

Neilston Community Council

Meeting of Tuesday 26 August 2025

Approved Minutes

In attendance

CC Members: Malcolm Briggs, Janice Connery (Vice Chair), Margaret Currie (Treasurer), Rowena Johnstone (Chair), Margaret Pettigrew, Jim Sheriff, Gail Squires (Secretary & minutes).

Councillors: Cllr Morrison, Cllr Buchanan

Visitors: Nancy Gardner, Val Perrie, Jacqueline Drennan, Alison Findlay, PC Steven Gemmell, Martin Muir, June Jones, Gavin Kinnell, Andrew Reid (CC Liaison Officer), John Crawford.

Apologies: Julie Cloherty, Cllr O'Donnell

1. Welcome

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.
Alison Findlay was unanimously co-opted as a new CC member.

2. Minutes of previous meeting: pre-approved electronically (Proposed: J.Cloherty, Seconded: M.Currie)

3. Police Report

PC Gemmell updated on the report for period 29 July to present:

Antisocial behaviour and disorder:

1 x Noise complaint from property - householder warned.

1x Theft by Shoplifting to the value of £6.90 from Main Street, Neilston

Road Traffic:

No road traffic incidents.

Local community officers have been in the area throughout the past month. 5 fixed penalty tickets issued. Focus on Kingston Road after concerns raised at previous meetings.

There was discussion around the Kingston Rd 20mph zone which has been targeted for speeding recently.

- Police confirmed that it is predominantly cars, not lorries, that are speeding.
- The 20mph signs were felt to be too small and possibly painting the signs on the road surface would have more impact.
- Speed bumps were another option but with the entire village becoming a 20mph zone in the near future, might prove unnecessary.
- While appreciating that changing driving habits is difficult, it was pointed out that it is the legal responsibility of drivers to observe road signs at all times.
- There is a 30mph sign still in place opposite the school campus although obscured by the trees, this needs to be removed. **[Action: Cllr Morrison]**

Cllr Morrison asked if the Police would be looking at parking at the school which continues to cause issues. PC Gemmell explained that although a concentrated period of attention (eg a week or two) would be most effective, the barriers to this are time constraints, staffing levels and responsibilities at other schools. Cllr Morrison suggested that feedback from the police to ERC on the whole range of issues (parking on double yellow lines, across private driveways, double parking etc) and the need for more attention could help in the quest for expanding the number of Community Wardens which is currently stretched beyond capacity. It was acknowledged that the school staff do their best to address this issue themselves. It was suggested that NCC write to ERC and the Police to raise the issue. **[Action: GS]**

Cllr Buchanan updated that there would be an announcement soon re the ERC wide 20mph zones.

4. Matters Arising

Parcel Locker: Rowena explained the NCC response to the retrospective planning application. Cllr Buchanan confirmed a decision had not yet been taken and any representations from the public (for and against) would still be taken into consideration. The Police will keep an eye on the traffic

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issues at this spot.

Grass maintenance: No reply yet from ERC to email of 4 July or follow up on 18 August. [\[Action: J.Cloherly\]](#)

Mitigations re quarry traffic: NCC received an update to queries sent to Kenny Markwick (Head of Operations, Environment Department, ERC):

- **Alternative route for ACS vehicles.** *The Council has on a number of different occasions requested that trucks from the quarry take the route to the west along towards Dunlop/Stewarton however, ACS have advised that this is not practical for them due to the locations of their deliveries.*
- **20mph on Kingston Road.** *I have noted myself on several occasions when in Neilston that trucks have been sticking to the 20mph limit however, I did note that cars driving in the village were not. Speed enforcement as you'll be aware if managed by Police Scotland, and it's a matter that we'll raise with the Police.*
- **Other lorries operating at school/nursery times.** *The agreement by ACS to not drive through Neilston at school/nursery times is a local agreement they've entered into because of the community concerns and their desire to show cooperation in working with the Council and the wider community. As a public road, vehicle operators are able to use the roads through Neilston at a time of their choosing. The Council don't have the capacity to contact HGV operators about when vehicles are used and its important to note that this would be need to be a consistent approach and not one that was targeted only at certain operators as the Council also has a role in supporting our local businesses such as Murdochs, and local farms that receive deliveries via HGV.*
- **The position of the build-outs** *were surveyed and identified as being in a position that was safe in relation to the road traffic. Lighting is put in place based on fixed design criteria however, the new installations will be assessed again to ensure that all appropriate safety measures are in place.*

The Community Council will have hopefully noticed works that started on 11th, which were delayed by 1 week, for the start of the additional safety measures that I outlined in my previous email and these will carry on over the next couple of weeks with the works on traffic lights at Main St/High St still planned for the school holidays in October just now.

With regards to the traffic survey of the whole village, this is still to take place, but we wanted to do this after the schools had returned so that we could get a better sense of traffic when it's at the higher levels, as part of this review we will also be looking at available parking at how vehicles are parking.'

Kenny also expressed the wish to meet with NCC in September if possible to build on the good relationship that has been developed and to address any issues of interest to the community. [\[Action: J.Cloherly\]](#)

There was discussion on lorries passing by in convoy, and that some have been seen using Double Hedges Rd and Holehouse Brae at the times when they cannot pass the school. There was also discussion of the weight restriction put in place in Dunlop recently and previously in Kilwinning. ERC have the quarry's logs of lorry movements using the Neilston route.

Electronic Noticeboard: this has now been moved to its new location facing Main Street next to the chemist following the initiative by NCC and enabled by a grant from the Neilston Windfarm Legacy fund. An additional £60 was covered by NCC funds due to ERC increasing the cost. The total charged by ERC for this was £2,874. The service itself is free of charge to voluntary groups. Arrangements will be made to advertise how groups can get their notices posted on it. [\[Action: RJ\]](#)

Crudens housing development on Kirkton Road: No reply yet from Crudens or ERC Planning to emails sent on 4 July or 18 August, to be followed up. [\[Action: J.Cloherly\]](#)
There are issues re the width of the road when the work is done and re who is paying for this work as all agreed it should be the developer. There is a contribution to the development of £97,000 which is not attributed to anyone, this needs to be clarified. [\[Action: JS\]](#)

Village Newsletter collaboration: Jacqueline Drennan (NDT) updated that the biggest barrier to a hardcopy newsletter is the high cost and it was felt by the NDT Board that using social media is the best way to do this while also addressing the issue of reaching those who do not have access to social media.

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Malcolm will liaise for NCC with NDT on a pilot scheme for this and look at placing hard copies in local venues to reach as many villagers and be as inclusive as possible. [Action: MB]

Other suggestions included posting a Community Diary on the electronic noticeboard and using the services of local free press and the Good News newspaper.

Neilston Community Walking Action Plan:

In the plan it states that, in the first year, Walking Scotland will be compiling a comprehensive report on barriers to walking with recommendations and next steps rather than on specific projects at this stage. When we hear more from Walking Scotland, the CC will be updated. [Action: GS]

5. Visitors' issues

Neilston Windfarm Legacy: June Jones, representing NWL, wished to raise awareness of vacancies on the Board and encourage Neilston residents to consider joining to promote the fund for the benefit of the community. Points included:

- Members of the board (trustees) have a term of 3 years, meet once a month, and are all volunteers
- Currently there are 2 vacancies and 2 pending
- There is specific need of filling the role of Treasurer with a volunteer who has an accountancy background
- The number of trustees who live in Neilston needs to be improved so there is an active need to spread the word and involve local people
- All the relevant information is on the website: www.neilstonlegacy.org
- The Board are happy to have informal chats with any interested people (see website for contact details)

Some background on NWL included:

- It is an independent charity (SCIO) set up with money from NDT
- £1m was invested in a Long Term (LT) Account in perpetuity, it is now worth £1.4 m
- £600k was invested in a Medium Term (MT) Account, for distribution to the community
- The MT fund now stands at £372,000, the interest from the LT fund keeps it topped up
- NDT appoints 1 trustee and the organisation itself is a member

NCC agreed to raise awareness where they could and suggestions included that NWL use the electronic noticeboard now that it is in a more effective position.

McGill's bus services: Gavin Kinnell raised issues that had ensued since the timetable changes in July, these included:

- 3 and 66 now leave the village at the same time reducing the service from Neilston to every half hour instead of every 15 minutes as before
- 3 sits for 15 minutes on Kingston Rd which is a huge inconvenience to passengers who get on prior to this stop
- Additionally, the 395 also leaves the village at the same time as the 3 & 66, which further impacts on the reduction in frequency.

Cllr Buchanan had some info on this including the problem that buses cannot leave earlier than the timetable. There are issues around where they are stopping, blocking driveways and impeding traffic flow, and ERC are in touch with SPT about this. Cllr Morrison has had representations from the community on buses blocking driveways in Glen Doll Rd particularly and ERC had met with McGill's previously to resolve this to no avail and the next step for ERC is to approach SPT.

NCC will also write to McGill's and SPT to express concerns and ask for improvements. [Action: GS]

Steps between the Killoch Bar and the chip shop: Martin Muir provided photos showing that the steps are in a poor state of repair with damaged steps and a missing handrail. An accident had occurred in the

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last few days where someone had fallen on the steps and injured their head. It was suggested that the steps be redesigned to allow all pedestrians to use this route as those with prams or in wheelchairs have to navigate their way through the car park which is clearly hazardous. It was felt that the steps should be blocked off pending repairs. NCC will write to ERC on this. **[Action: GS]**

6. Standing Items

Expansion of CCTV: Cllr Morrison advised on the scheduled improvements to the cameras in the village as per email from Stephen Bell (ERC):

Main Street: There are currently 2 public space column mounted PTZ cameras (pan, tilt & zoom), which are in good locations. These will both be replaced with multi head cameras which consist of 4 fixed view cameras, giving up to 360 degree continuous coverage and a PTZ camera to also allow our operators to take control as required.

Neilston Campus: There is a column mounted camera within the campus adjacent to High Street (next to the church) which is currently a single PTZ camera. This will be replaced with a multi head camera, including a PTZ'd to allow both dedicated coverage of High Street and the campus at the same time.

The new cameras will give enhanced coverage of Main Street and High Street and will be recorded and monitored 24 hours a day. Orders have been placed with our CCTV Contractor and I will confirm once the cameras have been installed.

Based on current information, we believe this will provide sufficient coverage without any requirement for other new CCTV locations in the area.

Although these improvements are welcomed, discussion covered the fact that cameras have **not** been planned to cover the area from the cross to the swimming pool & library which is busy and focus for anti-social behaviour including a fairly recent serious assault. It was pointed out that there are also cameras outside Brig O' Lea Stadium although it is not known who owns them. **[Action: Cllr Morrison]**

Double yellow lines High St opposite the garage: Cllr Buchanan acknowledged that this is still outstanding and felt that as a traffic assessment of the village will be undertaken in the near future, this may be on hold til then in case of other changes.

Perimeter fence at school campus: Cllr Buchanan will follow up his instruction to Education to make any necessary repairs to the fence on the Duncarnock boundary of the school campus as no work has yet been carried out. **[Action: Cllr Buchanan]**

Planning issues

NCC was emailed by Vestas re their proposed windfarm development at Glenouther Moor north of Stewarton. As this is in the Stewarton and District Community Council area, NCC will contact them to explore the issue. **[Action: JS]**

7. Treasurer's Report

The current status of funds is:

Cash in hand		£1.43
TSB a/c	Balance	£1,449.25
BOS a/c	Balance June	£3,403.07
	Bank charge (cheque)	-£4.25
	Bank charge (monthly)	-£4.75
	Chq No 000213 SSUK	
	(Repositioning of electronic noticeboard)	-£2,874.00 (NWL – £2,814; NCC – £60)
	New Balance	£520.07
Grand Total		£1,970.75

The annual audit of the accounts has been completed and approved by VAER and will be shared as per process.

8. Communications Update

See Matters Arising – Village newsletter.

9. AOCB

There was discussion about the current fundraising for the defibrillator at the school and the potential for a contribution from NCC. **[Action: MP]**

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10. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 30 September 2025.