

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of the BI-ANNUAL MEETING of **REPRESENTATIVES of ANGUS COUNCIL with REPRESENTATIVES of COMMUNITY COUNCILS** held in the Training Room, Angus House, Forfar on Wednesday 9 December 2009 at 7.30 pm.

Provost Ruth Leslie Melville MBE in the Chair.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Provost Leslie Melville welcomed those present to the meeting and stressed the importance of continued dialogue between Community Councils and Angus Council.

She remarked that the attendance, which was one of the highest at recent bi-annual meetings, reflected a very healthy representation of Community Councils.

2. LONG SERVICE AWARD

In recognition of their outstanding contributions as Community Councillors, Provost Leslie Melville presented scrolls and quaichs to the undernoted persons who had each achieved 20 years service or more as Community Councillors:-

Shiona Baird - Auchterhouse Community Council
 Gavin Christie - Auchterhouse Community Council
 Garry Stewart - Auchterhouse Community Council
 Avril Martin - Lunanhead and District Community Council
 Douglas Murray, Brechin and District Community Council
 Stewart Anton, Monikie and Newbigging Community Council

At this stage Councillor Myles took the Chair.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the Bi-Annual meeting of 10 June 2009 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Draft Revised Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils (Item 4 refers)

It was reported that an initial consultation period of the draft revised scheme took place over a period of twelve weeks during the summer 2009.

The majority of comments received were in respect of the draft revised boundaries of Community Councils with all other comments relating to the scheme itself.

All comments had been taken forward to the meeting of the Joint Working Group on 6 October 2009 and based on the recommendations of the Working Group, a further final draft revised scheme had been approved by Angus Council on 5 November 2009, following which a second consultation period of six weeks had been advertised.

Community Councils had received copies of the final draft Revised Scheme with a reminder that any comments required to be with the Chief Executive by Friday 15 January 2010 at the latest.

As a result of the impact this second consultation process would have on the Community Council elections, the majority opinion was taken into account and subsequently these elections were postponed until October 2010.

At this stage, Councillor Myles, on behalf of all those present, expressed thanks and appreciation to Councillor Peter Murphy and the members of the Working Party.

(b) Computers for Community Councils (Item 5 refers)

The Senior Service Manager (Local Community Planning) addressed the meeting and explained the difficulties which had been experienced in assisting Community Councils to purchase computer equipment.

He further advised that up to date accurate details would be issued to all Community Councils within the next week confirming contact details and procedures for purchase of the equipment. Members of Community Councils were advised to contact the Senior Community Planning Officer (Corporate Planning) if they required more assistance or if they experienced further problems.

(c) Modernising Planning (Item 6 refers)

It was noted that a training session on the current planning reforms brought about by the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 had been arranged to take place in Angus House on Thursday 14 January 2010 and was being organised by the Senior Community Planning Officer on behalf of the Planning Division.

Community Councils were encouraged to nominate a representative to attend and the Senior Community Planning Officer confirmed that while representation was confined to one representative for each Community Council, she would endeavour to accommodate everyone who expressed an interest.

5. COMMUNITY MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

Susan Wilson, General Manager, Angus Community Health Partnership gave a presentation on service improvements undertaken so far within NHS Tayside following local consultation, including meetings with a number of Community Councils.

She detailed the latest emerging themes from these consultations and summarised the recommendations which were to be made to the Board of NHS Tayside, all with a view to a much more enhanced and integrated service, working within Best Value.

Following questions, Ms Wilson was thanked for her interesting and informative presentation.

6. BETTER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

The Senior Service Manager (Local Community Planning) advised that following an expression of interest from the Angus Lifelong Learning Partnership, the Angus bid to become a local demonstration project within a Scottish Government National Development Programme had been successful and a consultant from the Scottish Community Development Centre had been identified to work with partners in Angus to assist delivering the local strands of the work.

Training was available for members of Community Councils with a view to raising awareness of the responsibilities in engaging with communities and what to expect when they were being engaged by other agencies. The first of two training events had been arranged to take place on Tuesday 20 March 2010.

The Senior Community Planning Officer (Corporate Planning) confirmed that she would contact Community Councils early in 2010 with full details of the training sessions and seeking the nomination of Community Councillors to attend.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**(a) Funding for Community Councils**

A representative of Inveresk Community Council enquired as to the possibility of an increase in funding for Community Councils and the Senior Service Manager (Local Community Planning) indicated that the funds for computers did in fact reflect an increase in funding although it was accepted that some Community Councils had a larger financial outlay than others when it came to hiring venues for meetings etc.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a small working group of rural Community Councils should be organised with a view to discussing various options in this regard

and the Senior Service Manager undertook to write to all Community Councils on this matter as soon as possible.

(b) Venue for Meetings

It was reported that Montrose Community Council had enquired as to the possibility of the by-annual meeting taking place in other burghs throughout Angus.

After discussion, it was agreed that the venue should continue in Forfar with all meetings taking place in Angus House, where there was adequate and suitable car parking.

(c) Sound System

In response to a question, the Senior Service Manager (Local Community Planning) undertook to investigate the use of a sound system for future meetings.

8. CLOSE

Provost Leslie Melville and Councillor Myles again expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for their attendance, for the valuable and interesting contributions made and expressed good wishes to all those present for the forthcoming Christmas and New Year period.