

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 17 April 2018 at 2.00 pm.

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

Councillor SPEED, Vice Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Craig Fotheringham with Councillor Colin Brown substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cheape declared a non-financial interest in Item 6 (Report No 118/18) in that he was a current serving director of Angus Alive. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and/or voting on this item.

Councillor Davy declared a non-financial interest in Item 10 (Report No 122/18) in that he had publicly supported the proposals ahead of this meeting. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and/or voting on this item.

Councillor Duff declared a non-financial interest in Item 6 (Report No 118/18) in that he was a current serving director of Angus Alive. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and/or voting on this item.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 February 2018 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 27 FEBRUARY 2018 TO 17 APRIL 2018

There was submitted and noted Report No 116/18 by the Strategic Director – Place, together with its two schedules, namely:-

Schedule 1 – Closure of Restenneth Landfill Site – For Information; and

Schedule 2 – Arbroath Harbour Port Marine Safety Code - Update.

These schedules provided information to Members with regard to services delivered in the Place Directorate for the relevant period.

5. DISPOSAL AND BUY BACK FOR MAJORITY SHARE

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 September 2017, there was submitted Report No 117/18 by the Head of Communities, proposing that the Council undertake a proactive programme of selling Council-owned units which became void in multi-tenure blocks, where the Council was a minority owner, with the funds so realised being recycled to buy back ex-Council units where the Council could take back majority share or alternatively, facilitate re-generation activity.

It was considered that, with 50% of Angus Council housing stock being over fifty years old and 16% being over seventy years old, substantial investment was required to maintain or replace properties which existed beyond their natural lifespan. 600 council homes in Angus currently did not yet meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard due mainly to the refusal of improvement works by tenants, and the Council being unable to secure an Owner's Agreement to participate in common works in multi-tenure blocks. The Report set out the

conditions under which the Council would consider either purchasing or selling properties, and Appendix 1 detailed the benefits and risks involved, together with potential costs.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals for a disposal and buy-back programme, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) that to initiate the programme, £10,000 be identified from the Affordable Housing Account; and
- *(iii) to delegate authority to the Service Leader – Housing, to approve the purchase and disposal of suitable properties.

6. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2018/19

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 June 2017, there was submitted Report No 118/18 by the Head of Communities, seeking authorisation for the procurement of fleet vehicles and equipment required for the 2018/19 Capital Replacement Programme.

The Council's Vehicle Replacement Programme had been profiled for 2018/19 to ensure that the vehicles and equipment scheduled for replacement as set out Section 6 of the Report, represented those which were the priority in order to maintain service provision for those service areas detailed in tables 1 and 3 in Section 6 of the Report. Paragraph 6.2.1 of the Report advised that provision of £113,000 had been made in the General Vehicle Replacement Programme and Angus Alive would seek alternative external funding of the remaining total cost of £156,000. Tayside Contracts would procure vehicles on behalf of the Council and be responsible for the maintenance of the vehicles purchased as part of fleet managements arrangements managed under the Service Level Agreement with Tayside Contracts.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Head of Communities to procure vehicles and equipment required for the 2018/19 Capital Replacement Programme, on the basis set out in the Report.

7. SURPLUS PROPERTY

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 November 2017, there was submitted Report No 119/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, identifying a parcel of land as being surplus to the requirements of the Council and proposals for its disposal to the owner of adjoining property.

The ground in question currently formed part of the tenancy of number 21 Knowehead, the tenants of which had agreed to relinquish formally the ground from their tenancy.

The Committee agreed to declare surplus to the requirements of the Council the ground to the east of numbers 19 and 21 Knowehead, Kirriemuir, as detailed on the Deed plan attached at Appendix 1 to the Report, and sold to the owner of number 19, Knowehead.

8. ADOPTION OF WILSON'S PARK, BRECHIN

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 January 2017, there was submitted Report No 120/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, advising that the road at Wilson's Park lay adjacent to the Damacre Community Centre, and would provide vehicular access to the proposed affordable housing units at that site. The road was currently private and therefore un-adopted, and it was considered desirable and necessary to improve accessibility and enhance road safety by widening the carriageway of Wilson's Park and providing a footway on its east side. To achieve this upgrading, and ensure that it was carried out to the standards required by the Roads Division, it was necessary to adopt the road prior to the roadworks commencing on site, thus giving the Roads Authority control of the road during the works.

Although it was unusual for the Roads Authority to adopt a road not already at an acceptable standard, the cost of the works would be contained as part of the housing development project.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposals to adopt Wilson's Park, Brechin, in order to allow development of affordable housing;
- (ii) to authorise the Head of Infrastructure to undertake all necessary actions in relation to the process for adopting Wilson's Park and to adopt Wilson's Park; and
- (iii) to authorise the Head of Infrastructure to add Wilson's Park to the list of public roads in due course.

9. PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING - GALLOWDEN AVENUE AND GALLOWDEN CRESCENT, ARBROATH: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 November 2017, there was submitted Report No 121/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, presenting the results of the public consultation process regarding the proposed traffic calming installation on Gallowden Avenue and Gallowden Crescent, Arbroath.

91% of completed responses received by the closing date of 26 January 2018 were in favour of the proposals albeit on a relatively modest proportion of the total number of residents. The Scottish Ambulance Service had also responded favourably, subject to the height of the humps being "no higher than usual to impact on ambulances on emergencies". The proposed speed humps would be constructed at 75mm height, 25mm lower than the maximum permitted under the Road Humps (Scotland) Regulations. Speed humps at 75mm in height had worked well elsewhere in Angus without causing damage to vehicles.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the comments received during the consultation process regarding the proposed traffic calming installation on Gallowden Avenue and Gallowden Crescent, Arbroath;
- (ii) to note the range of opinions expressed by those who had responded to the consultation;
- (iii) to approve the provision of traffic calming measures on Gallowden Avenue and Gallowden Crescent, Arbroath; and
- (iv) to instruct the Head of Infrastructure to proceed with the provision of traffic calming measures on Gallowden Avenue and Gallowden Crescent, Arbroath, as detailed in the Report, and at an estimated cost of approximately £30,000 to be funded from the Road Safety/Traffic Calming Provision within the 2018/19 Roads (Traffic) Capital Budget.

10. B954 ENTRANCE TO MUIRHEAD; B9134 ENTRANCE TO LUNANHEAD; AND B9113 ENTRANCE TO GOWANBANK – AMENDMENT TO EXISTING SPEED LIMITS

There was submitted Report No 122/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, advising as to the concerns raised variously by an appropriate Community Council and local elected members regarding speeding at three locations at Muirhead, Lunanhead and Gowanbank. These concerns had been considered by officers and recent engineering investigations and speed surveys had been carried out in each of the three locations, resulting in the recommendations contained within the Report.

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

- (i) to note the concerns of local residents;

- (ii) to note the findings of the engineering investigations carried out to assess the concerns;
- (iii) to approve the implementation of the amendment to the existing speed limit on the B954;
- (iv) to approve the implementation of the amendment to the existing speed limit on the B9134; and
- (v) to approve the implementation of the amendment to the existing speed limits on the B9113.

11. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 28(2), that the public and press be excluded during the consideration of the following item, so as to avoid the possible disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Part 1, Schedule 7A, Paragraph 8.

12. PROPERTY OPTIONS IN CENTRAL BRECHIN

There was submitted Report No 123/18 by the Head of Communities, seeking approval for the Housing Revenue Account to acquire a certain property within the burgh, with the intention of developing affordable housing on the site.

COUNCILLOR SPEED, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR FAIRWEATHER, MOVED APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS, AS DETAILED IN THE REPORT.

Councillor Duff, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved as an amendment, that the Committee agree:

- (i) to delete the option set out in Paragraph 4.2 of the Report for partial demolition of the property, retaining the front elevation, and constructing 7 units; and
- (ii) that Paragraph 4.3 of the Report be amended to read "Consultation with the community will need to be a core part of the project."

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On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:

Councillors Speed, Davy, Fairweather, Lumgair, McLaren, Proctor, Stewart and Brown (8).

For the amendment:

Councillors Bell, Devine, Duff, Durno and Hands (5).

No vote:

Councillors Cheape and Moore.

The motion was declared carried and the Committee resolved accordingly.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 16(11)(ii). Councillor Cheape requested that his dissent be recorded from the foregoing decision.