

NORTH KELVIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 3RD AUGUST 2021

The meeting was held on Microsoft Teams

Present

Community Council members

Douglas Peacock (Chair)
Andrew Smith (Vice-chair)
Alasdair MacDonald
Christine Alison (Secretary)
Merle Read
David Conway
Louise MacKenzie
Elaine Doherty
Phil Crook (ag. minutes secretary)

Apologies:
Alasdair Smith
Hannah Graham

Councillors

Martha Wardrop
Ken Andrew

Apologies:
Jane Morgan

Residents

Adam Bastock
Alison Gifford
John Kennedy
Charlotte McEleney
Mr Leeson
Ray Wingate
Helen Moore
Andrew Fraser
Robert Hartley
Abigail Stein
Ed Clack

The meeting started at 1830

1. Approval of minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved subject to the addition of clarifying remarks from Merle Read's e-mail of 2nd August relating to items 8, 11 and 12, and the correction of Anne Marie Donnelly (item 10) to Annemarie O'Donnell.

Proposed: Alasdair MacDonald
Seconded: David Conway

2. Police report

This item was held over as no report had been received from the Police before the meeting took place. If and when a report arrives, Christine Alison will send it to be incorporated into these minutes.

Action: Christine

In response to a question from the chair if there were any issues which participants would like to raise, speeding on Queen Margaret Drive was mentioned. Cllr Andrew was happy to say that he recently saw traffic police doing a speed check there.

3. Councillor's reports

Cllr Andrew said that since Council was in recess, he had nothing of relevance to share.

Cllr Wardrop referred to QMD speeding. Her understanding is that investment in QMD will not go ahead until the plan for Byres Road is finalised early in 2022, despite the fact that the new school should be operational by then and issues such as additional crossings should have been addressed. The Byres Road plan is being delayed by Covid, by congestion and by the University campus work.

Participants had a number of issues which they asked councillors to consider.

a) there is a feeling that the Kibble Heights development is encroaching more and more into Wilton Street, and also the road surface is badly degraded. Cllr Wardrop agreed, and said she would follow up with Roads.

Action: Cllr Wardrop

b) some members had found the Glasgow App less than satisfactory in reporting problems to the Council, such as graffiti and blocked gullies. David Conway said that he had been successful with graffiti reports by attached photos of the graffiti and being quite specific about its location.

In connection with gullies, Alasdair MacDonald requested that when the lining work was carried out for the RPZ the gutters and gullies were properly cleaned before painting was done. The meeting agreed that this was essential.

c) David Conway raised the issue of Maryhill Library which is still closed. He has been unable to get any clear answers as to what the problems are, and exactly whose responsibility it is. Cllr Wardrop said that in her opinion the funding model of Glasgow Life is at the core of the problem, being no longer viable since the pandemic. Both councillors however pointed out that the library is situated outwith Hillhead ward and falls under the purview of their colleagues in Maryhill.

The NKCC felt quite strongly that this should not stop Cllrs Wardrop and Andrew from intervening on behalf of the community since it is the library that many of us use.

A **motion** was passed:

“that Hillhead councillors take up the issue of re-opening Maryhill Library in its current location”.

Action: Councillors

d) Cllr Wardrop reminded members that the Visit Scotland website has 4 of its top 20 sites in Scotland in Glasgow: the Glasgow Botanic Garden, the Gallery of Modern Art, The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and the Riverside Museum. These are all funded by the City Council and she is asking them for the annual running costs. Should we be trying to access national funding under the Tourism Strategy?

4. North Kelvin and North Woodside Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ)

Residents have recently received letters saying that the RPZ is being implemented. Lining work has started and the basic infrastructure will follow. The operational hours are 0800 to 2200 from Monday to Sunday. These times were supported by the NKCC during the various consultation meetings held during 2019 (with both the Council and the public) and so as a committee we are content with the outcome.

Nevertheless, a number of participants are unhappy and indeed an on-line questionnaire is circulating around parts of the community which so far overwhelmingly supports a reduction in hours to, for example, 0800 to 1800 Monday to Friday.

The meeting talked around the issue of timing for some time and the following points emerged:

- The RPZ area is not homogenous in that parking problems are not the same everywhere. For some parts it is day-time commuters. For some it is evening parking to access the local restaurants and bars. For some it is commercial vehicles which are parked overnight. But as Cllr Andrew pointed out, a more nuanced scheme doesn't work. If streets relatively close together have different timings then the parking problem will just shift around. He added that this was a case where the greater good must outweigh personal feelings.
- The consultation process was as open as it could be made and the NKCC is not minded to support any request for changes to timing at this stage. However, the Group Manager Traffic and Road Safety said in a letter to Phil Crook: "When introducing a new parking zone, legislation requires that the greater restriction is proposed in the first instance as this can be shortened but cannot be increased if there is not sufficient support from road users. It should also be noted that some of the areas surrounding North Kelvin and North Woodside are at this time looking for operating hours to be increased. If this happens there may be a "knock on" effect experienced in this area". Cllr Andrew agreed with this assessment.

Other specific issues which were discussed included:

- There is a genuine worry that carers, cleaners, physios, and other necessary visitors will be disadvantaged by having to pay to park. However, there are a number of RPZs in the city so there is probably an existing protocol about this.
- The Belmont Street triangle will be a one-way system, with an extremely steep hill on the left. Yarrow Gardens is similarly steep. In ordinary winters the grit provided is barely sufficient. Members asked whether the road surface could be replaced with one which is more adhesive as has been done elsewhere.
- The parking in Kelvinside Terrace is being shifted to other side of the street. Some residents are worried about the impact this will have on drainage and the buttressing wall adjacent to the Sixty Steps.
- At the top of Wilton Street, with a high proportion of elderly owner-occupiers, the number of cars allowed to park will be reduced by around 20. This is worrying some residents.

Cllrs Wardrop and Andrew have noted these concerns and will follow up where possible [see update to our post [Restricted Parking Zone is coming in the autumn](#)]. It was hoped the scheme could be reviewed after an appropriate period to see how well it was functioning.

5. Tree replanting and the Kelvin Walkway

Alasdair MacDonald reported back on a very good exchange with Steve Scott from Amey, who has been helpful and informative. Amey are responsible for the restoration work in liaison with the Botanic Gardens.

Regarding trees, three proposals are under discussion for the Flint Mill, at the FORK hut and at Garriochmill. Work should start in September/October.

Regarding paths, almost all of them have been resurfaced. The outstanding part is the piece close to FORK which has always been prone to flooding, due to the fact that it is essentially at the same level as the river and when the water is high the drains back up. Amey have made proposals for a solution which are being considered.

6. Clean up date for Wilton Gardens

The NKCC agreed that Wilton Street Gardens and the surrounding streets would be the focus of our next CC clean-up, and, subject to agreement from the gardens committee, we plan for Sunday August 29th from 1030 to 1230. Adam Bostock offered the use of the Clean-Up Glasgow network to spread the word.

Action: Alasdair MacDonald to finalise arrangements

7. Belmont Street Triangle

The issue here is that the triangle of garden looks a little shabby and unloved. The meeting agreed that we should look at ways of reviving it. Suggestions included:

- Raising the canopy of the existing trees and trimming the epicormic growth: Cllr Andrew offered to ask the Council arborist to advise us
- The Spring daffodil display is being affected by dockens which need weeding out
- Some of the space could be used for more cycle boxes

Cllr Wardrop pointed out that the triangle is listed as a site for community use, and we could bid to take it over. This raised the question as to whether we would do this as the Community Council, or as a group of residents, and also whether we should look for partners such as Queens Cross Housing Association. Cllr Andrew said that the Hillhead Area Partnership could be a source of funds.

Cllr Wardrop reminded the meeting of an earlier request from the Dear Green Flower Gardens to use the space for community gardening, which we had never quite resolved.

Alastair MacDonald will organise a meeting at the triangle in the first instance to talk about these issues.

8. New noticeboard

The NKCC agreed with the proposal to site our second noticeboard on the traffic island where Kelvin Drive meets Queen Margaret Drive. Alasdair MacDonald has the work in hand and is waiting for a response from the council.

9. Christmas lights

Cllr Andrew introduced this by saying that there is a small amount of funding available for Xmas lights apart from at the usual spots. He will check how bids can be made. The CC agreed that we should apply for funds for lights on Queen Margaret Drive in a place to be determined.

10. Planning officer's report

David Conway reiterated that he is unhappy with the reply received from Annemarie O'Donnell regarding our questions on the approval given by a Local Planning Review Board to the Kelbourne Street development. Why did was non-determination allowed to occur for such a large project? Why was so little weight given to NKCC's and others' objections? We can't change the decision but we can go back on process and attitude. Other CCs have had similar experiences and there is a general feeling that we are not taken seriously.

The meeting agreed that David should write again to the chief executive.

Cllr Andrew informed the meeting that he and Cllr Morgan were now part of a cross-party working group looking at the whole review process. He will share the addresses of all the members with us and we can copy our letter to the chief executive to them. We can also involve Anne Laird at Downhill CC and the Yoker CC who have recently had a big project pushed through against local wishes.

Actions: Cllr Andrew to share details
David Conway to draft letter
Phil Crook to contact Yoker

There is one outstanding application on the canal-side site for which we are awaiting feedback on our comments.

11. HMO licensing report

There was nothing to report.

12. Communications report

Merle Read reported that Mark Smith, a new associate, has now left the area, and our latest newsletter is out.

It is proposed that the September CC meeting should be held in person, subject to confirmation with the hall.

Action: Christine Alison to confirm

13. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2100

Phil Crook
Acting Minutes Secretary
4th August 2021