local Place Plan Update (AN)**
 - AN gave a brief update that following correspondence and meetings in the last months, a plan for Nairn from Scottish Water was eagerly awaited. AN feels that this should include potential relocation of the Nairn Waste Treatment Water Works. JK from the floor asked how we had got to this situation with the new Delnies estate given approval and was given a brief history of the apparent overriding political desire to build homes even when there were clear risks that the infrastructure would not cope. The examples of new homes at Culloden waiting months for a water connection and the Brewdog relocation being delayed by inability to connect electricity for years were cited. HB from the floor noted that the Scottish Reporter's position in review of the IMFLDP that Nairn should have Infrastructure First before further

large development has apparently been dismissed as now irrelevant by Highland Council.

7. Coastal Erosion and Flood Risks Update (KD)

- KD summarised the recent activity. The trial dune resilience-building project is underway with advice being gathered from experts on scrub clearance and marram grass transplanting. A site visit for the project team took place on 25 September to discuss the technique for marram transplanting and a practical demonstration was provided by Katy Martin from THC's Environment Unit. Also in attendance and to assist with discussion about selecting suitable areas of the dune system for trialling techniques were Alan Fraser from THC's Flood Risk Management Team and Ali Garrow, Nairn Common Good Officer. Partner organisations Highlands & Islands Climate Hub and RSPB also attended the site visit. A lot of useful, practical information was provided by Katy and Project Co-ordinator Mark Bradfield is busy working up both process and permissions for things like removal of cleared scrub and for dealing with invasive species. Volunteer workdays are planned for October and these will be advertised via Green Hive and the NICE website. Mark has made contact with the co-ordinator of DYWICH - Developing the Youth Workforce Inverness & Central Highlands and hopefully this contact will bear fruit. BJ asked how long it would take for the grass to take root, KD pointed to the Lossiemouth marram planting project which was showing robust roots within 12 months. [PMN – A marram grass video linked below indicates that it may take 20-30 years to build up a root network bed structure to stabilise a dune].
- [PMN – KD shared links to Youtube videos projects in Ireland and the US protecting dunes and a guide to marram grass planting ([link](#)) and ([link](#)). See also a document guide to planting marram grass ([link](#)) and a video on dune restoration work undertaken at Culbin ([link](#)). See also **Appendix 1** for details of volunteer action dates.]

8. Common Good Engagement Group (JN)

- The October agenda ([link](#)) and June meeting draft minutes ([link](#)) were shared. In relation to the accounts agenda item, JN said she was going to raise the charges being made by HC to Common Good, which have risen substantially over the years, e.g. the central administration charge has risen from £12k to £500 five years ago. GS noted that the CC had been dealing with Common Good charging itself in challenging the Nairn Common Good budget and that the Nairn Area Committee was informed that HC was conducting a review of charging to Common Goods with no target date given for completion. GS felt that the CGEG time would be better spent on finalising its Terms of Reference which still did not seem clear or agreed. AN commented that Nairn still lacked joined-up thinking on priorities for funding that should be in the remit of the CGEG. JN mentioned that the structure of the CGEG had been changed, with a core group and ad hoc invited participation from community groups and a council official would now chair the meeting despite the view of participants that it should be an 'independent' person. PO commented that HC officers had amended the structure and that the councillors were not core members but invitees. This information caused consternation, HB and JN felt it essential that the councillors should be in the core group, if they miss meetings they may miss the opportunity to hear relevant information for decision-making. PO and BJ expressed some surprise that the next CGEG meeting clashed with the South Planning Meeting on 8 October. An Action was agreed to request postponement of the meeting but PMN – Stakeholder have been informed that the CGEG meeting has been postponed to allow Lewis Hannah some time to get up to speed in transitioning to his role.

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

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

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

- Original letter link fyi ([link](#)), letter of 6th February explaining charges ([link](#))
- No updates

11. AOCB

- **Active Travel Signs** – JN informed the meeting she had further correspondence with the Active Travel team and was frustrated at the lack of progress in getting final decision-making on implementing the existing signs before looking at opportunities for new signage to help navigate the town. She is continuing to press for action.
- **Nairn Academy** – GS mentioned that he was informed that Sarah Abenheimer from Nairn Academy had contact Nairn County asking about their grass pitch needs. No date has yet been set for the next stakeholder meeting. GS asked PO and BJ to try to get Robert Campbell to set a date. JN mentioned that she would also like to discuss HC's school roll projections which do not seem to have taken into account the new Delnies estate.

12. Public Comments

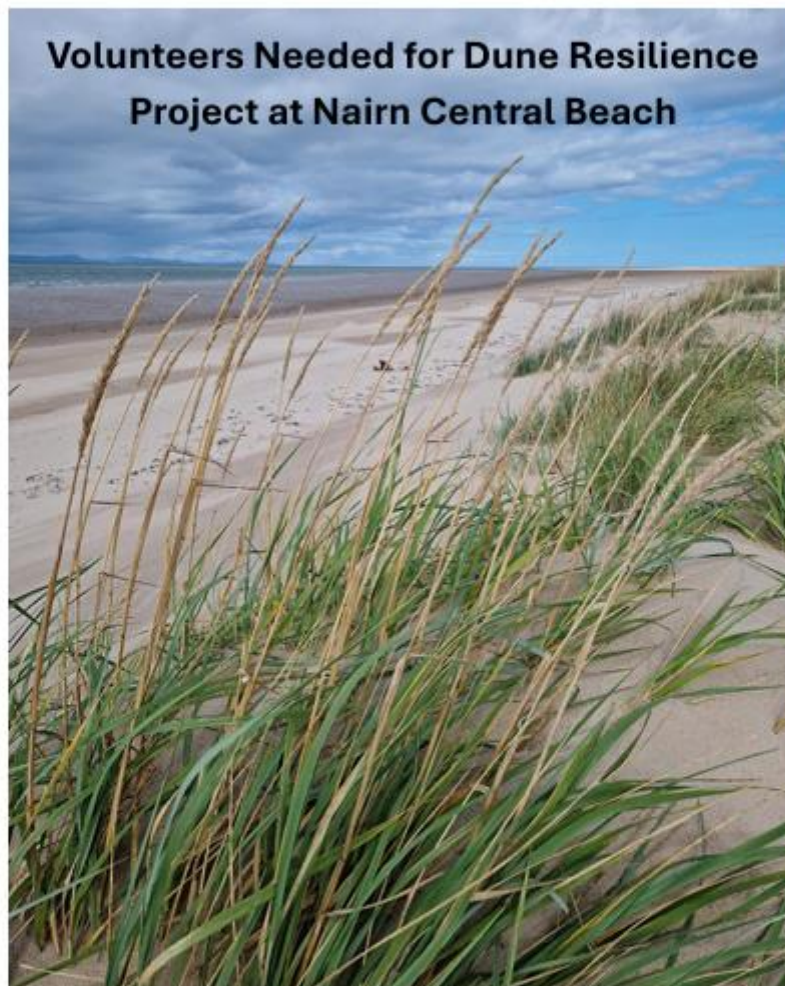
Next Meeting: 27th October 2025, 7pm

For Reference - Communications from/to NWSCC Since Last Meeting

- 20250905_NWSCC_Planning_Beach Paths ([link](#))
- 20250909_JointCC_Planning_Showfield_ ([link](#))
- 20250909_NWSCC_Planning_Showfield ([link](#))
- 20250916_NWSCC_Planning_Path Repair ([link](#))
- 20250921_NWSCC_Courier_Paths quote ([link](#))
- 20250929_NWSCC_Tradesaprk_Hall_OSCR ([link](#))

For Reference – Information of Interest

- **Nairn Local Place Plan** – Finalised plan ([link](#)), executive summary ([link](#))



Weekend dates* – 27th September, 11th October, 25th October

Midweek dates* – 7th October, 23rd October, 29th October

Please contact Mark Bradfield on duneresilience@nicenairn.org.uk for further information on tasks.

Meeting at Seamans Hall, Nairn at 09.30am

****Please note task dates may be subject to change, please contact to confirm***

Appendix 2 – Actions Log

(Date) Action	Status
(25Aug25) – Showfield Planning - Action: GS, it was agreed that a further submission would be sent to the planning portal outlining concerns with the business proposal and the traffic and parking issues in addition to those already existing around the site.	Completed – letter sent (link)
(25Aug25) – Tradespark Hall Trust – Action: GS to send another submission to OSCR pointing out that there had been no actions by the trust and no AGM had taken place.	Completed (link)
(7Jul25) – Cold Call Control Zone (CCCZ) at Lodgehill - Action: GS to work with DR to design and get printed a questionnaire and information leaflet that DR could distribute to and collect from residents.	Ongoing
(26May25) – Scheme of Establishment Phase 1 Outcomes - Action: GS to create a social media posts outlining the work of the CC, asking for feedback on what the public wants the CC to do and encouraging new membership.	Ongoing
(28Oct24) – NWSCC Bank Account - Action: PS will follow-up on an alternative bank account for the CC funds.	Ongoing