

Minutes of the Dennistoun Community Council Ordinary Meeting

held on Tuesday 14th October 2025, from 7:00pm
at St Andrews East Church Hall, 685 Alexandra Parade, G31 3LN.

CCLrs Present Brian Johnston (BJ); Ruth Johnston (RJ); Frank Plowright (FP) [Chair]; Stephen Campbell (SC); Valery Tough (VT) [Minute taker]; Wesley Wright (WW); Robert Dawson Scott (RDS); David McDonald (DMcD); Cliff Shearer (CS)

Others Present: John Mason MSP (JM); Ian Elder, NRS (IE); 7 x members of the public

		ACTION
1	Welcome / Introductions / Attendance / Apologies Apologies received from CCLrs Elaine Weir (EW) and Tom Dickson (TD), Cllr Anthony Carroll (ACar), Maureen Buke MP (MB), Annie Wells MSP (AW), Bill Stark, SWP (BS) ACar and MB sent written updates – see Appendices A and B below.	
2	Approval of Minutes September 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes proposed by DMcD; seconded by WW.	
3	Matters Arising <u>See 5a – Chair’s report.</u> <u>Hedges, etc</u> VT and EW had a very interesting and useful meeting with Charlie Keane from NRS and will give a fuller report at the next meeting.	
4	Ian Elder from NRS – Update on Necropolis eastern entrance IE confirmed that a pedestrian eastern entrance to the Necropolis has been approved. Consultations and pop-up sessions begin in November, with a list of community groups in Dennistoun to be consulted. The entrance will be of a generic design to the entrance to match other entrances, with a lockable gate. Exact location TBC. Colin Campbell, Deputy Chair of the Friends of Glasgow Necropolis addressed the meeting and objected to the plan on a number of grounds, including: Current gates are lockable, and are never locked A cycle route was shown on an earlier plan (IE responded that that was an error and there would definitely be no access for cyclists, although it was unclear how this could be achieved) Antisocial behaviour – no CCTV Drug-taking in the area may increase It will be intrusive for the Firemen’s Memorial No other cemetery in Glasgow has a through route. Discussion afterwards included questions about: The budget – does it all come from NIIF? (IE – No) Is it ringfenced? (IE – not sure) What guarantees are there that costs won’t overrun (IE – tendering and procurement processes) It	

was felt by many that using nearly a quarter of the NIIF budget for this was too much. The unknown history of the site - IE said ground-penetrating radar will be used to minimise impact).

Accessibility – IE stated it is possible to allow wheelchairs and prams, but not bikes. Unclear how this could be achieved. WW asked if there are by-laws to prohibit cycles.

Demand – Has there been public demand for an eastern entrance? (IE – 65% agreed/strongly agreed in the DRS survey). A member of the public expressed the view that the eastern entrance was a good thing for the area.

Other views expressed included that the Necropolis is used by hundreds of people every day as it is, and increased football would have an adverse effect; the wall had been damaged by previous antisocial behaviour; and the simple fact that it's a cemetery, which is by its very nature a quiet contemplative place and not a shortcut to somewhere else.

5 Officers Reports

a. Chair/Vice-chair

From FP:

Whitehill

Asked all five elected local officials for help prising answers from Glasgow Life regarding Whitehill Pool, and only Allan Casey got back to us, and then only after 20 days because he'd been away.

Andrew Olney from Glasgow Life was also away from the office for a time but did eventually respond, but although not phrased that way, his response basically said that as Whitehill Pool wasn't on the agenda for a Capital Funding meeting in November the costed options promised to the people of Dennistoun for August would only be ready then. It's a confirmation of Glasgow Life's priorities.

He also noted it was Whitehill School keyholders who locked the passage gates in August. I've asked that he confirm all keyholders have been notified they shouldn't and there's been no response.

Sports Hub

Andrew Olney wrote. Two organisations have put in notes of interest regarding the running from January to be progressed through the City Council's People Make Glasgow Communities (PMGC) Programme. However these applications have been paused due to ongoing legal negotiations with Milnbank. Andrew Olney didn't say so, but reading between the lines it's extremely unlikely it will re-open in January.

Regarding other investment, Glasgow Life's budget is entirely provided by Glasgow Council, and there is no current funding for re-opening any closed facilities. I've now twice pointed out that unless Andrew Olney explicitly states otherwise, there must be a percentage of the budget unallocated as it would be financially imprudent not to have funds to react to an emergency, for instance, and the question then becomes where that money is allocated. He never addresses that point, nor is he keen to provide figures on Glasgow Life venues in Dennistoun in 2017-2018 and 2024-2025. DCC agreed that a Freedom of Information request be made to get these figures.

Bins

Contacted Eddie Scanlon re paper and plastic recycling in my block not being emptied two days after scheduled collection. Stressed I wasn't taking advantage to have something done about my block, and was writing because I presumed this also applied to a wider area. Bins in my block were cleared the next day, but nowhere else.

He did respond, though, saying the department was experiencing unprecedented levels of staff sickness.

CC Meeting

I have arranged a meeting tomorrow night in the town centre to meet with representatives from other Glasgow Community Councils regarding problems that affect us all. Any other DCC members welcome.

b. Secretary

Nothing to report.

c. Treasurer

Not present.

d. Planning and Licensing

8-15 Sep

8 Onslow Drive Erection of Fence and Gate in front of Dwelling house and installation of replacement windows.

16-22 Sep

No applications

23-29 Sep

20 Wood Street Installation of ramped access to front of building

8 Seton Terrace Formation of bi folding door opening, extract outlet and flue to rear of Dwelling house

HMO Licensing

Application for new licence 12A Annfield Place

Renewal of existing licence Flat 3/2 521 Duke Street

Application for new licence 27 Onslow Drive Use of Dwelling House as HMO

e. Area Partnership

DAP meeting was on Sep 16. NIIF funding covered above under Necropolis eastern entrance.

All DCC road safety proposals (pedestrian crossings) pushed back.

Other areas covered included an anti-social behaviour outreach group operation to address drug-taking near the Thistle centre; £11,000 (20% of DAP budget) to be spent on Christmas lights in the ward; £6,000 awarded for a mural north of the motorway. RJ reported that it seems only eight out of 17 DAP members can vote.

6 Consultations

Nothing to report.

7 Current Local issues

a. Local Amenities/ Glasgow Life/ Whitehill Pool

Whitehill Pool, From BS:

In terms of a brief report:

The Campaign Working Group (CWG) are working hard to ensure that the "Options document" is completed in time to be presented next month. The plan is as follows:- Our target is to have the options appraisal presented to the GCC Capital Planning Board in November. The Planning Board comprises senior officers of the City Council and it allows for requests for capital funding to be brought together from across the Council family to see the scale and nature of requests. The Planning Board doesn't make a decision, but following discussion will feed the capital funding requests into the City Council's budget planning process for discussion over the coming months before a final decision is made by the City Council at its Full Council meeting in late February.

b. Homes / Housing Associations / Cleansing

The Halliday Foundation has opened the café in the Reidvale Centre, and need volunteers.

RHA are hoping for accreditation and to come off special measures.

c. Transport/Roads/Parking

WW: Parking Stage 1 consultation opened, for key stakeholders, not the public. Reckon the second stage will be implemented before the end of the year.

DMcD received a response to his FOI request on permit numbers stating that GCC don't keep these figures. WW noted the design is still under embargo.

VT noted that the Whitehill School police officer was out every morning with the lollipop woman to cone off Onslow/Meadowpark before school begins. DMcD confirmed this was a long-term measure, though in the morning only, due to different afternoon finishing times. DMcD to make FOI requests re assorted traffic safety measures suggested by DCC over a long period to which we've had no satisfactory response.

8 Public Input

Advice from member of the public to keep FOI requests simple.

9 Elected Member Update

JM gave an update on his parliamentary activity, with a reminder that the Scottish Parliament ends in March in preparation for the elections in May, and that he would be retiring. Also reported that the budget would be late this year – Jan 13th 2026. Also relevant to the area is that ScotRail is looking at making Bellgrove station accessible, and will have options in December.

9 AOB

VT reminded DCC that we still need to appoint a Minutes Sec and a DAP Sub Rep. FP thought we could look into paying someone to do the minutes, as some other CCs do. We decided we didn't want to get involved in a Christmas Day Warm Space this year. Steven Campbell is stepping down as a CCIr, with immediate effect. We will all miss him and wish him well.

10 Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 11th November 2025 from 7.30pm-9pm at St Andrews East Church Hall.

- Agenda will be circulated in advance and published to [Dennistouncc.org.uk/dates](https://dennistouncc.org.uk/dates).

- Apologies to be submitted via hello@dennistouncc.org.uk.

Appendix A – report from Cllr Anthony Carroll

I gave my apologies for tonight's meeting however am sending over information regarding actions and updates requested from last time.

Whitehill Pool

- Some folk have been raising the lights being out on the exterior of the pool, so have raised this with Glasgow Life, who said:

"Thank you for your enquiry regarding the lighting of the path serving Whitehill Pool. We are aware of the problem with the lighting and have engaged with our main contractor to investigate. Following the investigation they have established that there is a fault with the lighting circuit which is unfortunately inaccessible due to RAAC in the venue.

We are working to find a solution which will allow us to carry out the repair and have requested that our contractor provides us with a quotation to replace the lighting circuit at low level complete with new light fittings. Once we are in receipt of the costs for both options, we will look to instruct one of the work packages"

- I was offered a briefing with Glasgow Life regarding the Pool more generally which was to take place last Monday however wasn't told until 15 minutes beforehand that it was to be rescheduled. I'm awaiting a rescheduled briefing on this so that I can get a fuller update to provide. I still wrote to them about my frustration about the delay to the business case work, and they responded with:

"When we commenced this work, we were aiming for a target date at the end of August 2025 on the basis it would be considered at the Capital Planning Board meeting in September. Subsequent to this Glasgow City Council informed us that the options appraisal would not be considered until the Capital Planning Board meeting in November. We recognise we should have updated stakeholders of this change, unfortunately I have been on sick leave for a period and the team working on the project did not appreciate the importance of doing this in my absence. With the extra time to develop the options appraisal Glasgow Life and Save Whitehill Pool Group continue to collate and develop the commercial data and membership-based evidence that will inform the various sections of the business case for the future of Whitehill Pool. It has also afforded Save Whitehill Pool Group additional time to complete its community consultation... Glasgow Life will continue to develop the business case in partnership with all involved parties and will circulate the completed document to wider stakeholders for information once it is ready."

Bin Backlog

- Folk will have seen across Dennistoun a big backlog of collections to general, but in particular recycling, bins over the past few weeks. This has hit in particular folk from Dalmarnock up to Springburn & through to Easterhouse. I met with cleansing officers about this to see what was happening. Essentially, there are about 5/6 fleet's worth of staff off on sick - a much higher amount than they'd ever have off. Coupled with some changes to collections in Housing Association houses (mainly round Royston, but could & storms, this has made a backlog of work equivalent 53 days' worth of work.

- They have been provided extra resources from across the city to help tackle the backlog especially for recycling, and are working through the current cleansing cycle which has started (of 16 days) to get through the backlog, and judging by my inbox the past few days (and my own back court!), it seems that they are getting through the back log. I've asked the convenor for cleansing to provide an update on our Winter Waste Strategy to the next Environment & Liveable Neighbourhood Committee as if we are seeing such level of sickness this early on, I'm concerned how Winter will look given how shortages lead to backlogs most years than not.

Eastern Entrance to the Necropolis

- As I'm sure has been mentioned in the AP update, one of NIIF projects funded was an Eastern Entrance to the Necropolis, which passed with one dissent. Ian Elder is working up on consultation on the project in terms of where it'll be, and has asked cllrs to suggest groups to contact on it, of which I've suggested DCC, Friends of the Necropolis, the Drygate Urban Village Resident's Association, and Aproxima Arts. I am sure Ian will be providing further information on the consultation approach in due course.

Alexandra Parade Crossing

- At previous DCC meeting, it was requested further information from officers on costings approximated for a crossing at Alexandra Parade by the Co-op, which were provided:

"It has been identified that the total cost of delivering a new pedestrian crossing at this location would be in the region of £150,000. This includes:

Crossing installation: Estimated at approximately £80,000 and £100,000

Bus stop relocation: The existing stops include shelters, accessibility kerbs, and real-time passenger information

systems. Relocating these would cost around £30,000 each

Electrical connection: Scottish Power would need to provide a new electrical connection, with costs varying between £10,000 and £25,000

Design fees: Estimated at £10,000”

This does not include consultation costs, as I do believe there would need to be a consultation in a similar vein to the Eastern Entrance of the Necropolis, as there contains potentially contentious aspects such as relocation of bus stops. I will leave the information with DCC to consider.

Food Waste Bin

Just to provide an update from the previous action I had from last DCC meeting on the regularity of pickup for public food waste bins, to ensure there's less overflow like we see. They responded:

“I can confirm that my group manager has indeed had regular correspondence from the community council in relation to the food bins in Dennistoun and has agreed to have these collected every 4 days, there should be no reason why these bins are allowed to overflow so often. Therefore, escalated monitoring has now been put in place which requires the local manager to check these and of course address any issues he finds.”

Alexandra Parade Primary

It was flagged at last DCC meeting about the sheds at Alexandra Parade Primary, and what work is being done to make that area safer again. Education responded, saying:

“A structural engineer has inspected the sheds and is preparing a report with recommendations for required action depending on their findings on the overall condition of the sheds. It is hoped that the report will be available before the schools' finish for the October week break on Friday 10 October, at which time an officer from Property and Consultancy Services will arrange a quotation.”

I believe that covers the main things that have come up the past month for myself – apologies again for being unable to attend this evening.

Appendix B – report from Maureen Burke MP

Thank you for the invitation to tonight's AGM.

I will need to submit my apologies as unfortunately I will be unable to make this evening due to parliamentary business. I would be keen to meet members of the community council when it is convenient for them and I am in the constituency, just let me know when is suitable.

The community council may wish to note that I am intending to raise the ongoing situation of Whitehill Pool in the chamber this week and will be sure to let you know what response I receive.