

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 2.18pm.

Present: Councillors DONALD MORRISON, JEANETTE GAUL, BRIAN BOYD, BILL DUFF, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAIN GAUL, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, IAN MCLAREN, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, SHEILA HANDS, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, MARTYN GEDDES and EWAN SMITH.

Councillor MORRISON, Convener, in the Chair.

The Convener intimated that some appendices to Report No 156/15 (Item 7) had not been circulated with the papers and consequently it was agreed that this item of business be withdrawn.

1. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Helen Oswald and Mark Salmond, with Councillors Sheila Hands and Martyn Geddes substituting, respectively.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. **REQUEST FOR A DEPUTATION - PANMURE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Committee agreed to receive a deputation from Ms Nikki Milne in connection with the future of Panmure Community Centre and the continuation of the services provided there by the Council.

Having heard the deputation, and having also heard from the Convener and Councillor Boyd, it was agreed that local members meet with the relevant officers to discuss the concerns that had been expressed by the deputation.

4. **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 March 2015 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

5. **INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 4 MARCH 2015 TO 14 APRIL 2015**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 March 2015, there was submitted and noted Report No 154/15 by the Strategic Director – Communities, together with its four schedules, providing information to members with regard to services delivered in the Communities Directorate for the relevant period.

6. **HOUSING CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2014/2015**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 January 2015, there was submitted Report No 155/15 by the Head of Planning and Place setting out the actual capital spend to 28 February 2015, together with projected outturns for the year to 31 March 2015 and any required updated capital funding proposals.

The Report advised that actual spend achieved to 28 February 2015 was £7,984,000 which equated to 67.4% of the monitoring budget of £11,849,000. It was projected at this time, by the end of the financial year 2014/2015 net expenditure would total £11,147,000 which represented a potential underspend of £702,000 (5.9%).

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and

- (ii) to note the projected year end positions on capital expenditure, as detailed in Appendix I and the indicative funding proposals for the programme.

7. ANGUS COUNCIL (VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2015

This item of business had been withdrawn for the reason stated above.

8. NEW FORFAR ACADEMY CAMPUS, FORFAR – PROPOSED TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

There was submitted Report No 157/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services proposing to introduce traffic restrictions on Kirriemuir Road, Forfar associated with the construction of the new Forfar Academy Campus.

The Report indicated that vehicular access for the new development would be directly from Kirriemuir Road only, with a cycle/pedestrian access on Taylor Street being retained. Parking, drop off areas and bus stops would be provided within the site served by a general access/egress junction towards the east of the site frontage and an additional egress for buses only towards the west of the site frontage.

The development would at times increase the general level of vehicular traffic as well as introducing a significant increase in turning movements on Kirriemuir Road. It was proposed to introduce waiting and various traffic restrictions on Kirriemuir Road in the vicinity of the new campus in the interest of pedestrian and traffic safety.

Having heard from Councillor Middleton who asked that officers liaise with nearby businesses on these proposals, the Committee agreed to promote the necessary traffic and speed limit orders to introduce various traffic restrictions on Kirriemuir Road, Forfar associated with the formation of the new Forfar Academy Campus.

9. ANGUS COUNCIL (CASTLE STREET, FORFAR) (VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2015

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 August 2014, there was submitted Report No 158/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, relating to the making of an Order for the purpose of varying the provisions of the current Traffic Order in respect of waiting restrictions at Castle Street, Forfar.

The Report indicated that the current proposal would result in vehicles being permitted to wait directly adjacent to the pend entrance on a "limited waiting" basis throughout the working day. Following a site visit with the one objector, it was proposed that a section of the existing No Waiting at Any Time (double yellow lines) adjacent to the affected premises in Castle Street which had been proposed to be made "limited waiting" restrictions could be amended to "no day time waiting" (no waiting, Monday to Saturday 8.30am to 5.30pm) restrictions. This would maintain service access for the premises throughout the working day but would allow kerbside parking for residents etc. overnight and all day Sunday. On that basis, the objector had formally withdrawn their objection.

The Committee agreed to note the objection received during the consultation process and approve the making of the Order, as amended.

10. BALLUMBIE CASTLE ESTATE – TRAFFIC CALMING

There was submitted Report No 159/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, informing members of the difficulties which some pedestrians had encountered when crossing Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate and seeking authority to undertake formal consultation on a proposal to install traffic calming measures.

The Report indicated that Murroes and Wellbank Community Council, a local member from the Monifieth and Sidlaw ward and the Chair of the Residents' Association had raised concerns regarding the speed of vehicles travelling from Silver Birch Drive through the roundabout and along Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate, particularly during the morning and afternoon peak times when children were crossing the road near the bus stop.

The Report proposed formal consultation regarding the installation of speed cushions on Poplar Drive between its junction with the B978 and the roundabout. It was envisaged that the proposed speed cushions would reduce the speed of approaching traffic at an area where pedestrians were crossing the carriageway to and from the bus stop.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the difficulties which pedestrians, particularly school children, encountered when crossing Poplar Drive, Ballumbie;
- (ii) to approve in principle the introduction of proposed traffic calming measures;
- (iii) to instruct the Head of Technical and Property Services to undertake consultation on the proposal; and
- (iv) to note that a further Report would be brought forward to this Committee following completion of the proposed consultation.

11. ANGUS HEAT PROJECT 2015/2016 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SCARF

There was submitted Report No 160/15 by the Head of Planning and Place, summarising the success from the review of Angus HEAT (Home Energy Advice Team) Project 2014 and seeking approval of the provision of funding to continue this service to the residents of Angus for 2015/16.

The Report indicated that Angus Council had been successful in a bid for grant funding of approximately £70,000 from The Big Lottery and its Support and Connect Fund 2013. This had enabled the Council to set up the Angus HEAT Project which operated as a complementary service to the services already provided by SCARF (Save Cash And Reduce Fuel) as the Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre.

The project offered all households in Angus, including Angus tenants, free advice and assistance via telephone and email and highlighted the link between fuel poverty and energy use to householders and promoted the benefits of adopting energy-efficient behaviour.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Head of Planning and Place (in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to procure the delivery of services in support of the HEAT (Home Energy Advice Team) project 2015/16 for a further one year, with the option to extend for a further twelve months (at the Council's option);
- (ii) to approve an exemption under Financial Regulation 16.24.10(G) for the direct award of a contract for this service to SCARF; and
- (iii) to approve the allocation funding totalling £81,277.72 for HEAT Project 15/16, split 50/50 between the Housing Revenue Account and the Affordable Housing Revenue Account, as set out in Section 6 of this Report.

12. DISPOSAL OF GROUND AT MARYWELL GARDENS, KIRRIEMUIR

There was submitted Report No 161/15 by the Head of Planning and Place, relating to the disposal of an area of ground at 16 Marywell Gardens, Kirriemuir.

The Report indicated that the solicitor acting for the owners of 16 Marywell Gardens, Kirriemuir had contacted the Council regarding an area of ground adjacent to their client's property. Their client had already incorporated this ground into their existing garden ground and now wished to regularise their title.

The Committee agreed to the sale of an area of ground adjacent to 16 Marywell Gardens, Kirriemuir to the owner of that property on appropriate terms and conditions subject to:-

- (i) Section 12 consent being received from the Scottish Ministers; and

- (ii) the purchaser meeting all costs in connection with the disposal.

13. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2015/16

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 May 2014, there was submitted Report No 162/15 by the Strategic Director – Communities, seeking approval to procure fleet vehicles and equipment required for the 2015/16 capital replacement programme.

The Report indicated that the Council's Vehicle Replacement Programme had been profiled for 2015/16 to ensure that the vehicles and equipment scheduled for replacement, as detailed in Section 5 of the Report, represented those that were a priority in order to maintain service provision for a number of service areas across the Council.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Strategic Director – Communities to procure fleet vehicles and equipment required for the 2015/16 Capital Replacement Programme by purchase and lease, all as detailed in Section 4 of the Report.

14. PLANS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE ANGUS AREA OF THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK IN 2014 AND 2015

There was submitted Report No 163/15 by the Head of Planning and Place providing information to members with regard to plans, activities and projects which had taken place in the Angus area within Cairngorms National Park within 2014, as well as providing information on plans, projects and activities which were scheduled for 2015.

Having heard Councillor Jeanette Gaul welcome the Report and commend the officer responsible for compiling the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress of the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan which represented the primary basis for the assessment of planning applications within the Angus area of the national park;
- (ii) to note the range of plans, activities and projects which had taken place within the park during 2014 and those which were planned for 2015; and
- (iii) that officers engage with national park staff to represent Angus interests, including drafting a revised Protocol Agreement relating to the exercise of planning and housing policy functions within and affecting the national park.