

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday, 24 September 2019, at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors MARK SALMOND, TOMMY STEWART, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, DAVID LUMGAIR, IAN MCLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, and DEREK WANN.

Councillor SALMOND, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Braden Davy and Lois Speed with Councillors Angus Macmillan Douglas OBE and Derek Wann substituting, respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Durno and Wann declared an interest in Item 12, both being members of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee. They indicated that they would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 August 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 30 August 2019, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted, with an amendment to the third sentence in paragraph 4(b)(ii) to read: "As a result it was considered that it was not necessary to carry out any dredging until January / February 2021, when there would be a greater likelihood that the Council could make full use of its licence limit of 12,000m³." **(APPENDIX I).**

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 14 AUGUST TO 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 August 2019, there was submitted and noted Report No 316/19 by the Director of Communities with the following three schedules, namely:-

Schedule 1 Private Sector Housing Grants 2019/20 – Quarter 1 to 30 June 2019;

Schedule 2 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Update – when officers responded to questions from Councillors Bell and Moore; and

Schedule 3 Consultation on Temporary Accommodation Standards.

5. HOUSING SERVICES PERFORMANCE UPDATE – ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 May 2019, there was submitted Report No 317/19 by the Director of Communities providing an update on the Council's performance in relation to Housing Services; action being taken to improve performance; and providing information designed to assure members that the Council was meeting its statutory obligations with regard to housing services in order that they may agree the Annual Assurance Statement required by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's performance with regard to its statutory obligations in relation to Housing Services;
- (ii) that the evidence provided was sufficient to assure members that the Council was meeting its statutory obligations in relation to Housing Services; and
- (iii) to approve the draft Annual Assurance Statement attached to the Report as Appendix 10.

6. NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DONATION OF MEMORIALS

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 August 2019, there was submitted Report No 318/19 by the Director of Communities, requesting the Committee to consider the introduction of new measures to support individuals or groups who wished to donate a memorial to Angus Council.

The Report noted the current scheme operated by the Park Service which allowed the donation of memorial benches and trees to be placed at agreed locations within the Council's parks and cemeteries. The Report set out proposals for additional schemes to run alongside the present one, and introduced a Standard Tree Donation Scheme, a Flowering Bulb Donation Scheme and a Parks Projects Donation Scheme. In each of the new schemes, donations would be recognised and acknowledged appropriately, including, for example, a commemorative certificate or other form of recognition. The wishes of those making anonymous donations would also be respected.

Councillor Durno, who had raised the original motion at full Council proposing the introduction of a variety of memorials, welcomed the proposed new schemes.

The Committee agreed to approve the introduction of a range of options as set out in Report No 318/19, whereby individuals or groups could donate memorials to Angus Council.

7. REVOCATION OF CLOSING ORDER

There was submitted Report No 319/19 by the Director of Communities, advising that the owner of the property at 9 Marketgate, Arbroath, had applied for the revocation of the Closing Order made by Angus District Council on 24 July 1978, following an inspection of the property by an Environmental Health Officer on 28 August 2019. This had confirmed that the property now met the tolerable standard and the revocation of the Closing Order was recommended.

The Committee agreed to make an Order revoking the Closing Order on 9 Marketgate, Arbroath DD11 1AZ made by Angus District Council on 24 July 1978.

8. ANGUS TENANT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019-2022

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 August 2016, there was submitted Report No 320/19 by the Director of Communities, presenting the Angus Tenant and Community Engagement Strategy 2019-2022.

The Report indicated that Angus had a strong commitment and tradition of involving tenants in a variety of ways, to ensure that they had a real say in decision making, influencing services and monitoring performance. The Tenant and Community Engagement Strategy focussed on the objectives of Charter Outcome 2 (Communication) and Outcome 3 (Participation). These Outcomes described what landlords should achieve by meeting their statutory duties on tenant participation, including taking into account the views and priorities of their tenants; how they shaped their services to reflect these views; and how they helped tenants and other customers to become more capable of involvement.

Members generally welcomed the new Strategy. In response to Councillors Bell and Moore, the Manager, Housing Strategy Team, highlighted that one of the Services' priorities for 2019 to 2022 included exploring the feasibility of establishing registered tenants' organisations (RTO/Tenant/Residents Groups) in three areas per year, including engagement with harder-to-reach groups as well as increasing membership in the Angus Tenant's Steering and supporting learning and achievement opportunities for the Tenant Steering Group and RTOs.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Angus Council Tenant and Community Engagement Strategy 2019-2022 as outline in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to receive annual progress reports on the implementation of the Strategy.

9. ROAD SAFETY PLAN TO 2020 – UPDATE

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 May 2019, there was submitted Report No 321/19 by the Director of Infrastructure updating the Committee on the formation of a Member/Officer Working Group to inform the development of the new Road Safety Plan for Angus 2020-2030, and proposing a revised remit for the Group.

The Group had recently held its first meeting and had reviewed its remit which this Committee had set as being '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'.

The Group considered that in order to discharge its remit effectively it would be advantageous to this process if the Group be permitted to review any plans, policies and strategies associated with road safety.

Members generally welcomed the establishment of the MOWG and the suggestion of an expanded remit. Two suggested topics were put forward to be considered by the Group as part of its programme – electronic signage giving advance warning of speed limits ahead of towns and settlements; and motor cyclist safety issues. The Convener observed that the MOWG could call in interest groups to participate in discussions about relevant issues. It was also understood that Police Scotland were keen to work with the Group. In response to a question from Councillors Braes, the Director of Infrastructure indicated that the Revenue Budget for Road Safety was circa £180,000 per annum with circa £350,000 for capital projects per annum.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the inaugural meeting of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group to develop a new Road Safety Plan for Angus had been held on 29 August 2019; and
- (ii) to approve the revised remit of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group to review associated policies, plans and strategies.

10. VARIATION OF SPEED LIMITS AT A92 CHARLETON ROAD, MONTROSE AND C1 MONIKIE-BARRY ROAD AT CARNOUSTIE

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Development Standards Committee of 16 February 2016; and Article 6 of the minute of special meeting of Angus Council on 8 December 2016, there was submitted Report No 322/19 by the Director of Infrastructure relating to proposed alterations to the current speed limits on a section of the A92 Charleton Road to the north of Montrose and on a section of the C1 Monikie - Barry Road at Carnoustie.

Having heard from Councillor Cheape and the Director of Infrastructure who confirmed that he expected the statutory procedure to promote the necessary speed limits orders in connection with each development to be ready in time for the completion of the development itself, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to the promotion and making of a speed limits order to affect changes to the current speed limits on a section of the A92 Charleton Road; and
- (ii) to the promotion and making of a speed limits order to affect changes to the current speed limits on a section of the C1 Monikie – Barry Road.

11. SURPLUS PROPERTIES

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 November 2018, there was submitted Report No 323/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, seeking to declare part of a housing garage site at Cairnie Loan, Arbroath, surplus to the requirements of Angus Council and to take the site forward for sale.

The Committee agreed that part of the housing garage site at Cairnie Loan, Arbroath, shown outlined on the plan at Appendix 1 to the Report, be declared surplus to the requirements of the Council and marketed for sale on terms to be approved by the Director of Infrastructure.

12. PROVISION OF VEHICULAR BARRIERS AT ARBROATH HARBOUR

With reference to Article 4(b)(iv) of the minute of the meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 30 August 2019, there was submitted Report No 324/19 by the Director of Infrastructure, updating the Committee on the provision of two new vehicular barriers at Arbroath Harbour to allow the safe and effective use of parking spaces for visitor and harbour users.

The barriers were considered necessary to deal with the increase in the use of 'free' parking along the Western Quay of the Inner Harbour and overspill parking into the quayside area towards the Fishmarket and the fuel dispenser.

In response to a query from Councillor Devine, the Service Leader – Roads and Transportation advised that the main rationale for this change was operational safety. There was a range of spaces, including 18 along the Western Quay designated for use by harbour users only and 13 spaces on the northside of the Inner Harbour, included in the parking order for charging. Local residents were contributing to the costs of the barriers with a contribution being made from the car park reserve fund. Lease holders were also supportive of the scheme and would have fobs for the barrier. The local restaurant was also in favour of the barriers installation.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the views of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee on the provision of the vehicular barriers as noted in the minute of the JCC of the meeting of 30 August 2019 (Article 3(2)) of this minute refers);
- (ii) to the promotion and, if no objections were received or if any objections received were withdrawn, the making of the traffic regulation order to prohibit the driving of vehicles on sections of Marketgate, Arbroath;
- (iii) to approve the designation of 13 parking spaces along the western quay of the Inner Harbour for use within the Shore Car Park where off-street parking charges applied; and
- (iv) to note the shared funding to pay for the installation of the two new vehicular barriers.