

Nairn West & Suburban Community Council
Meeting: Monday 29th June 2026, Nairn Community & Arts Centre

Present:

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

Ex-Officio: Cllrs Michael Green, Babs Jarvie,

Apologies: Cllr Paul Oldham

Member of Public: Malcom Jones (MJ)

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Apologies (KR)

2. Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items

3. For Recordal - Community Council Resignation

- Formally recorded that Kristin Duncan has left the CC. **Action GS:** to inform Highland Council of changes to CC composition

4. Co-option of new member

- Malcolm Jones was proposed for co-option by JN, seconded by AN and approved. MJ joined the rest of the meeting as a co-opted member.

5. Minutes of Community Council Meeting, 25th May 2026, for Approval ([link](#))

- Minutes proposed by AN, seconded by KR and approved.

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

- GS reviewed the actions log, Albyn Court discussion at item 14

7. Accounts and Admin (JN)

- JN reported one invoice for room hire since last month and a bank balance of £2084.68

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

- 26/01945/FUL- James's Café – Retrospective installation of permanent accessible seating
 - Discussed internally, no issues

9. Existing Pending Planning Applications

- Nairn Academy 25/01160/s42 – Removal of Grass Pitch Condition (GS)
 - Correspondence with Sportscotland ([link](#)) and Nairn County FC
 - GS summarised the position taken by Nairn County, supported by MG, to refer to the loss of previous facilities at the school and the opportunity to enhance facilities with provision of floodlights on the new mid-size astroturf pitch, as well as supporting the new grass pitch. NWSCC was invited to be a co-signatory to the letter but it was sent before there was an opportunity to discuss. GS referred to the request to Sportscotland and the council to share correspondence and the report on pitches provision in Nairn. JN wondered if a FOI should be filed for correspondence between the parties, GS did not think this was necessary at this

time point and felt that the council could not avoid submitting the report on pitches to the planning committee and Sportscotland should comment as a consultee. There was a short discussion on what representations NWSCC should make to the planning portal, no decision taken, GS to consider further.

10. Scottish Water Update (AN)

- AN reported that a meeting is due to be held on 7th July between representatives from Scottish Water and SEPA, council representatives, including from planning and Alan Fraser from Coastal Team, NICE and councillors. MJ noted that the last reported spill from the Seabank Road pipe was in December, JN commented that sensors are not comprehensively set up to monitor spills. MJ highlighted the traffic lights for the BT works at top of Lochloy Road the previous Saturday that caused massive delays getting through the town, which did not augur well for the proposed Scottish Water project at the same location.

11. Local Place Plan Update (AN)

- Links Toilets – Riverside Project Update
 - AN reported that the supported option 3, new bespoke facilities, was progressing well and there was confidence that sufficient funding would be available from various sources, including Changing Places Toilets.
- Standing Item - Coastal Erosion and Flood Risks Update
 - A meeting had taken place with Alan Fraser from the Coastal Team to discuss potential flooding issues at the toilet's location. AN reported that the council had agreed to repair the groyne at Marine Cottages and said he had been encouraged at the standard of maintenance from the council team at the Links.

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

- Original funding challenge letter 12th April 2024 fyi ([link](#))
- MG had been able to secure de minimis funding of £50k for all local areas from the Coastal Communities Fund but resistance for further distribution from councillors from the areas which would lose the greatest funding has presented a barrier to any further re-distribution. MG is still working on getting enhanced access to the strategic funding portion for Nairn. JN asked whether the councillors' unfair self-interests could be the subject of a complaint, MG responded that proper process has always been followed, including a full council vote, and such an action would be unlikely to succeed. GS felt that there was nothing further NWSCC could do and proposed to take the standing item off the agenda, with no objections.

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

- Original letter link fyi ([link](#)), letter of 6th February 2025 explaining charges ([link](#))
- JN summarised the current issues with the operation of the Common Good Engagement Group, see Appendix, and NWSCC collectively called on the trustees of the Common Good to ensure a more collaborative process in the time left of the second year of the pilot. MG responded that there was much to consider and that he would discuss with Lewis Hannah.

14. Albyn Court – next steps (AN)

- Contact with Highland Council re Bins ([link](#)) and Police Scotland re leaflets ([link](#))
- GS had received some leaflets and credit card-sized information cards from Police Scotland. It was agreed to create an informational NWSCC leaflet, staple the cards to it and distribute to households.

- With the assistance of BJ, the council is now on the case of improving the bins situation to avoid overflow and tipping. See [link](#) for correspondence. NWSCC to monitor progress.

15. Tradespark Hall Trust – next steps (JN)

- JN summarised the situation for MJ benefit. The direct contact to one of the trustees had not resulted in agreement for a meeting to be held. It was agreed that a group of residents of Tradespark would be brought together to write to the trustees to call for a meeting which NWSCC would be willing to facilitate. Logistics of setting this in motion to be discussed offline. **Action JN:** to lead next steps to bring together Tradespark residents.

16. AOCB

- **Nairn School Rolls Calculations** ([link](#) to latest rolls information) (GS)
 - Correspondence with Gavin Allday from Estates ([link](#))
 - The correspondence was closed and it was agreed that NWSCC would write to Malcolm MacLeod, the interim head of department since Finlay MacDonald retirement, to question why the NPP formula is apparently not being used and if it should be published on the council website. **Action GS:** to draft email to MM on use of NPP formula for school rolls.
- **Parking Consultation – HC Response** ([link](#)) (JN)
 - JN highlighted that the parking team had responded reasonably to the CC’s consultation comments on parking at the harbour and Leisure Centre, see link, but that motorhome parking at the harbour was still a significant on-going issue, with potential Common Good liabilities for lack of clear delineation of the four overnight bays leading to over 20 motorhomes overnighing on occasions with unsafe spacing between vehicles and major fire risk. MG acknowledged JN point and MG referred to the outstanding parking review from Ross Bartlett. The councillors were keen to resolve the issue of motorhome parking fees on Common Good land when Parkdean is a Common Good leaseholder with competing interests.
- **Temporary Storage Facility Moss-side**– Response from J Kelly ([link](#)) and NWSCC follow-up ([link](#))
 - John Kelly response linked gave neighbours some hope that the temporary facility may be contravening planning regulations. **Action GS:** to draw John Kelly’s attention to the planning enforcement reference relating to the matter. [PMN - done and John Kelly responded that he was reviewing mitigating arguments for use of the site from Scottish Gas Networks.]
- **Haventus Fund** – KR reported that the Haventus fund has paid out £109k in grants since its inception.

17. Public Comments - None

Next Meeting: 31st August, 7pm

For Reference - Communications from/to NWSCC Since Last Meeting

- 20260617_NWSCC_Allday_School_Rolls ([link](#))
- 20260618_NWSCC_Sportscotland_THC_Academy_Planning ([link](#))
- 20260619_THC_Parking_Response ([link](#))

- 20260619_Kelly_Mossoide_Temp_Storage ([link](#))
- 20260623_THC_Albyn_Bins ([link](#))
- 20260623_Cameron_PoliceScot_Albyn_Leaflets ([link](#))
- 20260629_NWSCC_Kelly_Mossoide ([link](#))

For Reference – Information of Interest

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

Appendix – Actions Log

(Date) Action	Status
(25May26) – Albyn Court Fly-tipping – Action: GS to follow-up with Lewis or councillors to try to identify someone at the council who can help switch communal bins to individual ones.	On-going – Highland Council looking into the situation (link)
(25May26) – Albyn Court – Action: GS to follow-up with councillors to get council contact for example leaflets and follow-up with colleagues on the content.	On-going – Police Scotland offering to send leaflets (link)
(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 – Article seeking members published in April edition of Nairnshire Newspaper and Substack (link), together with an article on CRF Funding Levelling (link)

Appendix – Common Good Engagement Group (CGEG) Concerns from NWSCC

Chair

1. Council official now chair of CGEG instead of Nairn Area Chair although large majority asked for independent chair at the one year evaluation. The chair is now attempting to control what goes on the agenda and when and if meetings take place.

Meetings and Agendas

1. Meetings are being delayed or cancelled with inadequate explanation or notice.

In February this delayed it until after the Area Committee meeting when the CGEG meetings were supposed to feed into the NAC.

The May 27th meeting was cancelled altogether supposedly because there was 'nothing on the agenda'. However at least two people had properly submitted items which were pertinent to the CGEG. There were also matters arising which needed discussed.

2. Agenda items now have to be submitted via a HC portal and have to be approved by the chair.

Minutes are not issued until days before the following meeting (3 months after previous meeting)

3. The decision of the group that each meeting has to start with matters arising and accounts is not being implemented.

Terms of Reference

There has been a lot of discussion about changing the TOR for the second year of operation, yet items have been inserted which were not discussed or consulted on or explained.

1. It is now not clear whether our Highland Councillors are still members of the CGEG, although the CGEG was assured they were.

2. There was an attempt to insert a 'gagging clause' into the TOR to say that members could not discuss the business outwith the group.

3. Attempts to restrict what is discussed and in particular stop discussion about management of the finances etc. even though 'managing the assets' is in the TOR.

Sub-Groups of CGEG

There was a prolonged discussion at CGEG of whether sub groups of the CGEG should be possible, and the upshot was that they could be but only if remit and membership was approved by the NCGEG.

The reason for the CGEG caution and concern was in regard to the Community Partnership where there were significant problems with sub groups operation and accountability. However, what was taken to the Area Committee was that the CGEG Chair could set up sub groups.