Minutes of meeting held on 7th September 2016 in Newarthill Bowling Club

Members
Robert Paterson (Chair)  
Josephine Mackenzie (Secretary)  
Douglas Tait (Treasurer)  
Fiona McCabe  
Grace Jackson  
Kirsty Moon  
Tommy Brannigan  
Alan Skiffington

Visitors, Members of the Public
Margaret Johnstone  
Amanda Govan  
Angie Walker  
Cat Dorner  
Nan McIntosh  
J McClory

Other Agencies
Michelle Battersby NLC  
Peter McNally NLC  
Cllr Nolan NLC  
Lisa Crosbie NLC

Apologies:
William Jackson, Angela Cummings, Audrey Hulme, John Muir

Welcome
The Chair welcomed all present.

Minutes of Meeting of 3rd August 2016

Proposed: Kirsty Moon  
Seconded: Grace Jackson

Agenda Item
Secretary’s Report

- Fun Day was a massive success. Around 190 purvey bags were distributed and ~400 people attended. Some good weather for most of the day! Although the focus of the day was to raise awareness, over £1000 was raised. Community Council to consider the legitimate use of these funds

- Community Choices Fund. Application for £20k has been submitted. If we are awarded it then community groups (new and existing) can apply for funding from it. We should be notified at the end of September of the outcome.
- Public Meeting Re: Odours in drains. ~35 residents attended. Representative from Scottish Water requested post codes of people affected by the smell and to report it to them. Scottish Water will then map drain issues and investigate it.
- Health and Wellness Hub. Will move to Newarthill Community Centre from 19th Sept.

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<tr>
<th>Treasurers Report</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Balance of bank account is £2133.47. Treasurer still to provide receipts to council accountant, once received they will release our grant funds.</td>
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<td>- Fun Day breakdown of figures provided</td>
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<td>- Peter McNally to send treasurer e-mail with details of who to send receipts to.</td>
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<td>- Clr Nolan wanted to check we are all up to date with paying out expenses, this was confirmed.</td>
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<th>Police Scotland Update</th>
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<td>- No police attendance</td>
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<th>Brannock High School S4 pupils (Need A Hand Project)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Crosbie provided an outline of the project</td>
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<td>- Some 4th year pupils from Brannock High are participating in a Need a Hand project – they will carry out jobs like clearing paths, weeding etc.</td>
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<td>- The project will run for ~6 months</td>
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<td>- 14 pupils involved</td>
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<td>- See posters throughout the village for details</td>
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<td>It was suggested that Lisa contact Carole Hendry of the semi housebound group re this project</td>
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<th>Participatory Budget Spending Consultation</th>
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<td>Michelle Battersby, Regeneration Manager from NLC provided information</td>
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<td>- Some monies had been set aside to be spent in Newarthill.</td>
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<td>- Namely £20k for a Gateway feature as requested in the Community Council’s previous Public Consultations.</td>
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<td>- Also £30k had been set aside for additional parking at the Library. As the library closure is going ahead that £30k has been made available to spend in the village.</td>
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<td>- The £30k must be spent on environmental improvements on NLC land, which will benefit the whole community. And MUST be spent by March 2017.</td>
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<td>- Multiple requests have been made for a playpark in the village, unfortunately in this instance that is not achievable for a number of reasons;</td>
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<td>- Lead time for new playparks to incorporate design,</td>
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planning and build is ~2 years

- Funding we have in place is not sufficient to fund a playpark (as a number of Health and Safety measures need to be followed which can add to the expense)
- Refurbishment of existing playparks is also not possible as the existing parks equipment is obsolete.
- However – improvements can be made to areas like the Welfare Park to make the area more useable by the community. Suggestions were:
  - Kissing Gates to limit horses accessing the park
  - Additional benches
  - Extra bins
  - Lighting
  - Changing rooms for sports in Welfare Park?
  - Burnside Road (the Glen) improvement of paths, cutback of overgrowth, signage to the walk?
  - Improvements to the park between Kier Hardie and St Theresa’s Primary Schools?
  - Additional barriers to “dumping ground” at Church Street?
  - Michelle Battersby will investigate our suggestions and feed back to us.
  - It was agreed by vote at this meeting that the Gateway Feature should go ahead.

Councillor Nolan’s Update

The Private Sector
Shops at Woodilee Road

Another incident has happened since our last meeting when an elderly woman tripped over the broken steps, fell and smashed her nose.

An ambulance was called and the woman was taken to hospital. She has got over this but the accident could have proved fatal for an elderly person.

I asked the council’s Planning Dept. to take out an Amenity Notice against the landlord but they are reluctant to do so.

Pressure has got to be put on them through our Community Council and the other local elected members.

Environmental Services

If anyone is not satisfied with the response received about Brown bin waste, they should voice their concerns through Andrew McKenzie on 01698 506274.

The Ground Maintenance manager was asked on the 4th of August 2016 to get the play park at the bottom of Caledonia Drive Newarthill cleaned up as soon as possible.
Roads & Transport
The metal fence on Mosshall Street would appear to be land management’s responsibility to repair and maintain. They have been asked to arrange for this to be repaired. The pedestrian barrier on High Street opposite Loanhead Road was removed and a temporary barrier was installed. A permanent work instruction will be issued for this to be replaced with a new barrier.
With regards to speeding, the matter will be investigated and accidents records will be used to determine what can be done to improve matters.
I have attached a previous response to you with regards to Mosshall Street, I can confirm that the SLOW road markings have been installed; however, I will review the most recent stats to see if there has been a problem.

A closure order and diversion route for Biggar Road, Cleland has been issued. The closure dates are from Monday 8th August 2016 to Monday 5th December 2016 to allow Network Rail to carry out bridge strengthening and parapet works. I have still to receive information from SPT regarding bus services during this closure period.

North Lanarkshire Council
Biggar Road, Cleland
(Temporary Closure) Order 2016
On 25 July 2016 the North Lanarkshire Council made the above-named Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended by Schedule 1 of the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991, and in exercise of all other enabling powers, which makes it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any motor vehicle (with the exception of vehicles engaged on bridge strengthening and parapet works) on Biggar Road, Cleland from the extended line of the northern kerb of B7029 Bellside Road, northwards for a distance of 140 metres or thereby, by reason of works being executed on or near that location.
Alternative routes: Vehicles on the north side of the closure wishing to travel to the south side of the closure should proceed north eastwards on Biggar Road, south westwards on B7066 High Street, B7066 Carfin Road and B7066 Newarthill Road, eastwards on Cleland Road and B7029 Chapelknowe Road, south eastwards on B7029 Omoa Road and north eastwards on B7029 Main Street to the south side of the closure.
Vehicles on the south side of the closure wishing to travel to the north side of the closure should proceed vice versa. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.
The Order, which will only be effective when displayed by signs, will come into operation at 0001 hours on Monday, 8 August 2016 and will remain in operation until 0600 hours on Monday, 5 December 2016.

ARCHIE AITKEN, HEAD OF BUSINESS FOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS, Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell, ML1 1AB

Bus Users Scotland
The local MSP has been asked for help with this.

Newarthill Electorate
Please note the boundary plan of Newarthill Community Council. There is no list of the streets/roads included within the boundary however this can be obtained through the Council’s GIS team. If there are any area’s/addresses you would like checked this can be done on the internal GIS mapping system on connectnl. I can help with this if necessary. The electorate for Newarthill CC boundary is 3,219.

Brannock High School
The dilapidated outfield sports facilities are not fit for purpose and are being totally neglected to the detriment of the school pupils. It can be readily noted that other schools throughout North Lanarkshire seem to be treated more favourably and I intend to take this issue up with the Education department.

Anti-Social Behaviour
There are still issues of anti-social behaviour simmering in the locations already mentioned like Martin Place. Other area being affected include, Vorlich Wynd and Eribol Walk. The police have been advised of concerns raised by residents in these localities. Still to be brought to the attention of the police is the fact that fly by night gutter cleaners are operating in Newarthill. They purport to be Council employees.

General
The main issues that concern me at present are as follows:-

1. The Woodilee Road Shopping Mall.
2. The Newarthill bus service.
3. The Bowling Club car park.
4. The grass verge bordering the front of the Siporex Estate.
5. Brannock High School.
6. The stink that affects most of Newarthill.

7. The ancient Community Centre.

8. The Welfare Park

9. Mosshall Park

10. House Building

I need your help and support to address these problems and get a positive outcome for Newarthill.

- Newarthill Electorate update = 3219 people (based on current boundaries)
- Cllr Nolan has requested we submit a letter about the shops in Woodilee Road and about the underuse of Brannock High playing fields.

**Library Update**

- It had been agreed by the community council as a whole that our opinion was to pursue a potential Community Asset Transfer for the Library Building.
- The Community Council’s vision for this potential hub is that there would be library services in the building and potentially also IT equipment. In addition to this the space would be available for other groups (youth groups, art classes, language classes, councillor’s surgery, Citizens Advice surgery, healthcare groups, etc.) and could provide great opportunity for the community.
- Our next steps in respect to this would be:
  - Set up a separate group (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and access Big Lottery funds to commission a feasibility study and community consultation

Cat Dorner raised the question of the funds raised at the Save Our Stories Fun Day which people contributed to Save the Library and suggested that these funds should go to the save the library campaign. The Community Council can only pass funds onto another organisation which has a constitution outlining a clear remit and has a separate bank account.

**Damien Barr’s Statement: (Read by Angie Walker)**

Thank you all for continuing the fight to save our library. Once
again, I wish I could be there tonight. As you know, I grew up in Newarthill going to school at Keir Hardie and Brannock. The library, along with the shop and the post office, were the heart and hub of the village. Almost all of my family still live there. Robert, your chairman, lives a few doors up from my mum.

I’ve gone on in The Guardian and elsewhere about how the Library inspired me and sheltered me—you’ve all said the same in your emails, letters and petitions to CultureNL. They either haven’t listened or don’t care because they’ve decided to close your library anyway. This decision is as flawed as it is foolish—it will reduce opportunities in a community which desperately needs them, it will lead to further deprivation and unemployment, it sends a message to our village that we are not worth it.

But this decision is reversible - the library doesn’t need to go the way of the Ravenscraig. Where I now live, in Hove, the local community have fought the council and kept their library open for all. Other communities have saved their stories.

Newarthill Library can and must be saved for the village but it can only be done by the whole community.

Community Asset Transfer is just Culture NL washing their hands. Let’s be clear, if this hub goes ahead There will be:

No new books—forget the next Harry Potter. Old books will be allowed to fall apart.

No staff trained to buy books the community needs and wants, run reading groups, maintain IT systems, shelf and reshelf or run reading groups like BookBug because ALL librarians including cleaning staff will be fired—not relocated elsewhere as CultureNL previously claimed.

No computers or internet access or wifi - cultural says ‘some’ computers will be put elsewhere—where, the tip?

The community will be responsible for heating, lighting, cleaning security and building maintenance as well as insurance.

It’s been mooted that ReelTime will take over and run this hub. I would say this: they already have a huge space in the community centre. Residents deserve books and music! If ReelTime want or need to expand we can support them to find another space: we have only one library.

The thousands of people who signed both petitions signed up to save their library—they didn’t ask for a hub. It is a not a Plan B it is a Plan Z. CultureNL is trying to foist a hub on us by unfair and unreasonable means and our Community Council, which is elected to represent the needs of the whole community and not just one group, must not allowed themselves to be forced into accepting this. The CC and ReelTime must stop the negotiations they’ve been having with Culture NL about Community Asset
Transfer to allow the community to agree a united way forward. If needs be an extraordinary meeting of the CC should be convened.

Our MSP has joined the fight. Writers including Kirsty Wark, Armistead Maupin, Val McDermid, Ian Rankin, David Nicholls and local Liz Lochhead are fighting alongside us. Our fight has been reported on Radio Clyde and in The Herald and Evening Times. We can all make a difference—we do not need to take No for an answer.

Right now, a legal challenge is being mounted with support from some very high profile lawyers – such challenges have been successful elsewhere. We can win this fight here. But only if we stay united and support one another. We need to talk to our councillors, MSP, MPs and say it’s disgraceful that A Labour administration is planning to close the library in the village where Keir Hardie, the first Labour MP, was born. We need to say loudly to everyone elected and paid to represent us with one clear voice: Save Newarthill Library.

Audrey Hulme’s Statement (Read by Amanda Govan)

Dear Newarthill Community Council and everyone involved in the #SaveNewarthillLibrary campaign,

I am writing to object, in the strongest terms, to a “community asset transfer” of Newarthill Library and appeal to Newarthill Community Council to refuse this and not begin any process of asset transfer until everyone who uses the Library has had the chance to comment.

I am aware CultureNL have said they will initially provide NCC with professional advice and assistance relating to the library, and will continue to run the library, as is, until January 2017 in order to enable NCC to undertake any work required in order to achieve asset transfer. I appreciate CultureNL are prepared to do that instead of simply closing our Library ASAP. However, that then means there will be NO FUNDING after January 2017 for:

- any new books
- a librarian or staff to maintain lending system and books
- trained staff to run BookBug / ChatterBooks or source books for them
- IT staff to maintain / upgrade or run computers
- cleaners
- electricity
- insurance
- furniture
- paint
• carpets
• any maintenance whatsoever...!

I want my family to be able to access a warm, clean, well-stocked, well-served and well-loved **local library** like the one we have now. I do not want 'a community asset with an element of library service' (CultureNL’s words). I do not want to have to travel to another village or into the town centre to access a library facility.

If asset transfer goes ahead, essentially, our local Library will close - it will become a room / building with some old books in, no trained staff, no new books and no computers. A potential target for vandalism and become an eyesore in the village. The removal of and no upkeep of the IT system is particularly worrying and very relevant just now as our local Primary school have opted for a ‘Home Learning’ homework style where children will have to be able to access a PC or Laptop in order to complete their Home Learning tasks out with school hours. We cannot allow CultureNL to further deprive our children of these amenities. If the facility would only be run by volunteers surely one of the biggest concerns for **everyone involved** (volunteers, children, parents - everyone...!) is the safeguarding of our children and vulnerable adults...? This is very worrying.

I absolutely disagree with this proposal and wish for NCC to represent my views as per their remit stated in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 chapter 65.

Other Concerns:
Recruitment and retention of volunteers?
Screening and training of volunteers?

**Community Council Responses:**

• The Community Council looked at Legal Challenge. However, having taken into account all the available information it was agreed that our focus would be on exploring a the potential for an asset transfer and a potential community hub.
• All volunteers would be vetted and supported
• Further details will be given and discussed at the public meeting on this topic (Date TBC)

**AOCB**

• Is it possible to have the boundary of the village to be redrawn to include all of Newarthill? Cllr Nolan confirmed that would be something that the Boundaries Commision
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<th>Date of Next Meeting</th>
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<td>• Wednesday 5\textsuperscript{th} October 2017 (this will be the AGM).</td>
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