

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday, 28 May 2019, at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors MARK SALMOND, TOMMY STEWART, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, BRADEN DAVY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, GAVIN NICOL, IAN MCLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, and LOIS SPEED.

Councillor SALMOND, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor David Lumgair, with Councillor Gavin Nicol substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 April 2019 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 29 March 2019, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted. **(APPENDIX I)**

4. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD 17 APRIL TO 28 MAY 2019

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 April 2019, there were submitted and noted the following:-

(a) Report No 165/19 by the Director of Communities with its two schedules, namely:-

Schedule 1 - Private Sector Housing Grants 2018/19 - Quarter 4 to 31 March 2019; and

Schedule 2 - Memorandum of Understanding with Baker Hughes General Electric.

(b) Report No 166/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, together with its three schedules, namely:-

Schedule 1 – Winter Maintenance 2018/19 Activity Review;

Schedule 2 – Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) Road Performance Results 2017/18; and

Schedule 3 – Contracts awarded under delegated authority and exemptions from 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019.

In relation to Schedule 2, in response to a query from Councillor Braes, the Service Leader Roads and Transportation clarified that reference to planned or scheduled maintenance referred to programmed works whereas routine maintenance was more reactive treatment of problems which arose in the course of the year.

In response to a query from Councillor Moore, details of award results from the nominations for APSE Performance Network Awards would be provided to him.

In relation to Schedule 3, and in response to a query from Councillor Cheape, the Depute Chief Executive undertook to provide details to him of the Procurement Commissioning Process.

5. ROAD SAFETY PLAN TO 2020 - UPDATE

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 24 November 2009, there was submitted Report No 167/19 by the Director of Infrastructure advising as to the Council's progress towards the Scottish Government's Road Safety Reduction Targets as highlight in the Council's Road Safety Plan to 2020; the development of a new Road Safety Plan for Angus for the next ten years to 2030, and the formation of a Member/Officer Working Group to inform the development of the new Road Safety Plan.

In the course of discussion, members generally agreed that road drivers must take more responsibility for the speed at which they travelled. This included drivers young and old and all means of transport including motorcyclists and cyclists. Part of this education process was an emphasis to be placed on driving safely according to road conditions.

Having heard from Councillors Devine, Moore, Proctor, Bell, Duff, Cheape, Davy, Speed and Braes, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's progress towards the Scottish Government's road casualty reduction targets, as highlighted in the Road Safety Plan to 2020;
- (ii) to note that a new Road Safety Plan for Angus would be brought forward to this Committee, following the Scottish Government publication of its new national road casualty reduction targets to 2020;
- (iii) to approve the formation of a Member Officer Working Group to develop a new Road Safety Plan for Angus, which would take cognisance of the new national road casualty reduction targets and identify and prioritise action points to be taken forward to assist with achieving the reduction targets to 2030; and
- (iv) the Member/Officer Working Group to comprise six members as follows: three from the Administration (Councillors Salmond (MOWG Convener), Stewart and McLaren); two SNP members (Councillors Braes and Bell); and one non-aligned member (Councillor Moore).

6. ROADS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

There was submitted Report No 168/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, introducing the Roads Asset Management Plan (RAMP), produced to detail the Council's strategy for maintenance of the road asset, and to inform future capital investment.

In discharging its responsibilities in terms of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, to manage and maintain public roads in the Angus Council area, it was considered good practice to prepare a Roads Asset Management Plan, setting out the Council's plans for the management of its roads asset for the current five years. The Roads Network was the Council's most valuable asset, currently extending to 1,814 km with a gross replacement value of £1.4 billion in 2017/18, excluding associated infrastructure such as street lighting, structures and traffic management.

The Committee agreed to approve the RAMP for the period to 2024 as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; and to review it every three to five years and report at that time.

7. ROAD INSPECTION STRATEGY

There was submitted Report No 169/19 by the Director of Infrastructure setting out a new Road Inspection Strategy, intended as a replacement for the Council's current policy on road safety inspections to comply with the 'Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure - A Code of Practice' (October 2016). The Strategy was based upon guidance documents provided by The Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) for the management and implementation of road safety inspections, revised to accommodate the local context for Angus.

The Committee agreed to approve the Road Inspection Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

8. PROHIBITION OF DRIVING AT ALLAN STREET AND APPLGATE, ARBROATH

There was submitted Report No 170/19 by the Director of Infrastructure recommending that a permanent Order be promoted to prohibit the driving of vehicles on sections of Allan Street and Applegate, Arbroath.

Having heard from Councillors Durno, Speed and Moore, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item to allow a site visit to be arranged so as to enable members to take a more informed decision.

9. REVOCATION OF WEIGHT LIMITS ON NORTH KEITHOCK BRIDGE AND NEWTON FARM BRIDGE NEAR BRECHIN

With reference to Article 8 of the meeting of this Committee of 25 September 2018 relating to North Keithock Bridge, there was submitted Report No 171/19 by the Director of Infrastructure regarding the revocation of current weight limits on both bridges.

Both North Keithock Bridge and Newton Farm Bridge, both near Brechin, were owned and maintained by Historic Railways Estates. Weight restrictions had been placed on the bridges at the request of that body, pending strengthening works. Historic Railway Estates had since carried out these works and had recently confirmed to the Council that the weight restrictions on both bridges could be removed.

Having heard Councillor Nicol welcome the Report and its recommendations which would end the lengthy diversions which resulted from the restrictions, the Committee agreed to the promotion and, if no objections were received or if any objections received were withdrawn, the making of, a Traffic Regulation Order to revoke the current weight restrictions on both North Keithock Bridge and Newton Farm Bridge, near Brechin.

10. ANGUS COUNCIL “FOWLER” STEAM POWERED ROAD ROLLER

There was submitted Report No 172/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, identifying options for the vintage “Fowler” steam powered road roller, built in 1928 and owned and operated by the former Angus County Council, into the future.

In recent times, the vehicle had been exhibited by Mr Joss & Partners on behalf of the Council at various location within the County. The annual budget to cover minor repairs, expenses, coal and transport was £1,400 and there was no income realised from the roller. The Council had benefited from the low maintenance cost to date through the support and dedicated work of keen enthusiasts, with specialist parts being handmade in some cases. Every 10 years, however, the roller required a major inspection and boiler strip-down and refit with repairs and refurbishment, with the costs for this work running into the £'000s. This work was essential for the roller to be shown as it required to be operational to access the showgrounds.

The Report set out three options as follow:-

- (i) to retain ownership and current arrangements with Mr Josh and Partners;
- (ii) to lease the roller and transfer maintenance arrangements and costs; and
- (iii) to sell the vehicle.

The Report set out the cost implications of each option.

Having heard various views expressed by the Convener, and Councillors Moore, Proctor, Stewart, Bell, Cheape and Davy, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council’s ownership of a “Fowler” steam powered road roller and current maintenance and garaging arrangements for the vehicle;
- (ii) having considered the three options set out in the Report for the future of the road roller, to agree Option 2, namely, to lease the roller and transfer maintenance arrangements and costs, while seeking to involve interested Transport Museum operators, including AngusAlive, and also community groups, whilst recognising that agreements in terms of

the lease/transfer would require to be established, possibly including a condition that the vehicle was returned to Angus in working condition on a prescribed number of occasions per year for display at Angus events; the Council retaining ownership but the cost of inspection and boiler strip-down and refit with repairs and refurbishment to be the responsibility of the lease holder; and

- (iii) to obtain a professional costing and assessment on how the boiler could be refurbished, and obtain a proper valuation for the vehicle.

11. HAYSWELL ROAD, ARBROATH - PROPOSED ONE-WAY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND TRAFFIC CALMING: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 January 2019, there was submitted Report No 173/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, presenting the results of the public consultation process regarding the proposed introduction of a one-way traffic management system with the option for additional physical traffic calming measures on Hayswell Road, Arbroath.

Having heard from local members Councillors Speed, Moore and Durno with regard to the views of local residents, including reference to concern regarding multi-junctions and having heard that road traffic engineers had assessed and subsequently discounted a suggestion to put in place a one-way system in the opposite direction to that proposed in the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the comments received during the consultation process regarding the proposed one-way traffic management system and optional additional physical traffic calming measures on Hayswell Road, Arbroath;
- (ii) to note the range of opinions expressed by those who had responded to the consultation;
- (iii) that the one-way traffic management system on Hayswell Road, Arbroath should be installed; and
- (iv) to approve the promotion of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order, and, if there were no objections, the making of the Order.

12. NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR HOUSING SERVICES AND ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

There was submitted Report No 175/19 by the Director of Communities, advising as to the new Regulatory Framework for housing services, and requirement to provide an Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

The Report set out the extent of the new Framework and which parts were applicable to local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs) and which applied to RSLs only.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the new Regulatory Framework for housing services, and the requirement to submit an Annual Assurance Statement by October of each year; and
- (ii) to approve that the information and evidence outlined in section 4 of the Report would be sufficient to allow the Committee, through the Convener, to sign off the Annual Assurance Statement.

13. ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 August 2018, there was submitted Report No 176/19 by the Director of Communities advising as to changes to the membership of the Angus Local Access Forum, and seeking approval for the appointment of new representatives to the Forum.

In terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, the Forum, established and appointed by each local authority, had responsibility for advising the local authority and other person or body consulting the Forum on matters relating to the exercise of access rights, the existence of and delineation of rights of way, or the drawing up and adoption of a plan for a system of core paths.

The Report detailed changes to the membership of the Forum and made recommendations as to appointment of new representatives to it.

The Committee agreed to the following appointments:-

- (i) Irene McGugan as a User representative;
- (ii) John Rymer and Euan Walker-Munro as Land Manager representatives;
- (iii) Meg Mearns as a Community representative; and
- (iv) Mike Strachan as the Scottish Forestry representative.