

North Kelvin Community Council
Maryhill Community Central Hall
Minutes of meeting 05/08/2025

Attendance: Elaine Doherty, Douglas Peacock, Rowena Statt, Joyce Khatri, Alasdair MacDonald, Merle Read, Patricia Grant, Cllr Martha Wardrop

Gemma Paterson, Tara Barclay

Apologies: Stuart Wallace, Andrea Fisher, Frank Shennan, Louise McKenzie, Christine Alison, Cllr Ken Andrew, Bailie Seonad Hoy

1. Chair: Douglas Peacock, Minutes: Patricia Grant

No representative from Queens Cross Housing Association attended, as expected. Patricia to follow up with QCHA

2. Minutes of last meeting 03/06/2025 proposed: Alasdair, seconded: Elaine.

3. Police Report. No police attended and no report available. A report may have been sent late to Christine Alison.

4. Actions from last meeting:

Sixty Steps repairs, expected by GCC for July 25 had not taken place. Rowena to carry this action forward for action. Cllr Wardrop will enquire about this.

Planters in Kelvinside Terrace South, (KTS) lower section. The Garden Committee of KTS plans to pilot planting in some of the planters with suitable items. Stuart to follow up with Tesco for potential sponsorship, as funding required.

Frank was to attend a Licensing Development Session 14 June. Feedback to come.

5. Councillors Report. Cllr Wardrop fed back that work was ongoing by GCC in consultation with residents of Lyndhurst Gardens to agree back lane repairs, wall and bin shelter redesign. GCC is working with the factors to agree a finalised proposal and contractors.

Rats are present where bins have been removed at corner of Wilton St and Melrose Gdns- the wall is dilapidated and bins regularly overflow as rubbish thrown in passing. Bins may be moved back to middle of the block. Responding to a question about bin hubs in the area, Cllr Wardrop stated that bin hubs should be managed through refurbished back lanes, and only placed in the street where there was no alternative, eg no back lane, or a Health and Safety (H&S) requirement. There is a process in place to assess locations with Cleansing H&S.

Rowena told Cllr Wardrop of reports of rats in the Happy Park, former church site and Children's Wood- there is a large food waste bin without a lid. Move/replace lid? Cllr Wardrop noted this was in Maryhill Ward, so an approach should firstly go to councillors for that ward.

The Melrose food waste bin had not been emptied. Cllr Wardrop will follow up.

Patricia asked what plans there were for improving the currently inadequate electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the West End, given the large number of flats, and the push towards fewer car miles in the city. Rowena noted that the Queen Margaret Road chargers often don't work. Cllr Wardrop said she would make enquiries about this. There is no plan to roll out more electric charging points. Money had been given to the public sector with a private sector/public partnership to co-ordinate investment but now the private sector is seen to take the lead in this.

Patricia asked about proposals to remove professional librarian posts from Glasgow secondary school libraries, as this is a degradation of the service offered to schools which children from North Kelvin will attend, and a de-professionalising of librarians. Cllr Wardrop noted that the proposals say staff would be redeployed, not made redundant. Patricia noted that the posts would be lost from the structure, and may never be reinstated, having taken decades to have a professional librarian in every secondary school. Cllr Wardrop said that there would be more clarity in September, with further discussions to include Trades Union feedback. A briefing from Glasgow Life was based on consultation with staff, teachers and young people.

6. Communications Report. Merle noted new items- Frank's post on the RTS switch-off, his page on Licensing issues eg HMOs, and a real-life North Kelvin case study for residents/GCC collaboration in dealing with rats, following a complaint/help sought from a local resident. Merle advised that a technical issue with the website (which was resolved with the generous free help of a former NKCC member) highlighted a risk to the continuity and maintenance of our website in the holding of passwords and domain renewal. It was agreed Merle will follow up to discuss a phased handover.

7. Trees for Streets. GCC has partnered with this charity so residents can help fund tree planting in city streets. Alasdair suggested several locations, especially the former firepath on Wilton St, confirmed as not needed by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The meeting agreed this location. Cllr Wardrop noted that GCC would first survey these locations and suggested a proposal for funding to include this location and the junction of Queen Margaret Drive and Maryhill Rd where ash trees had to be removed. She will seek details from the arborist.

There will be an funding event for charities/community groups on 26 August 1.30-3.30 pm in Maryhill Burgh Halls organised by MP Martin Rhodes. NKCC attendees to be decided.

8. Walking Scotland. Funding is available from them for communities to create paths. To explore this, Alasdair will contact Scottish Canals to raise the possibility of creating and accessible path from Maryhill Road near the car wash to the canal, part of the National Cycle Network. Cllr Wardrop noted that any plans should link with GCC plan to build a cycle lane from Garscube/Firhill to junction Maryhill Rd/Bilsland Drive. This plan is currently unfunded.

9. Street Play 26-28 September. Residents can submit plans by 12/09 to close a street for children's play activities. Stuart had spoken on this at last meeting. Douglas will contact him to see if he can take this forward. If so, the Children's Wood can assist activities.

10. Glasgow 850. Thanks to Christine and Alasdair, NKCC had been awarded £700 grant to purchase two plaques commemorating JD Fergusson and Margaret Morris at 4 Clouston St. Additionally, Roger Bilcliffe Fine Art, trustees of JD Fergusson estate had offered to fund the installation of the plaques. The meeting agreed to accept this offer.

Patricia, Rowena and Alasdair had met and agreed to focus on a some lamppost graphics to tell the story of the 1941 bombs which fell on Queen Margaret Rd and Clouston St. Discussion followed, with hopes for a heritage type trail in the future and local history pages on the website. Cllr Wardrop asked that we involve the local shops as they could do with the footfall.

11. Community CleanUp. Elaine proposed Wilton St/Yarrow Gardens triangle/adjacent street drains, if no other suggestions. 31 August 10.30-12.30 at the triangle.

12. Planning. Rowena reported that Cafe Ibiza, now called The Firehouse, was appealing GCC refusal of the decking retrospective application.

13. HealthWalks. The next walk is 16 August to Kelvindale. A photographer will attend to cover this as a Glasgow 850 activity.

Rowena raised drug-dealing under the bridge to Walkway at Belmont St, with cars arriving. This had been reported to police. Cllr Wardrop advised to keep reporting it.

Alasdair reported that he was applying for funding to the Hillhead Area Partnership to support his close having been chosen as a case study for retrofitting with Loco Home Retrofit.

Members of the public asked if there were plans for another pedestrian crossing on QMD. Cllr Wardrop advised this could be considered when the road junction with Gt Western and Byres Rd is redesigned, on conclusion of the Byres Rd works.