

# Netherlee and Stamperland (NeSt) Community Council Minutes



**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 7pm-9pm**

Clarkston Hall and Zoom meeting

Agenda Item	Minute	Action
<p>Welcome, members present and apologies</p>	<p><i>Present in person</i></p> <p>Bob Shaw (BS), Victoria Pearson (VP), Siobhan McGuinness (SM), Bronwen Livingstone (BL), Katie Pragnell (KP), Graham Keany (GK), Martin Armitage (MA), Bill Considine (BC), David McDonald (DM), Duncan Scott (DS), Joanna Teuton (JT), Margaret Corrie (MC),</p> <p><i>Present on zoom</i></p> <p>Catriona Milosevic (CM)</p> <p><i>Apologies</i></p> <p>Jim Boyle, MP Kirsten Oswald</p> <p><i>In Attendance</i></p> <p>Cllr Annette Ireland, Cllr Stewart Miller, Vincent McCulloch (ERC CCLO),</p> <p>Cllr David MacDonald (on zoom)</p>	
<p>Police liaison update</p>	<p>                      Police REPORT - NeSt CC - April 2022.</p> <p>Some issues concerning youths as we move to lighter nights. Police are looking at sale of alcohol to underagers. Parking at Netherlee Primary School remains an issue. Police have been out on their bikes a lot. There has been some info about housebreakings. Bogus workmen are an issue within East Renfrewshire.</p> <p>JT referred to a recent police talk at Williamwood H/S where reference was made to high rates of youth disorders in ER. The officers noted that they don't think this is on par with Glasgow, although we do get footfall from other areas too.</p> <p>MC queried how to contact police and they confirmed to use 999 for emergencies but otherwise issues can be reported on 111 or by online reporting.</p>	

	<p>GK made reference to people doing U-Turns on Busby Road - police are aware of the problem.</p> <p>DS asked if police are seeing any issue with compliance on cycle lanes. Officers noted that it might take a while for messages to properly filter through to people, especially as the TV ads on this are very short so may not be clear to everyone.</p>	
Minutes from previous meeting agreed	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March were accepted as accurate.</p> <p>Proposer – BL</p> <p>Secunder – KP</p>	
Outstanding actions from previous meeting	<p>VP reported the position of crossing patroller at Netherlee Primary School is now filled.</p> <p>Microhydro application – BS reported that has not had contact from those involved. This was queried by VP as at last meeting BS reported had contact and was to respond. BS stated he had not had anything further from the applicant and also stated that future community council dates were not confirmed so could not progress this action.</p> <p>At this stage of the meeting VP requested that item 11 be brought forward. This was agreed by the members as best.</p>	
Item 11 – Behaviour of Secretary	<p>It was noted that the CLO would take notes (for the minutes) during this agenda item.</p> <p>The Chairperson asked the Vice Chairperson to chair the meeting during agenda item 11. – The Vice Chairperson declared an interest in the agenda item and explained to the meeting the nature of that interest and therefore her reticence in chairing. Following short discussion, there were no objections to the Vice Chairperson chairing this section of the meeting and it was agreed to proceed with the Vice Chairperson chairing from this point onwards.</p> <p>The Vice Chairperson noted that within the last few days there have been accusations made by the Chairperson in respect of the Secretary, following a discrepancy with the agenda, and the subsequent communication regarding a corrected agenda being sent out. The Vice Chairperson noted that the Chairperson is alleging that he had allowed the Secretary a week after she circulated the agenda in order to make a correction to the agenda that he had requested and that she had not done so. The Vice Chairperson noted that his alleged</p>	

timeline was not possible as even now a week had not yet passed since the email was circulated and the chairperson had taken issue with the secretary earlier this week within a matter of days following the agenda being issued by her.

The Chairperson noted that he had a series of issues and produced a number of pages of text detailing his complaint. Copies of his written complaint were not available to members and it was the Chairperson's intention to read the text to the meeting. The CLO asked whether this text would be made available to him and the Chairperson agreed that it would. (See note 1)

It was stated that many members did not know there was an issue between the Chairperson and the Secretary, and that it would have been managed better out-with the CC meeting. It was also noted that the Secretary had not received a copy of the complaint, and had therefore had no time to prepare a response to the accusations.

The Chairperson stated that he does not trust the Secretary and that the Secretary has consistently ignored him.

Reading from his statement, the Chairperson stated the following:

The Secretary did not produce minutes in PDF format when asked to do so by the Chairperson.

Following an incident, where the caretaker interrupted a meeting that had overrun to ask the members to leave, the Chairperson asked that the Secretary book the room to 9:30pm (although there was no intention to run to 9:30). However, the Secretary had not booked the additional 30 minutes. The Chairperson's point being that if the meeting had ran over its allocated time, it would be embarrassing for the community council if they were asked to leave.

The Chairperson stated that a Zoom meeting was held with the Vice Chairperson & the Secretary while he was unwell, just prior to the last full community council meeting and that it was discussed that the Vice Chair would have to chair the upcoming meeting. The chairperson commented that the secretary was flippant during the meeting and advised that she did not book the meeting for the additional 30 minutes. The Vice Chairperson stated that no office bearer meeting took place while the Chair was unwell and sought to clarify the

	<p>facts but the Chair maintained that this took place and proceeded to read from his statement</p> <p>The Chairperson commented that the Secretary had stated that meeting should be no longer than two hours, and that most other community councils would meet for a maximum of two hours.</p> <p>The comment was made that it should be the community council who should decide on the length of meetings.</p> <p>The Chairperson stated that the Secretary is determined to undermine the chairperson.</p> <p>The Chairperson stated that the Secretary should not contact the Community Council Liaison Officer.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised that at a previous meeting when discussions about the hustings arose, he was within his rights to ask candidates to leave, however he had been subsequently advised that he had no authority to ask people to leave a meeting just because they had an interest in the subject.</p> <p>Reference was made to an email sent by the Chairperson to political candidates in the forthcoming election, suggesting that some community council members were biased and had tried to “wreck” the hustings. The Vice Chairperson objected to the Chair’s allegations, and could not understand the Chair’s problem. The Vice Chair asked the Chair to stop and explain his allegations, but he refused, stating that he would like to complete his statement without interruption.</p> <p>As he continued, the Vice Chairperson interjected again to comment that she could not see how the allegations made by the Chairperson against the Secretary would amount to a breach of the code of conduct (for community council members) and that the Chairperson was making it very difficult to resolve any of his issues by refusing to deal with points as they arose and by failing to provide a copy of his document that would enable us to return to them.</p> <p>The Chair gave a history of his experience, which included mandatory ethical training.</p>	
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	<p>The Chair stated that he has a better understanding of how the governing rules for community councils should be interpreted than the CCLO.</p> <p>The Chair made reference to a licensing application that he had emailed around the membership, he had also visited neighbours close to the relevant premises. However, he felt his view point on the application was ignored. It was suggested by members that the application did not warrant his intervention.</p> <p>The Vice Chair noted that a draft of the community council's proposed remarks had been sent to both the Chair and Vice Chair before submission to the ERC licensing officer and that the Chair could have stated his issues at this time. He responded that he had been unable to do so because he had missed the deadline set by the Secretary.</p> <p>At this point the Chairperson finished reading from his text.</p> <p>GK commented that the Chairperson has been unreasonable, that complaints against other members cannot be managed like this, and there is no evidence of wrong doing.</p> <p>The Vice Chairperson noted that in her view the Chairperson has broken various provisions of the code of conduct.</p> <p>The Secretary was asked if she would like to make a response to the allegations, although it was noted by the Vice Chairperson that the Secretary has had no time to consider the allegations.</p> <p>The Secretary advised that when she took up the role, she had a new baby, and had told the members that she may need support in the role of Secretary. With regards to booking a room for an additional 30 minutes, she had sent an email to the Chair suggesting the membership should decide on time of meeting.</p> <p>DS stated his belief that the Chair has broken the code of conduct – his email to members regarding the Secretary (in which he asked her to resign of face further embarrassment) was ugly and unprofessional. His email was threatening and intimidating. The Chairperson stated that his email to the</p>	
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	<p>secretary suggesting she should resign or face further embarrassment was not bullying.</p> <p>It was discussed that the Chairperson's email to Cllr Ireland was critical of the Community Council and accused some members of political bias and such comments were defamatory in nature.</p> <p>The Vice Chairperson explained that the hustings were approaching and the CC had no proper information about the hustings, therefore the community council agreed to withdraw their involvement in the hustings.</p> <p>The Chairperson stated that there was an ambush at the meeting, and that some members had shown political bias. The Vice Chairperson asked the Chairperson to explain the basis for these statements but no explanation was provided. The Chairperson then denied having stated moments earlier that he had alleged any ambush. He was advised that the decision to withdraw the community council from the hustings was arrived at democratically and according to the rules, and that there was no ambush and no political bias.</p> <p>CM (attending via Zoom) asked that the matter be brought to a conclusion, suggesting that the community council should learn from it rather than being critical all the time.</p> <p>The CCLO stated that the Chairperson has no authority to ask that the Secretary resign from the community council, he further advised that there was provision within the constitution for the removal of office bearers, this requires a member to propose an office bearer's removal, a member to second it and a simple majority to vote in favour.</p> <p>KP proposed a vote of no confidence in the Chairperson and the removal of BS from the position of chairperson of the community council, the proposal was seconded by DM, it went to a vote and ten members (a majority) voted in favour of the motion. BS was therefore removed from the Chairperson's position.</p> <p>BL proposed a motion that the community council has full confidence in the Secretary and that the community council does not consider that she conducted any community council business with any wrong doing or impropriety, and that the</p>	
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	<p>community council offer her an apology for what she has endured. 11 members voted for the motion.</p> <p>The ERC elected Councillors stated their support for the Secretary.</p> <p>DS reiterated that he had found BS's conduct to be of an intimidating nature which presents difficulties for future joint work with BS. The Vice Chairperson agreed with these comments.</p> <p><i>Note 1: As at 11th May 2022, these notes have not been provided.</i></p>	
<p>At this point in the meeting the Vice Chair (VP) became Acting Chair.</p> <p>VP apologised to the members about the length of time the previous item had taken, over an hour, and explained that most of the agenda items would need to be delayed until the May meeting.</p> <p>Items not discussed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subgroups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Road Safety and Public Transport</li> <li>▪ Social Media/Website</li> <li>▪ Outreach</li> </ul> </li> <li>• AGM Arrangements</li> <li>• Hustings</li> <li>• NeSt Social Event Ideas</li> </ul> <p>All other items were briefly discussed as below</p>		
Treasurer update	GK noted that the NeSt accounts for end of year are prepared but require to be audited. It was agreed that VP would contact previous member Andrew Morrison, who is an accountant, to ask if he has a colleague who would be willing to do this free of charge. It was noted that it may not be ideal for Andrew himself to do this as he is standing for election as a councillor in another ward area.	VP
Support for Ukrainian Refugees	Cllr Ireland noted that Phil Daws, ERC, would be an good initial contact and it was agreed that she would pass on the NeSt email address to him for further communication.	
AOB	SM advised wanted to confirm that members wish for ERC climate change officer to attend next meeting after AGM. Agreed that should attend at 7.30 for 30 minutes, SM will confirm with speaker.	SM
Close	<p>Next meeting confirmed for 19<sup>th</sup> May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGM 7pm</li> <li>• Ordinary meeting 7.30pm – 9pm including climate change officer talk at 7.30.</li> </ul>	