

Nairn West & Suburban Community Council
Meeting: Monday 24th November 2025, 7pm, Nairn Community & Arts Centre

Present

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

Ex-Officio: Michael Green, Babs Jarvie,

Apologies: Paul Oldham

Members of the Public: David Ross, John Waiting, Matthew Withey, Murray MacRae

MINUTES

- 1. Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items - None**
- 2. Minutes of Community Council Meeting, 27th October 2025, for Approval ([link](#))**
 - Proposed KD, seconded by KR and approved.
- 3. Review of Actions Log from Last Community Council Meeting (See Appendix)**
 - Cold Call Control Zone - GS updated the CCCZ opportunity, he was to meet Trading Standards the next day to discuss in more detail. The costs would not be met by HC, GS predicted that these would be about £300 given that the questionnaire will be distributed by hand. MG commented that an application should be made to the Ward Discretionary Fund, which has some funds remaining and needs to be used or lost.
 - Attracting New Members – GS reported that an article calling for new members had been submitted to the Nairnshire Newspaper.
 - Bank Account – JN will take over as Treasurer ad interim. The Coop will not accept community council accounts. MG suggested Tide or Starling. Virgin was another suggestion. RBS was an option if there was an existing account holder (confirmed). [PMN - JN will apply for an RBS account]
- 4. Co-option of New Member – Alan Hampson**
 - AH was unanimously approved as a co-opted member.
- 5. Accounts and Admin**
 - Phill Stuart is completing some activities as previous Treasurer, bills to Community Centre require payment.
- 6. Planning Applications Submitted Since Last Meeting for Review**
 - None
- 7. Moray FLOW-Park**
- 8. KR briefly summarised the public meetings held and acknowledged the strength of feeling in the communities as evidenced by the turnout at both venues. It was disappointing that OSG did not participate but a list of questions was sent by Tim Eagle [PMN - Letter with questions ([link](#)) and OSG response ([link](#)) from OSG website]. MG commented that the Findhorn meeting was chaired well but it was notable that key politician stakeholders were not present, echoed by BJ, and he**

encouraged the organisation of a public meeting in Nairn involving all local MPs and MSPs and prospective MSPs. David Ross from the floor touched on a few points from his most recent analysis of all the information and he usefully answered some general technical questions from the CC. John Waiting (JW) from the floor was sceptical that wet storage was a strategic project given the adjacent dry storage site at Haventus and suggested that the community crowd-fund a planning barrister to make the planning legislation arguments against the development. GS supported this idea to provide a more focused defence rather than risk an uncoordinated broad front and MG agreed that a tiered approach would be beneficial. JW offered to send some specialist solicitor contact names to GS. AN as NICE chair agreed to look into leading the engagement of an expert to represent the community(-ies). Matthew Whitney from the floor noted that NICE as a charity may be able to obtain some pro bono advice from SCBO. [PMN – OSG announced on 26Nov that the South park adjacent to Nairn was no longer under consideration for a FLOW-park ([link](#))].

9. Scottish Water Update

- AN reported that a very discouraging meeting had taken place with Scottish Water executives on 3rd November where their position was that with respect to the sewage and water situation they 'don't believe it's not fit for purpose', based on a report from some years ago that had predicted and modelled more homes in the area than were currently planned. MG followed up that Scottish Water representatives had presented at the Ward Business Meeting taking a similar position. GS asked if Scottish Water were on record with this position, AN said he would look to have an agreed minute of the meeting prepared and the Ward Meetings minutes are not published. With respect to the Lochloy works, Scottish Water was not convinced by the Nairn proposal to route a pipe alongside the river from Riverbank Terrace station and they plan to continue with the existing works from a compound located at an undisclosed site along the Forres Road. AN and JW both confirmed that Scottish Water could override further planning/transport objections under wayleave rights.

10. Local Place Plan Update

- AN reported positive working with councillors to address LPP objectives, e.g. NICE will lead the funded Links toilets design and Riverside regeneration consultations. GS reported that he attended a meeting organised by NICE and DTAS on community options for closing churches. GS interjected that he was leading a group that has submitted an expression of interest with the Church of Scotland to purchase and develop Nairn St Ninian's for a 'Waste-Busters' and well-being space.
- JN asked if anyone knew about plans for the BoS building, which she thought would be an ideal library. None were aware.

11. Coastal Erosion and Flood Risks Update

- KD presented a summary of the project. Pilot project largely being wound up with effort being placed on securing funding to continue the work next year. Bid has been submitted to THC's Nature Restoration Fund to further the work. Funding application also being submitted early next year to the Highlands & Islands Environment Fund which will be targeted more at education, awareness-raising and stakeholder engagement. An 'end of project' open meeting is planned for Tuesday 2nd December and this is being widely publicised. Invitations have been sent to all partners, volunteers, NICE Directors and local Councillors plus wider public 'friends of the dunes'. Tea and cake will be offered. A summary of this autumn's effort will be on display via photos/aerial slides on a big screen and there will be an opportunity to talk about the next steps and how the community can stay involved or become involved. GS referred to the Lossiemouth project which has won

an award for re-purposing Christmas trees as sand barriers. KD felt that this was useful for the steep dune formation in Lossie to trap and hold sand but not beneficial for Nairn's shallow dune system where scrub removal and measures to reduce trampling would likely better assist marram grass growth and recovery. [PMN – KD provided more context on the comparison between Lossiemouth and Nairn projects -The two dune systems are structurally different. There does not appear to be scrub encroachment at Lossiemouth and the dunes are huge with eroding seaward edges. The Xmas trees are trapping wind-blown sand and volunteers have planted marram behind what has now withered to a ring of brown and brittle trees. A bit incongruous but nevertheless the trees have been put to good effect in terms of a) a deterrent to walkers and b) effectively trapping sand. The idea is that eventually the trees will become completely buried by sand and the marram will grow through and over, so there will be no trace. A major reason for not using Xmas trees on Nairn beach is proximity of the dune edge to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS). As seen in late October 2023, the storm surge was such that 2m of dune front was chopped off and much of the beach volume removed over six consecutive high tides. If Xmas trees were placed in this zone, then there is a chance that at some future point this would be exposed and the tree remains washed away by an extra high spring tide combined with storm conditions. The Lossiemouth Xmas trees would appear to be well out of reach of even the highest of extra high tides.]

- MG commented that he had made an impassioned speech at the last E&I Committee Meeting lamenting that there had been little action by HC on flood defences, noting that £180M was spent in Moray on remedial flood defence work. MG proposed that the council follow a similar strategy to the Highland Investment Plan lending for capital expenditure programs.

12. Standing Item - Community Regeneration Funds Distribution-Original funding letter fyi ([link](#))

- MG followed up on the comments from the last meeting on lack of transparency of HC sub-committees and he reported that he has been waiting for feedback from officials on his questions on transparency and requests for sub-committee minutes. The Independent Group of councillors met with the CEO recently and a point raised was the lack of responsiveness of officials. Not yet certain when the £50k *de minimis* payment from CCF will be applied. MG hopes to have more information next meeting.

13. 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](#))
- MG said he has been very involved in seeking a level playing field for Nairn. His first priority is fairer funding for the Community Centre based on evidence of funding for other areas, then charging to the Common Good. GS raised the status of the HC review into charging Common Good referred to at the Feb 2025 Area Committee Meeting, the councillors were not aware and so **Action: GS** to contact Lewis referring to the Common Good charging review that was mentioned at a prior Area Committee Meeting. [PMN – email sent, [link](#)]

14. AOCB

- Motorhomes/HC Parking Survey – Feedback on Council activity
 - JN said the motorhomes parking was still an issue and asked about the status of the parking survey undertaken by HC. MG explained that Shane Manning had been on extended leave, and his deputy Ross Bartlett was asked about the status of the survey at the Ward Meeting last week. Ross had agreed to get back with status noting that it had been indicated that the survey would take a year to deliver. There was a short discussion with JN raising the closeness of the vans at

the harbour and possible insurance liabilities, the loss of income to caravan parks and campsites from 'wild' parking and lack of enforcement of parking restrictions (at HC car parks and elsewhere). AH commented that motorhomes have a right to park in laybys overnight as long as all activity takes place in the vehicle.

- Community Council Powers Petition ([link](#))
 - GS referred to the link, the CC wanted to highlight and minute that the Scottish Government is committed to publishing a 'blueprint' before the end of this parliament for devolving powers to communities and a former community councillor has started a petition to give community councils the same powers as parish councils in England. NWSCC has not taken a position but all can sign the petition in the link.
- Cycle Shelters Location
 - A Facebook post was posted requesting community feedback on the location of two new cycle shelters available for Nairn. Feedback proposed in front of Rosebank School and at the Links Car Park. MG reported that the proposal came to the Ward Business Meeting and two locations proposed were at the Bus Station (where fish van parks) and in Leopold Street at the railings next to Boots. **Action:** GS to send NWSCC feedback to Active Travel representative.
- Haventus Fund CC Representative
 - KS was proposed to represent NWSCC as long as it does not clash with his other regular meetings, **Action:** GS to enquire on meeting dates.
- Short Term Lets Restrictions
 - MG reported that it was decided at E&I Committee that there should be no blanket restrictions on STLs in Nairn but Fishertown 'needs watching'
- Solar Panels at Nairn Academy – AH queried if solar panels would be installed on the roof at the new school since there are none presently and the scaffolding has come down. [PMN – KR visited the site and there is still safe access scaffold up onto the roof.] JN remarked that she has been corresponding with the HC on the lack of planning for additional children from the Delnies development (calculation would estimate 70 for Rosebank, 30+ for Nairn Academy), which she worries may mean that developer contributions for education will be lost.

15. Public Comments - None

Next Meeting: Initial date of 26th January 2026 not suitable, proposed date Tuesday 20th January at 7pm tbc

For Reference - Communications from/to NWSCC Since Last Meeting

- 20251030_JointCC_Councillors_FlowParkMeeting ([link](#))

For Reference – Information of Interest

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

Appendix – Actions Log

(Date) Action	Status
(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