

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, LOIS SPEED, JULIE BELL, DAVID CHEAPE, BRADEN DAVY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, SHEILA HANDS, IAN MCLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE and TOMMY STEWART.

Councillor FOTHERINGHAM, Convener, in the Chair.

1. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

No apologies for absence were intimated.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Durno declared a non-financial interest in Item 5 (Report No 17/18), in that she had been involved in discussions with small businesses and crafts people, and knew some of the persons showing interest in the project. She indicated that she would leave the meeting room during any discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Davy declared a non-financial interest in Item 6 (Report No 18/18) in that he had been contacted by a number of constituents regarding this matter. He had expressed no opinion, and indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

3. **MINUTES**

(a) **Communities Committee**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 November 2017 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) **William Lamb Studio Advisory Committee**

The minute of meeting of the William Lamb Studio Advisory Committee of 17 November 2017 was submitted and noted.

(c) **Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 8 December 2017, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted. **(APPENDIX I).**

4. **ARBROATH (BROTHOCK WATER) FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME**

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 March 2016, there was submitted Report No 16/18 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, updating the Committee on the progress of the Arbroath (Brothock Water) Flood Protection Scheme for delivery within the first cycle of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin.

The Scheme had been prioritised through the development of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategies to reduce the risk of fluvial flooding in Arbroath and resulting economic damage to residential and non residential properties in the town brought about by flooding from the Brothock Water. The Scheme was designed to remove 530 people currently at risk and provide a one in two hundred year standard of flood protection for Arbroath. Potential savings in annual average damages from flooding from the Brothock Water in Arbroath from both residential and non-residential properties had been estimated as £840,000 in total.

Having heard a number of members welcome the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the revised programme of delivery of the Arbroath (Brothock Water) Flood Protection Scheme, as detailed in the Report;
- (ii) to note the updated financial forecast for the Scheme, including the funding and expenditure profile for the Scheme, as detailed in Table 2 of the Report; and
- (iii) to note the publishing of the Arbroath (Brothock Water) Flood Protection Scheme notice in which formal objections might be made to the Scheme.

Having declared an interest at Article 2 above, Councillor Durno left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

5. ARBROATH HARBOUR

With reference to Article 3(3) of this minute, there was submitted Report No 17/18 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, updating members on issues considered by the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee at its meeting on 8 December 2017. These matters related to the annual dredging operations undertaken at the Harbour and the future specification for future dredging; the potential costs which would be incurred by the reopening of the public ramp on to the beach at Inchcape and related costs for keeping the ramp clear of coastal and tidal debris; the potential for renting the vacant storage units at the Black Shed and the marketing of the units outside the historic Harbour users; and the potential for the use of part of the Arbroath Harbour Reserve Fund as match funding to achieve a successful funding bid to NESFLAG for European and Maritime Fisheries Fund monies to construct pontoons in the Outer Harbour.

Having considered the proposals and heard local members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) that the contractual specification for future dredging be established at the minimum level of quality provided as part of the 2017 dredging contract;
- (ii) having considered the referral by the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee to this Committee of costs to reopen and maintain the public ramp on to the beach at Inchcape, to determine that no further action was taken to reinstate the access ramp, while noting that if, during the summer, it was clear that demand for the facility existed, the Harbour JCC would re-assess the position;
- (iii) that all interested parties, including craft users, be sought to rent the vacant units in the Black Shed; and
- (iv) to utilise part of the Arbroath Harbour Reserve Fund as match funding for a bid to construct pontoons in the Outer Harbour to North East of Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG) for the European and Maritime Fisheries Fund;

all as detailed in the Report.

Councillor Durno returned to the meeting.

6. TAYLOR STREET, FORFAR – PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING REMOVAL: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 August 2017, there was submitted Report No 18/18 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, presenting the results of the public consultation process regarding the proposed removal of traffic calming on Taylor Street, Forfar.

Overall 58% of the responses received from households within the public consultation catchment area, which extended beyond Taylor Street, agreed with the proposal to remove the existing traffic calming measures on Taylor Street; while 56% of the household on Taylor Street itself who responded to the public consultation were not in favour of the removal, a view also shared by the Schools and Learning Service of Angus Council.

Having heard Councillors McLaren, Davy, Devine, Stewart, Cheape and Hands, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the comments received during the consultation process regarding the proposed traffic calming removal on Taylor Street, Forfar;
- (ii) to note the range of opinions expressed by those who had responded to the consultation; and
- (iii) to determine that the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street, Forfar should be retained.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 11(ii), Councillor Davy requested that his dissent be recorded from the foregoing decision.

7. STOPPING-UP OF ROADS AT GUTHRIE HILL AND SMITHYCROFT, ARBROATH

There was submitted Report No 19/18 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, relating to the proposed stopping-up of the existing public roads at Guthrie Hill, Arbroath; and a section at Smithycroft, Arbroath.

The Report advised that the former flatted dwellings at Guthrie Hill and Smithycroft had been demolished, to be replaced by a new development of affordable housing comprising six houses and thirty four flats on the overall site. The redevelopment would incorporate new alignments for the former roads, Guthrie Hill and Smithycroft. The sections of former public roads that were no longer necessary, required to be stopped-up.

The Committee agreed to the promotion and making of a Stopping-Up Order to extinguish the public right of passage over the existing public roads at Guthrie Hill, and a section of Smithy Road, Arbroath, as illustrated on the plan appended to the Report, and to the confirmation of the Order if unopposed, or the submission of the Order to Scottish Ministers for confirmation, if opposed.

8. WEIGHT LIMIT ON NEWTON FARM BRIDGE, BRECHIN

There was submitted Report No 20/18 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, advising that the most recent assessment of the bridge had indicated that it was unsuitable for use by heavy vehicles. The Highways Agency – Historical Railways Estate, which was responsible for the bridge, had indicated that the bridge was not a high priority for improvement in view of the nature of the local road network. A permanent weight restriction of 12.5 tonnes was considered appropriate in the meantime.

The Committee agreed to the promotion and making of a Traffic Regulation Order, restricting to 12.5 tonnes the maximum weight of vehicles permitted to use Newton Farm Bridge, near Brechin.