

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday, 14 January 2020, 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, DAVID LUMGAIR, IAN MCLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, and LOIS SPEED.

Councillor Salmond, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no apologies or substitutions, all members being present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Duff declared a non-financial interest in Item 5 (Report No 3/20) in that he was a Council-appointed Director of ANGUSalive. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Devine declared a non-financial interest in Item 5 (Report No 3/20) in that she was a Council-appointed Director of ANGUSalive. She indicated that she had a general dispensation which allowed her to participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Proctor declared a non-financial interest in Item 5 (Report No 3/20) in that he was a Council-appointed Director of ANGUSalive. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 November 2019 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD 13 NOVEMBER 2019 TO 14 JANUARY 2020

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 November 2019, there were submitted and noted:

(a) Report No 1/20 by the Director of Communities with the following schedule, namely:-

Schedule 1 – Introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Scotland

This advised on the introduction of the Scheme by Scottish Government which aimed to reduce litter and improve recycling rates, with customers able to retrieve their deposit in a variety of ways. It was likely however to have implications for the Council through a significant diversion of materials from Council kerbside recycling bins to retail collection points. It was anticipated that the DRS would provide an opportunity for the Council to re-align existing kerbside recycling service with the DRS to deliver efficiencies and savings.

Officers responded to questions and comments from Councillors Davy, Bell, Proctor, Moore and Duff. An options appraisal was proposed, the result to be reported back to the Communities Committee;

and

Report No 2/20 by the Director of Infrastructure together with its two schedules, namely:-

Schedule 1 - Parking Charges Income 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2019

This summarised usage and income generated from off-street car parking charges for the first months of operation from the date of their reintroduction on 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2019.

The Committee heard from Councillor Duff on the number of coin operated ticket machines ought by the Council which he considered to be excessive; and Councillor Cheape on the low income generated by car parking in Carnoustie and the economic impact on the town of lost trade which he considered was linked to the introduction of parking charges.

Schedule 2 – Monifieth – Broughty Ferry Active Travel Project

This summarised progress with proposals for improvements to the coastal path in Monifieth and Broughty Ferry as part of the Angus Active Travel Strategy. This would create a continuous off-road walking and cycling route which could be enjoyed by people making longer distance journeys on National Cycle Network 1 and many others for local shorter walks and rides.

5. FUTURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AT BALMACHIE ROAD DEVELOPMENT, CARNOUSTIE

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 January 2017, there was submitted Report No 3/20 by the Director of Communities, on the future allocation of archaeological assemblage and display opportunities in Angus, arising from the archaeological investigation and subsequent discovery of Neolithic artefacts, including a Bronze Age horde, prehistoric pottery and two long houses, all of which constituted an excavation find of national importance.

Angus Council had requested the production of replicas of the Horde, and a model of the Neolithic and late Bronze Age Balmachie settlements illustrated in Appendix 1 to the Report. It was intended to put the replica items and model on permanent display in Carnoustie Library.

Having heard from Councillors Proctor, Bell, Cheape, Braes and Duff, all of whom broadly welcomed the terms of the report, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the intention of ANGUSalive to make a loan request to National Museums of Scotland (NMS) should the NMS application for permanent allocation of the Balmachie assemblage be successful; and
- (ii) approve that the sum of £8,500 be made available to ANGUSalive for the essential work required to display securely and interpret engagingly various objects in Carnoustie Library.

6. REVIEW OF COMMERCIAL WASTE SERVICES AND CHARGES

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 April 2019, there was submitted Report No 3/20 by the Director of Communities, bringing forward proposals for adjusting levied by the Council for the collection and disposal of commercial waste.

Having heard from Councillors Moore, Brae and Cheape, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) the application of reviewed charges for 2020/21, as detailed in appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) the restructuring of charges for mixed recycling so that rising disposal costs could be recovered; and
- (iii) the introduction of a bin rental service as detailed in Section 5 of the Report.

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

7. TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY FUNDING UPDATE

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 April 2019, there was submitted Report No 5/20 by the Director of Communities, updating members on the work of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and the financial contribution made by the Council in support of this work.

The Report indicated that the Council currently contributed £26,000 annually towards the costs of the Partnership through a formal agreement with partner Perth and Kinross Council. This

contribution, however, had been identified by Angus Council as a financial saving for years 2020/21 (Article 3(vi) of minute of meeting of Angus Council on 21 February 2019 refers). It was therefore necessary to seek the Committee's approval to reduce the contribution from Angus Council to the funding of the Partnership while continuing to provide the staff resource to support the work of the Partnership and delivery of the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26.

The Committee heard from Councillors Devine, Bell, Salmond, Cheape, Proctor, Braes, Duff and Davy.

The Director of Communities emphasised that the Council had no intention of scaling down its biodiversity work, which, after the withdrawal of funding for the co-ordinator post, would continue to be delivered through the team currently based within Planning Services. Biodiversity was part of the business of every employee and would be embedded in 'business as usual' as everyone went about their duties for the Council.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that Perth and Kinross Council, along with Angus, were the only two Councils in the Partnership, Dundee City Council having departed the Partnership several years ago and unlikely to return.

COUNCILLOR SALMOND, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART, MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE:

- (i) AGREE TO REDUCE THE COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FUNDING OF THE TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP FROM £26,000 TO £6,500 IN 2020-2021, AND TO £1,500 PER ANNUM THEREAFTER, AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION COSTS AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING EXPENSES;
- (ii) AUTHORISE THE SERVICE LEADER – PLANNING AND COMMUNITIES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SERVICE LEADER – LEGAL, TO NEGOTIATE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND MINUTE OF AGREEMENT WITH PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL TO ALLOW CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP REFLECTING REVISED FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS; AND
- (iii) AUTHORISE THE SERVICE LEADER – PLANNING AND COMMUNITIES TO CONTINUE WORK WITH COLLEAGUES AT PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE RESOURCING OF THE PARTNERSHIP.

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

- (i) the Council continues to fund the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership at £26,000 for 2020/21;
- (ii) the Council authorises the Service Leader – Planning and Communities to continue to work, along with the Co-ordinator, to investigate alternative arrangements for the future resourcing of the Partnership;
- (iii) that arrangements to fund the full £26,000 for 2020/21 are confirmed through the ongoing 2020/21 budget setting process; and
- (iv) to note that in terms of financial implications, for 2020/21 only, an option for funding the additional £19,500, which would be required if the above recommendations were approved, could be to use uncommitted General Fund balances which currently stood at circa £7,000,000 although this would require to be confirmed through the ongoing budget setting process.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Salmond, Stewart, Davy, Fotheringham, Lumgair, Moore, Proctor and Speed (8);

For the amendment:-

Councillors Bell, Braes. Cheape, Devine, Duff, Durno, and McLaren (7).

The motion was declared carried and the Committee resolved accordingly.