



Dennistoun Community Council

hello@dennistouncc.org.uk www.DennistounCC.org.uk

Minutes of the Dennistoun Community Council Ordinary Meeting

held on Tuesday 8th September 2026 from 7:00pm
at St Andrews East Church Hall, 685 Alexandra Parade, G31 3LN.

CCLrs Present [Chair]; David McDonald (DM) (chair); Wesley Wright (WW); Brian Johnston (BJ); Ruth Johnston (RJ) Robert Dawson Scott (RDS); Elaine Weir (EW), Val Tough (VT) (until 8pm), Cliff Shearer (CS)

Others Present: GCC Cllr Elaine McDougall (EmcD); Bill Stark, Save Whitehill Pool, (BS) and 10 members of the public.

1 Welcome / Introductions / Attendance / Apologies

In the absence of the Council chair (FP), DM took the chair,

Apologies were received from: Frank Plowright (FP) Cllr Anthony Carroll (ACar), Tom Dickson (TD) Liz Allen (LA), Police Scotland

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 14 July 2026 Ordinary Meeting were proposed by RJ and seconded by CS.
Minute of the 11 August planning meeting were proposed by VT and seconded by RDS.

3. Police

The scheduled Police Scotland briefing was postponed at the request of Police Scotland (see apologies)

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising outside those matters already due for consideration under following headings

5. Officer updates/reports

a. Chair/Vice-Chair

Traffic Regulation Order

After consultation with other DCC members, the Chair e-mailed NRS responding to the letter sent regarding DCC objections. It pointed out the deficiencies of the one size fits all response to objections, noted the 2019 and 2024 “consultations” as being unfit for purpose, reiterated the length of time taken to respond, and expressed astonishment that so many points had still not properly defined in that time. It also asked for points not addressed in DCC’s objections to be addressed, treated as FOI if required, and for a proper public meeting to explain. No response was received within seven days so the Chair contacted our three councillors pointing out the

illegitimacy of the quoted consultations, asked them to put pressure on for a public meeting, and to ask why Milnbank is now exempted when it shares the same parking problems as the remainder of the area.

July minutes

The Chair met with Mary Brady to thank her for minuting the July meeting and passed on a cheque in payment.

Whitehill Pool

The Chair wrote to George Hunter re removal of gym equipment and asked where it was being placed to benefit the people of Dennistoun. No answer had been received (but see Ongoing Local Issues, a. (below))

Alexandra Park sports hub

See Ongoing Local Issues a. (below)

Alexandra Park

It was reported back that nothing will be done until staff are supplied with electronic tablets which have to be appropriately programmed. Chair had responded that this isn't good enough.

The meeting agreed. There were systems in place before tablets and to use that as an excuse is just abrogating responsibility.

DCC has been contacted by members of the public re older children monopolising park play areas, intimidating younger children and being aggressive toward parents. Police had been contacted ahead of meeting. Their advice was that parents should immediately phone the Glasgow East number which was likely to get a quicker response than 101.

Christmas bin collections

Finally managed to meet with Eddie Scanlon at Queenslie depot. The problem is essentially one of staffing rotas. Also discussed Haghill bin hubs which have the highest number of complaints per month for all Glasgow; 79 in May. Pointed out lack of public faith in reporting when for so long there was no result, so hardly representative figures. Replacement active QR code for pick-ups still awaiting approval!

Dennistoun Community Council Elections

Council returning officer updated forms to reflect correct number of councillors required; 15. Thanks to RJ new poster design. 100 copies have been printed at a cost of £47 including a QR code for instant access to application form. Flyers have been posted on all Dennistoun bus stops, WASPS, posted around Haghill, and left some in the cafe in Milnbank. Also posted on Facebook.

RJ issued remaining posters to members for further distribution

Glasgow Communit Council Forum

First AGM to be held on September 30th at 7pm, venue yet to be confirmed. 21 members to vote on accepting constitution and to vote on electing officials. The Community Council Liaison Office have been made aware of the Federation. Frank will attend and stand for Chair, but GCCF ideally

want two named representatives from each Community Council, so anyone else interested is welcome. There will be an article in the Times, which may have appeared by this meeting.

Recycling

Glasgow Council is carrying out a recycling survey active until 13/10.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GlasgowResidentsRecycling/>. Promoted on Facebook.

Primary Schools project

It was agreed this would be picked up again when the new term began, but Chair won't have the time to do anything during September.

VOI Bikes report

A detailed report on the uptake of VOI bikes and associated issues is attached at Appendix 1. The City sees the expansion of the scheme as a success.

b. Secretary

See Consultations below

c. Treasurer

WW reported that DCC's end of year balance was £3096.54.

d. Planning and Licensing

BJ reported that there was nothing new to report. There was some indication that LIDL were planning to expand their presence on their present site but nothing had been formally presented (see Elected Member updates - below).

The extension to the Tartan Lodge on Alexandra Parade had been turned down.

There had been a large number of objections to the planning application around the Dance Studio on Sword Street.

General concern was expressed over the further dilapidation of the Golfhill Primary School site and associated safety concerns. A number of Tik Tok videos were circulating filmed inside the building. (See Elected Members report below)

e. Area Partnership

Agenda for the next meeting had only been supplied to RJK that afternoon.

6. Consultations

WW drew attention to the ongoing City Development Plan consultation. There a number of drop-in events around the city but the most local ones have already taken place.

Development Plan Stages: these are open until 18 November 2026.

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/cdp2>

Proposed Plan

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/pcdp2>

Overview Hub

<https://cdp2-glasgowgis.hub.arcgis.com/>

Mapping Hub

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4a4f2a35a5014e348abc18f83beb976f/page/Page>

Place Report for Dennistoun Ward

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2e3d7b1c6e0f4a2fbe0dc36d0455b799/page/Ward-22---Dennistoun/>

WW advise that this was full of useful local information but not easy to view on a mobile device

Play Sufficiency Assessment

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/454a406d683447e7839c34191d54e594>

WW advised that 6 schools in the North East of the city took part, but none from Dennistoun which was disappointing, considering the Liveable Neighborhood report identified a "*Poor accessibility to...*" and a "*lack of high-quality public spaces and green spaces...*" and an "*...inadequate number of play areas.*")

Forestry and Woodland Strategy

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8a5585f10dd1495489ea0838ed469b5c>

7. Ongoing Issues

a. Whitehill Pool

BS said gym equipment removed from the Pool had been refurbished and was being distributed around city. The workmen who had been seen in the area had been separating the heating and water systems for the school games hall which had previously all been connected though the Pool. Glasgow Council officer David McEwan has been tasked with preparing a remit for the external consultants work. Their task is to produce a Project Business Case, based upon the agreed Options Appraisal document. The Working Group have requested to meet with the consultants in order to be involved in the preparation of the Project Business Case. Two Glasgow Life HoDs have retired and a third is about to within 6 months, suggesting a loss of expertise. BS is still chasing the final city-wide Aquatics plan city-wide which should include a whole sports and leisure plan. No new public swimming pool has been in Glasgow this century.

From the floor, Alexis Goetcherian, from Living Rent, said that his organisation had arranged a private meeting about the Pool with Cllr Casey and MSP Ivan McKee.

Sports hub

BS, with his Dennistoun and Area Community Sports Hub (DACSH) hat on said that DACSH had formally expressed an interest in taking over the Alexandra Park hub where he was also dealing with David McEwan. A Have-a-Go event had been organised at Haghill school (Mon Tues 14/15th 6-8) for 13-26 yr olds to gauge levels of interest. Advice from the floor was to hire a lawyer to avoid some of the mistakes made in the People Make Glasgow campaign

b. Litter Bins, Recycling, and Household Collections

See Chair's report (above)

From the floor, questions were raised about a schedule for cleaning the bins. Food refuse bins in particular were described as disgusting and fly blown.

WW reminded the meeting about the current recycling survey

smart.survey.co.uk/glasgowresident/recycling

c. Roads, Transport, and Parking

(See Chair's report above)

Cllr EMcD said that she was as surprised as anyone that the Milnbank area had been excluded. She was going to try to get Kevin Argue, Head of Service for Sustainable Transport, Traffic & Parking Operations at Glasgow City Council, to attend the next meeting.

WW explained that some of the work, including kerbs build out, lanes separated, has already been done. This is exactly what DCC warned about and wanted to avoid, where a piecemeal implementation of some aspects of the complicated TRO are acted on while parking issues are still unresolved.

8. Public Input

Clare Darlaston said she continued to be concerned about maintenance in Alexandra Park. She has supplied a list of items but nothing has happened. She was especially concerned about the small children's play park, invasive species (especially Himalayan Balsam by the site of the old blaze pitches). The former Friends of Alexandra Park group was now defunct. Was there an alternative, perhaps in the Gardeners Group?

Lighting in the park was also raised. On the one hand, maintaining a 'dark park' made for better observation of the night sky which was otherwise hard to find within the city. But other lighting had been installed but created pools of darkness which was not good for safety. Steven Campbell wanted to see a wildlife survey in the light of the new lighting.

EMcD reminded the meeting that the infrastructure funding through the Area Partnership, some of which was for lighting, in the park had to be spent by 2027.

Several members of the public asked if it would be possible to provide a microphone as the acoustics of the room sometimes made it difficult to hear proceedings

9. Elected Member Updates

Cllr Anthony Carroll was not present but supplied the following update via WW (this has been edited for clarity and length)

Avenues Programme

Discussions with the Contractor, Rainton, regarding an agreed delivery programme are ongoing. Currently, it is anticipated that John Knox Street will be completed late 2026, with Duke Street delayed until early 2027.

The project has experienced a number of problems (below), which have impacted the programme.

- 1. The discovery of a void beneath the carriageway requiring emergency remediation,.*
- 2. Third-party utility works by Scottish Water and Scottish Gas which were not associated with the Avenues project,.*
- 3. The discovery of a water main in a location that was not identified on any known utility records..*

However in addition a further more recent issue has emerged; Tennents have asked for the programme to be delayed for the delivery of new storage tanks which are classed as abnormal loads and will require a motorised escort to assist with access and manoeuvring requirements. It would not have been possible for the tank deliveries to be safely undertaken while the adjacent Avenues works were in progress. The works have therefore been rescheduled. This localised delay has, in turn, pushed the overall Duke Street delivery date back to early 2027 - as outlined above. Please be assured however that programme mitigation is being discussed with the Contractor specifically regarding this issue.

I'm sure I'm not alone in feeling beyond frustrated with the timescales slipping multiple times with this project. I've called for NRS to prioritise completing this one before starting other ones, as I am concerned ones are being started without such deeper checks which could've identified issues 1 & 3 earlier in programmed works. I hope that going forward the Council will take that approach or at least act in a strategic manner of prioritising ones which are slipping behind schedule when incidents like this occur.

Abernethy St play park survey

There is a survey to provide ideas of what families and children would want to see in a renewed play park at Abernethy St. (Responses are now closed)

LIDL

LIDL are planning to demolish and rebuild a larger store on their Duke St site. They have reached out to hear from stakeholders about what they should incorporate into design. They hope the Community Council will make representations

Former Golfhill Primary School

Despite earlier undertakings, Spectrum properties and their architect, Jewitt and Wilkie, have not provided an update to council officers on their plans for the Golfhill site. I do not have confidence they are interested in advancing housing on this site or adhering to the historic building conditions requested. I have written to Spectrum to ask whether they are still interested the building and if so what they are planning to do with it. If they are not, I believe the Council should explore a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) with a back to back sale in mind with a developer – ideally a social landlord – who would be willing to develop the site while respecting the school building's conditions previously requested.

Other Council Business

Within the City Chambers, I am now the Co-Leader of the Green Group

A new pay and grading structure has been agreed in the Council. While 2/3rds of the workforce will financially benefit, 24% see no change, and the Council will finally not be discriminating against women as they have done systemically for decades, thus eliminating that legal cost. There are 11% of workers facing detriment. While we pressed and helped with Trade Unions to get 1 year pay protection for workers affected, myself & my fellow co-leader Lana Reid McConnell have been meeting with senior officers and those directly affected to ensure we see.

- a reduction of those losing pay through pressing for an appeals process set up ASAP*
- service reforms that will help clarify actual job worth and get rid of anomalies where possible*
- request our central funding to reflect the fundamental realignment that has taken place of the costs of public services. As such, we've written to the First Minister outlining that demand within the budget settlement so that we can reduce the amount of people negatively affected via an above-inflation increase if possible.*

There will be a new leader of the Council, voted on by members, on the 10th September.

You'll have seen the Council has a £110m black hole, namely from its new pay structure but also from homelessness pressures. This was an area we also covered in our letter to the FM. We want a long-term solution on the funding side from Scottish Government for our homelessness services and to increase our affordable housing supply programme. We also want long-term policy solutions from the UK Government, where Home Office policies of speedy removals of asylum seekers out of HO accommodation has led to an increase of homeless refugees with no support from the HO. The new Prime Minister has long called for changes to this approach and I look forward to this being rectified as soon as possible to assist Glasgow.

If there's anything people wish to get in touch with me on, don't hesitate to email at Anthony.carroll@glasgow.gov.uk

Ally Parade Playground Shelters: late extra

An update from head teacher Mr McCormick last night, via the Alexandra Parade Primary School parents council meeting, suggested that repair work on the playground shelters is due to commence on the next week or so, with a suggestion that there might be the addition of chairs and tables to facilitate outside lunches/snacks (whether this is as a direct extension to the underway, but delayed, dinner school upgrades was unconfirmed, but that's something Cllr Carroll mentioned at a previous meeting as a possible way to secure funding).

All very unexpected, but welcome!

Steven Campbell said that he had been promised an update from Spectrum by October 25. Similar concerns were raised about Barony Homes, a subdivision of Spectrum. It was observed that there was a pattern of Spectrum Properties acquiring former council sites and then renegeing on undertakings given. It was suggested this might be an item for the new Community Council Federation

Cllr McDougall contributed at several points in the meeting (see above). She echoed Cllr Carroll's concerns about Spectrum and recommended the DCC keep an eye on the Tartan Lodge. She added that that two of the large InPost package delivery boxes had been removed. They should have applied for planning permission but hadn't which is why they had been blocking pavements, access etc.

She also revealed that there had been 6,000 complaints across the city about the bin pilot projects of which the Haghill one was an example. As well as collection, they were clearly unusable for wheelchair users. The project was being reviewed and an evaluation was expected. It was thought that the situation had been exacerbated by a walk-out by Cleansing Supervisors in response to parts of the Pay and Grading restructure referenced by Cllr Carroll. She was also trying to get a meeting with Eddie Scanlon

She reported that there was no sign of any movement on improving the junction of Todd Street and Cumbernauld Road which was, in her view, "an accident waiting to happen"

There was no report from **Cllr Casey**

10. Any Other Business

WW drew attention to the latest survey on Recycling which is open for comment until 13 October: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GlasgowResidentsRecycling/>

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 13th October 2026, at 7pm at St Andrews East Church Hall, 685 Alexandra Parade, G31 3LN. This will be followed by the October Ordinary Meeting as soon as the business of the AGM has been completed, from approximately 7:30pm.

APPENDICES

1. VOI BIKES REPORT (FROM CHARLIE KEANE)

2. ALEXANDRA PARK ONGOING ISSUES (CLARE DARLSTON UPDATE)

1. VOI BIKES REPORT (FROM CHARLIE KEANE)

I had a meeting with VOI bikes last week to discuss vandalism issues to their bikes and abandoned bikes all over the place, so there is a wee update on reporting info for abandoned bikes etc below which may be of use.

VOI have extended their 'fleet' and now number 1150 bikes stretched across over nearly 200 stations city wide. This brings its own issues as we have all seen such a vandalism, graffiti and bikes being abandoned in weird and wonderful places. VOI have asked can we assist with this by spreading reporting procedures to our partners, operations, Community Councils, Housing Associations and Police Scotland etc

VOI's main warehouse is just in Boden Street near Eastgate, I was also intrigued how the bikes are recharged but VOI take fully charged batteries out and change them over!

Some stats & info from Voi:

Glasgow so far

Since launch in November, riders have taken over 1.1 million rides in Glasgow.

July was our busiest month yet, with around 305,000 rides.

Around 86,000 unique riders have used the scheme since launch.

Around 40,000 riders were active in July alone.

It's been a really strong start and uptake keeps growing.

We currently have around 1150 bikes on street.

These sit across just under 200 parking bays.

Reporting routes

There are two ways to flag issues:

1. **[Report-a-Voi](https://report.voi.com)** at report.voi.com, for bikes in the wrong place or clearly antisocial riding. These go straight to our field operations team for fast action, but don't generate an individual reply.
2. **support@voiapp.io**, for complaints, parking or hardware issues, payments, or serious incidents. These are handled by our support agents and do receive a response.

Any details really help: the date, location, and the vehicle registration or QR code.

2. ALEXANDRA PARK ONGOING ISSUES (CLARE DARLASTON UPDATE)

Update from meeting at Alexandra Park, 22 June 2026

Present: Cllr Anthony Carroll; Charlie Keane – neighbourhood liaison: Joyce MacDonald – Natural environment/Greenspace and biodiversity: Clare Darlaston – resident.

The following points were discussed/noted for action....

Play areas

It was noted that much of the paint is lead- based so cannot be sanded for repair. Where not lead based fencing would be noted for repair/repaint. Requested but no action yet.

It was noted that improvement could be made to the younger kids area – as paint furniture/ rake/sweep sand (used to be done daily). No action since meeting and no proposals for this well-used area. Perimeter fence has been fixed to the wall – but it should not need public input to note this dangerous item!

Also cleaning below play equipment/seats/bins in the main play area. No action – still filthy
The broken piece of equipment in the “gym” was noted – also noted that it was reported when first installed (how long ago?) and never fixed when in warranty. Has been fixed – but as above, should not need to be reported by public. However the “ski” has now lost one “foot”!

Reference made to the presence of sand bees (Andrina) – a harmless and significant solitary bee species – in the sand area and the city council's inappropriate attempt to provide additional habitat under the trees on the bank to the north of the play area – now so overgrown that we could not find it!

Red Blaes pitch at east end

It was noted that this was used as a temporary dumping area for “green” waste when Blochairn green waste facility was closed. Some of this has since been cleared – but bulldozed heaps of mixed chippings/branches and non-biodegradable dumpings remain in the perimeter. Noted that arisings are being dumped there again.

The occurrence of Himalayan Balsam here was highlighted. First noted/pulled in 2024 (approx. 100 this year). It is inaccessible in the middle of the southern boundary of the area. The importance of getting rid of it before it takes over the park was emphasised! Some on south side remain inaccessible without strimming bramble. Various excuses from GCC (too thick for strimmers, birds nest, ref to service team, but no action) and is now too late to prevent seed-fall!) No contact made to point out the incidence of Japanese Knotweed.

Possible remedial action to renovate this unused and unsightly area was discussed. J.McD explained why fenced dog areas are not acceptable due to liability issues!

Fenced Garden area

This has now been taken on by the Food Forest group. Also – councillor will ask if Food forest group want to take over the redundant planters on the main path to Riddrie. No response yet.

Maintenance and “biodiversity management” – conservation of important biodiversity

Noted that no-mow leads to thistle/bramble and/or scrub infestation – not to improved meadow flowers! Thus an area at the northern extremity of the park (nearest the motorway) – which used to be an area of species-rich wet grassland is now progressing to alder/birch scrub with the loss of northern marsh and common spotted orchid/ geranium etc. The desire line running past it is becoming obstructed by self-seeds. J.McD explained that areas where there are trees are defined as “woodland” and are no longer mown. Other areas may be designated as “annual cut”. She will refer to biodiversity officer and advise later. No further update or action although this is the time of year for one-off cuts and invasive species are taking over. Also the eastern pond area becoming overgrown with alder/willow, which eventually damages floor of pond and shades out planted wetland plants. Alder colonisation of an area once seeded to “wildflowers” was pointed out! This needs to be removed! Officials appeared to be unaware of the “wildflower” attempt and the result!

Cut back of the aggressive bramble

No action – increased bramble encroachment – though there has been cutting of lower branches and basal shoots of trees in “woodland”, currently left lying at random!

Solitary bee and wasp habitat

Noted in the past in the south-facing bunkers of the golf course. This now becoming colonised by ruderal grass and tree species with the loss of habitat. It was asked if a selected number of these old bunkers could be dug over in autumn each year retain habitat. J.McD to ask for assistance here. No response yet.

The fountain

It was agreed that the fountain is a separate issue to be discussed and update to be provided.