

**NORTH KELVIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING in ST CHARLES CHURCH HALL
2ND NOVEMBER 2021
MINUTES**

<u>Present</u> Douglas Peacock (chair) Andrew Smith (vice-chair) Alasdair Macdonald (treasurer) Christine Alison (secretary) Merle Read David Conway Elaine Doherty Alasdair Smith Phil Crook (minutes secretary) <u>Apologies</u> Louise MacKenzie Hannah Graham	<u>Residents attending</u> Judi Evans and one other <u>Councillors attending</u> Jane Morgan Martha Wardrop <u>Councillor apologies</u> Ken Andrew
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The meeting started at 1835

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 5th October 2021 were agreed subject to three minor amendments.

Proposer: Merle Read Second: Alasdair Macdonald

The minutes of the AGM on 5th October 2021 were reviewed and three additions made: Andrew Smith confirmed after the meeting that he was willing to continue in his two CC roles; David Conway will remain as lead Planning Contact on the understanding that Louise MacKenzie will take over as soon as she is able to (Louise's position is that she is happy to do the research and draft our responses. However she feels she ought not sign these given her position as an employee of GCC within the relevant section, as a conflict of interest question might be raised); and there is one addition to the inventory of a mobile phone. The minutes will be formally approved at the 2022 AGM.

2. Police report

Due to the pressures of COP26, the police were unable to deliver a report this month.

3. Councillors' reports

Cllr Wardrop spoke about the following issues:

- a) GlasGLOW. She attended a Q&A session about GlasGLOW at which a number of residents made complaints particularly about parking and noise. A post-event impact report will be produced and followed up with Friends of the River Kelvin and Friends of the Botanics. Some attempt has been made to dissuade people from parking in the smaller residential streets, though it is questionable how official this is. Hamilton Drive has some parking enforcement

due to its existing status as a CPZ but this does not extend across the river.

NKCC as a body feels that GlasGLOW provides a lot of enjoyment to a lot of people, though since it is private use of public land, it would be nice to know whether there was real public financial benefit.

- b) The long-term position of the Botanics Children's Garden is still unclear, especially in regard to the donations received, where she would like to see more transparency. Douglas added that the garden had reopened but at present had been requisitioned by GlasGLOW.
- c) The Queen Margaret Drive Traffic Regulation Order. Cllr Wardrop met with QMD traders and the Council to discuss implementation issues. Concern was raised about an earlier approved application by the North Star Café to have pavement seating which seems to contradict the desire to have wider pavements. She is awaiting feedback from the Council.
- d) North Kelvin/North Woodside RPZ. Following on from the last NKCC meeting, Cllr Wardrop has been mailing the Council with our concerns, some of which have been answered (though not very satisfactorily) and some of which have been ignored. She will continue her efforts to get clarity about how and when the work will continue. Cllr Morgan added that she had been told that a revised completion date will be advised shortly.

Note: subsequent to the meeting, Cllr Morgan received a mail from Head of Roads explaining the problems which have arisen, and stating that they hope to restart work on November 15th. The Traffic Regulation Order is legal from November 1st, but the go-live date involves many elements which require to be completed in order for the scheme to become fully operational including road signs/poles, roadmarkings, parking machines, back office functions including permits and enforcement systems and RingGo.

- e) Maryhill Library: discussions are still on-going but are looking hopeful. Some money could well be forthcoming from central funds designed to kick-start the reopening process, contingent on GCC then finding funds for at least a further year of operation.

Cllr Morgan spoke about two issues:

- a) The Kelvin Walkway. She is still not getting satisfactory answers from anyone about the persistent flooding along stretches of the walkway but will continue to pursue the issue as will we – **David** will check what Scottish Water appeared to be promising us by way of restitution and share this with her.

The discussion widened into considering the Walkway as a whole, cutting as it does across a number of CC and Ward boundaries. For example, both the Hillhead and Maryhill Area Partnerships have funds for the Walkway on their agendas, though what is proposed is only vaguely described. A walkabout is planned by Hillhead AP at which suggestions for improvements can be made: better signage, for one, and action to stop water seepage onto the very steep path up to Garrioch Drive which has been going on for years. Given the increased use of the Walkway since its inception, widening of the stretch from the Flint Mill to Great Western Road bridge is also very much needed.

Both Councillors will continue to follow what is being proposed, and **Phil** will report back from the Hillhead Area Partnership meeting on November 9th.

- b) Information flow on planning applications. Cllr Morgan signalled that there is now a digital map of applications which appears a little sooner than the mail does. She will try to get a link to David.

One application which has just come is for Kelbourne Street which appears to be on the same site, or one part of it, as the earlier application which we strongly objected to last year. She will send the relevant link to **David** who will then investigate.

4. M8 petition

This item was held over from the previous meeting. It essentially concerns a petition referring to Council plans to cover over the part of the M8 running through Charing Cross. The petition is closed and we cannot make a submission. However, the petition reached the minimum threshold for it to be considered formally. The petition argues that given the various green targets, issues of pollution, the problems with the elevated sections of the M8 around Woodside, and the fact that the M74 is now complete along the southern side of the city, perhaps we should look at just closing the M8 and reunite the city. Cllr Wardrop added that she had in fact asked if this could be made part of the new Transport Strategy.

The chair pointed out that if the NKCC were to have a view, then we needed somehow to make the link with our area. There is a short section of Garscube Road in our area and this is a route which connects with the M8 at Cowcaddens. It is experiencing increased traffic and reduction in air quality because of its increased usage due to access closures at Charing Cross. Maryhill Road connects to Phoenix Road which is an access to and from M8

5. Draft Glasgow Transport Strategy

Phil introduced this item and shared extracts for the GTS which he felt were relevant to the CC, in particular the standards required for new developments which we can take into account when we comment on proposals.

CC members picked up other items of interest: the clearly stated hierarchy for access which places pedestrians first; the desire of the City Council to “continue” to work with communities and give them a say in local planning; the apparent lack of a long-term vision in the Strategy to take into account the low-carbon future; and Cllr Wardrop recommended we also looked at the Active Travel Strategy.

Alastair Macdonald will draft a NKCC submission on the GTS.

6. Telephone boxes

This item arose from a walk-around with Gillian McDonald, our new Neighbourhood Liaison Coordinator, and the sight of public call boxes apparently vandalised, graffiti-ed and clearly used for drug-dealing and -taking. Gillian has asked a colleague to follow up with BT but the CC felt that it would be helpful if we also took a view.

The subsequent discussion revealed the gaps in our knowledge. Is there a statutory requirement for provision of call boxes? Who is responsible for cleaning them and to what standards? Can we find out what the usage is? Are they indeed operational?

Douglas agreed that he would write to BT noting the NKCC concern about the poor state of call boxes in our area and asking what can be done.

Note: Andrew visited the phone box at Wilton St Gardens on his way home, and though it was clean and maintained there was a notice from BT indicating that because usage is so low, the box will be discontinued

7. Clean-up date and location

The next clean-up will be the area around the Happy Park, on Sunday November 28th at 1030. We are obliged to do risk assessments for this type of activity, and these should be circulated to all and kept on file – **Action Christine**.

Some CC members were concerned that in the light of the current industrial action being taken, this type of clean-up (though a regular activity of the CC) might be seen as strike-breaking. The following motion was proposed by David and seconded by Andrew:

“NKCC supports the industrial action currently being taken by the COSLA refuse collection and street cleaning teams”.

The motion was passed with 6 votes in favour, one against and two abstentions.

8. Planning Officer’s Report

Developments on the old church site in Kelbourne Street had been noted earlier, and there were no other plans to report.

9. HMO report

There was nothing to report.

10. Communications report

Merle has now signed up for Ordnance Survey digital mapping, but needs some technical help to get started. Cllr Wardrop offered to try to find someone who can assist.

11. AOB

a) There will not be a meeting in December. Instead, NKCC members will meet socially at the Botany Bar.

b) Following a suggestion by Christine, CC members agreed that she should write to Scottish Water about replanting along the Kelvin and our concern that if it is not done during the winter months it will be delayed for a year. **Christine** will write, liaising with David and Douglas.

c) Phil reported that the most recent Woodland and Park CC minutes clearly showed that they too are frustrated with the planning processes and the apparent lack of experience among the staff involved. They also have an issue with a lack of charging points for electric vehicles within their parking zone.

d) Alastair and Phil mentioned that together with Louise they had walked along Wilton Street and have started to think of possible actions which might be taken. **Action – Alastair, Phil, Louise and Hannah** to draft a proposal for the January meeting.

The meeting finished at 2035

Phil Crook
Minutes Secretary
5 November 2021