

**NORTH KELVIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING (MICROSOFT TEAMS)
5TH OCTOBER 2021
MINUTES**

<u>Present</u> Douglas Peacock (chair) Alasdair Macdonald (treasurer) Christine Alison (secretary) Merle Read David Conway Hannah Graham Elaine Doherty Phil Crook (ag. minutes secretary) <u>Apologies</u> Louise MacKenzie Andrew Smith Alasdair Smith	<u>Residents attending</u> Laurie Presswood Jock Morris Charlotte Mceleney <u>Councillors attending</u> Jane Morgan Martha Wardrop <u>Councillors apologies</u> Ken Andrew
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The meeting started at 1905

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 7th September 2021 were agreed.

Proposer: Christine Alison Seconder: Merle Read

2. Police report (Annex 1)

For this item we were joined by Alan Freeland, Maryhill Police, who went through the highlights of Peter Bell's report. There has been a curious theft of several number plates from cars in Clouston Street – they can only surmise the reason, but are investigating. Vandalism has increased a little. The extra patrols in the Children's Wood area are having an effect.

Alan agreed that COP26 will have a significant effect on traffic congestion in our area with the closure of the Expressway and diversions in our direction.

3. Councillors' reports

Cllr Wardrop spoke about the following issues:

- a) The fire escape from St Charles' primary school into Lothian Gardens Lane, which has been blocked by bins on more than one occasion. The school itself and the Education Department are unable to control this as the bins belong to residents. However, Glasgow Cleansing Services have once again reminded their staff not to replace the bins in front of the door after emptying them. The school children are designing a banner about the problem, and the door is going to be painted red. Hannah has also drawn residents' attention to the issue and asked them to support the campaign to keep the door clear. She noted that they are the only lane with recycling bins which is adding to the strain. Cllr Wardrop will look into this.

David wondered whether signage would be sufficient and if bollards should be installed: no conclusion was reached, but the situation will continue to be monitored.

- b) Whether the streets around St Charles' should be a car-free zone during school start and finish times. This has been investigated by Road Safety Department who have concluded that it would not be feasible.
- c) The Traffic Restriction Order for Queen Margaret Drive (QMD) has been issued. Cllr Wardrop has written to local businesses to say she is available to talk about it: she has also asked for an update on the timetable given the other pressures on the city. The Order will:
 - implement a new two-way segregated cycleway along the existing West footway of QMD between Hamilton Drive and the existing bus stop located approximately 175m north of Hotspur Street.
 - remove the existing bus lane on QMD between Kelbourne Street and Maryhill Road.
 - remove parking and extend the existing "No Waiting / No Loading" restrictions on the west kerb line of QMD.
 - widen the footway on the eastern side.
 - creation of public spaces at the junctions of Kelvin Drive and Queen Margaret Road with Queen Margaret Drive by narrowing the respective feeder roads to one lane in either direction.

See <https://www.northkelvincc.org.uk/2021/09/queen-margaret-drive-traffic-regulation-order-2021/> for details.

- d) Finally Cllr Wardrop confirmed that she is still working from home and doing her surgeries outdoors.

The Chair thanked Cllr Wardrop for all her efforts and opened the floor to questions. Jock Morris raised the RPZ, in particular the erratic work on painting the white lines. This was supported by several others. There are three main issues:

- a) The fact that the workmen have had to abandon attempts to paint lines in streets such as Doune Gardens and Striven Gardens, as after the residents duly removed their vehicles, people from outside filled up the spaces. It is not clear how the work can be done. Larger and clearer warning notices are what are needed, not simply A4 sheets on lampposts. And maybe a council worker on the scene from 7am to warn incomers away.
- b) The fact that the promised gully cleaning has also been abandoned, which is a real wasted opportunity and shows a lack of communication between departments.
- c) And finally what impact will all this have on the proposed start date of November 1st? With no signage, no meters, and no letters yet to residents about applying for permits, plus COP26 and its distractions, it seems very unlikely to be met.

Cllr Wardrop agreed that the process could be a lot better, and will go back to the coordinating officer.

Cllr Morgan spoke about the following:

- a) Regarding the RPZ, she has similar reservations. In addition, the Kibble Heights development with its traffic lights on Wilton Street, combined with the St Charles' school traffic and the

new one-way system, is bound to lead to tailbacks on QMD. This was raised with Traffic Department by Cllr Andrew, who was assured that the situation would be monitored.

- b) She agrees that the environment around the North Kelvin Meadow could be improved, having had a walk round with Douglas earlier, and is following up with the Council.
- c) Regarding the Maryhill Library, she welcomed the support from the NKCC raising concerns about its future. David added that at a recent meeting with Glasgow Life and the GCC they were unable to justify why it was not a library to be saved (along with Whiteinch and the Couper Institute). It was confirmed that the fabric of Maryhill Library was not a hindrance, and that they were bidding for funds from Holyrood. David felt that there was some hope.
- d) Cllr Morgan asked for an update on our second noticeboard. Alasdair explained that we had been provided funds to buy it and there is no formal specification laid down as long as the money is spent this FY. GCC will install it free of charge. Although we had chosen a location, Alasdair proposed that we wait a while until the QMD refurbishment was finished, in case that changed our preference.

4. Maryhill Activity Directory donation

The Maryhill Activity Directory requested a donation last year to keep the publication going, which we agreed. This year we have been asked if we wish to update our entry. Douglas asked Alasdair to oversee the update. Meanwhile, the Directory is going on-line (<https://app.maryhillactivitydirectory.org.uk/home>) and needs support. The meeting agreed that it was worth supporting and we should offer the same contribution as last year, £100.

5. Green Grant Application

Alasdair introduced this item. The NKCC has been active in getting work done on the Belmont Street Triangle, where branches have been lopped and the canopy lifted. Exactly which properties own the Triangle is unclear, though Queen's Cross Housing Association (QCHA) have an interest in it and in fact some of their residents came out to help with our work. During the summer we joined the Wilton Island Association in their clear up of the garden. Was there an opening here, Alasdair asked, for a green street leading up to the island at the top of Wilton Street which is also communally owned by adjoining properties.

Cllr Wardrop asked if QCHA would support any initiative, and this will be followed up. [Note: this has been done and a very positive reply received from QCHA].

As a first step, Alasdair, Hannah, Louise and Phil will form a sub-group to walk the street, consider options and make a short proposal to the CC.

6. Clean up – date and location

There are several contenders for the next clean-up on Sunday 31st October:

- a) Lothian Gardens Lane, linked to the St Charles' school fire escape;
- b) A follow-up of the work on Wilton Street island;
- c) Yarrow Gardens Lane;
- d) Hotspur Street, which is a new area and has the support of Cllr Morgan.

Elaine will take this forward and come up with a proposal. There is a link with the walk-round with the new Area Councillor, Gillian Macdonald, on October 19th (meeting at 12 noon outside Boots on QMD).

7. Planning Officer's report

David reported back on two issues. First, we had lodged an objection to the Mingarry Street proposal, which has been acknowledged. Second, we had written formally about the use of Local Review Panels. Cllr Morgan said this had been helpful, and at the recent meeting to discuss the shape of such panels, things such as raising the numbers on the panel, better training, better briefing and paperwork, were all raised. Planning officers do seem to think it is important, and she hopes there will be improvements next year.

8. HMO report

This item was not taken.

9. Communications report

Merle's report follows:

Our levels of social media engagement are generally increasing, but we still only reach a small part of the community. The more active/visible we are online, the greater the reach (likes/shares on Facebook/Twitter much appreciated).

The most engaging posts have photos or video attached, so if you can please share any images you take related to local events/issues, or tag us in your own posts, it will help raise our profile.

Website: we had about 28 visits per day with 9423 page views in 2020/21, down slightly on last year when COVID-19 info was particularly in demand. The most popular pages were about parking, the new primary school, various planning applications, the lanes and clean-ups. There are some photos of [our clean-ups in action](#).

Facebook: 623 followers, up 25% on 2019/20. Posts reached over 28,000 people (no idea how this is counted). The most popular posts were about graffiti removal, clean-ups, planning applications and parking, particularly those with photos or video. Where relevant, posts include a link to further info on our website. Some posts were "boosted", whereby a small payment increases the number of local people shown the post.

We also have 409 followers on **Twitter** and 147 subscribers to the **newsletter**, 10 issues of which were sent out. Items for inclusion welcome!

Merle raised two other points. First, do we need to keep the Covid pandemic emergency phone going we have had no calls for a long time? The meeting decided to retain it for now. Second, would we like to take out a registration to use OS mapping, which we are entitled to do as a CC? The meeting agreed this should be done.

10. AOB

One item of other business concerning a petition about the future of the M8 was deferred to the next meeting. This may be in person – Christine will look at the possibility.

The meeting finished at 2030

Annex 1 – Police Report

Period of 08/09/2021 - 05/10/2021

Recorded crime has decreased on what was reported last month.

Housebreaking crimes - No change on last month

Maryhill Road - Theft by Housebreaking (Commercial property) - committed early morning. Property stolen

Queen Margaret Drive - Theft by Housebreaking (Hostel Property) - Entry forced at some point over a two week period - property stolen

Misuse Drugs Act crimes : Decrease on last month.

Theft of Motor vehicle – No change on last month.

Garscube Road - Lease vehicle. Vehicle has not yet been recovered.

Theft pedal cycle - Decrease on last month. (No crimes recorded this month).

Road Traffic Crimes – Decrease on last month.

Crimes of Violence - Decrease on last month.

Crimes of Dishonesty (Theft / Fraud /Forgery) - Decrease on last month.

Vandalism - Increase on last month

Crimes of note –

None

Trends

Number plate thefts - 3 x incidents (All Clouston Street) where 6 x Number plates have been removed from vehicles.

Extra patrols to the Children's Wood and North Kelvin Meadow due to reports of anti-social behaviour. A number of youths have already been moved on from this location and a large quantity of alcohol disposed of.

COP26 will be running from 31/10/2021 to 12/11/2021 and this will result in an increased demand on Police resources not directly involved in Policing the event.

Peter Bell

Constable, G2225

Community Policing, G Division

Police Scotland / Poileas Alba