

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday, 25 February 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.

The Convener advised that, with reference to Item 8, Report No 57/20, Appendix 1, he was minded to defer consideration of proposed 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions as relating to Thistle Street, Carnoustie for at least two Committee cycles. He noted that a deputation request had been received in relation to this item, and also proposed that the deputation be not heard at this time, but that those seeking the deputation could do so when the matter returned to the Committee for consideration later in the year.

The Committee agreed to defer this matter and consideration of the deputation request until both returned to the agenda.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 January 2020 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 13 December 2019 was submitted and noted.

4. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD 15 JANUARY TO 25 FEBRUARY 2020

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 January 2020, there were submitted and noted:

(a) Report No 52/20 by the Director of Communities with the following 2 Schedules, namely:-

Schedule 1 – Local Housing Strategy 2017-22

The Strategy set out how the Council and its partners sought to achieve the vision to 'create places people are proud to call home'; and also the notable achievements associated with the three strategic outcomes, as well as areas requiring further work to accomplish the intended aims. The Committee heard the Service Leader, Housing respond to questions and comments from Councillors Devine, Bell, Moore and Proctor.

Schedule 2 – Private Sector Housing Grants 2019-20 – Quarter 3 to 31 December 2019

The Report listed Grant Applications in respect of Adaptations approved under delegated authority for the period 1 October to 31 December 2019. The Scheme covered adaptations to private sector homes to enable applicants to continue to live independently in their own homes;

and

(b) Report No 53/20 by the Director of Infrastructure together with its two schedules, namely:-

Schedule 1 – Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) Results and Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF)

The Report detailed the falling annual LGBF expenditure on roads maintenance spending in Angus and across Scotland which left Angus in SRMCS terms in 13th place for 2019/20 relative to other Scottish local authorities, down from 11th in the previous year, but still ranking in the top half.

Schedule 2 – Motorcyclist Training – Rider Refinement Evaluation

Police Scotland had initiated a motorcycle training programme working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services and local authorities. It aimed to provide additional training to bikers, classroom based alongside practical road riding with experienced police motorcyclist officers. Over 400 participants had attended during the past two years in six localities, including 56 in Forfar, hosted at the Strang Street Fire Station. It was hoped that such training would assist in reducing accident reduction in Angus. Recently reviewed by idp Strategy & Research, the course had been generally well received by attendees, in terms of the impact of the course on their motorcycle competence overall and also ascribing high levels of importance for motorcyclists undertaking advanced training.

5. HOUSING TO 2040 CONSULTATION RESPONSE

There was submitted Report No 54/20 by the Director of Communities, setting out the proposed response by Angus Council to the Scottish Government consultation document, Housing to 2040.

Housing was recognised by Scottish Government as being key to the eradication of child poverty and homelessness, ending fuel poverty, tackling the effects of climate change and promoting inclusive growth. The Report outlined the Council's proposed response to the Government's vision for housing and the 15 principles which underpinned it.

Having heard from Councillors Speed, Durno, Cheape and Devine, the Committee agreed to approve the proposed consultation response, as provided in Appendix A to the Report.

6. POLICY POSITION – INVESTIGATION OF INTENTIONALITY

With reference to Article 5 (Schedule 2) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 April 2019, there was submitted Report No 55/20 by the Director of Communities, setting out a proposed policy position for the Council regarding the investigation of intentionality when enquiring into a person's homeless application.

Section 5 of the Report set out proposals on how Angus Council would implement its discretionary power not to investigate intentionality when assessing a homeless application except in clear cases of a person deliberately trying to manipulate the homeless system.

Having heard from Councillor Bell, who welcomed the Report, the Committee agreed to approve the policy position as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

Prior to consideration of the following two items, at the request of the Convener, the Director of Infrastructure explained the obligations of the Committee as Roads Authority to act in the interests of road safety.

7. ANGUS COUNCIL (SHANWELL ROAD & BALMACHIE ROAD, CARNOUSTIE) (REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE FROM FOOTWAY TO CYCLE TRACK) ORDER 201X

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 November 2019, there was submitted Report No 56/20 by the Director of Infrastructure, relating to the making of an Order in respect of the conversion of sections of footways to cycletrack at Shanwell Road and Balmachie Road, Carnoustie.

Having heard Councillor Cheape in support of the proposals, the Committee agreed to note the two objections received during the consultation period and to approve the making of the Order as drafted.

8. ANGUS COUNCIL (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING) (ON-STREET PARKING) (DECRIMINALISED ENFORCEMENT) (No. 4) ORDER 2020

There was submitted Report No 57/20 by the Director of Infrastructure relating to a Traffic Order in respect of proposed new waiting restrictions at various locations in Angus.

The Committee agreed to note the objections received during the publication period and to approve the making of the Order as amended with the undernoted exceptions:

- (i) **Thistle Street, Carnoustie** – No Waiting at Any Time restrictions – Deferred, as per decision taken at the commencement of the Meeting.
- (ii) **Elliot Street / Elliot Place, Arbroath** – Introduction of No Waiting at any Time restrictions around the radii of the junction of Elliot Place with Lochlands Street and on the corner of Elliot Place adjacent to No 4 Elliot Place as detailed on Plan no AH-E07 -

COUNCILLOR SALMOND, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR SPEED, MOVED APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT IN SO FAR AS RELATING TO ELLIOT STREET / ELLIOT PLACE ARBROATH.

Councillor Durno, seconded by Councillor Braes, moved as an amendment that the proposals be deferred to allow more consultation with local people.

The Committee heard the Director of Infrastructure who advised as to the process followed in terms of the relevant legislation and regulations.

The Committee then heard from Councillors Speed and Cheape.

On a vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

For the motion:

Councillors Salmond, Stewart, Davy, Fotheringham, Lumgair, McLaren, Proctor and Speed (8).

For the amendment:

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

The motion was declared carried and the Committee resolved accordingly.

- (iii) **Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar** – Introduction of ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ restrictions on both sides of Orchard Loan from its junction with the access leading to St Margaret’s House northwards and eastwards to Orchardbank Industrial Estate, other than several short sections to allow some parking on Orchard Loan where it is considered safe to do so; and

‘No Waiting at Any Time’ restrictions on Silvie Way on its north side between Orchard Loan and the access leading to Angus House and also at the turning area at its eastern end, all as detailed on Plans nos FR- A05; FR – A06 and FR – A07.

COUNCILLOR STEWART, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR SALMOND, MOVED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN ORCHARDBANK BUSINESS PARK SET OUT IN THE REPORT AND AS DETAILED IN PLANS NOS FR-A05; FR-A0 AND FR-A07 BE IMPLEMENTED.

Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Duff, moved as an amendment, that the Orchardbank Business Park proposals for the introduction of restrictions in Orchardbank Business Park Forfar, as detailed in Plans nos FR- A05; FR – A06 and FR – A07, be deferred pending the preparation of a plan to address the shortage of parking capacity which would result from implementation of the traffic order in its

proposed form and the resulting impact on staff based in, or requiring to attend at Angus House.

The Depute Chief Executive and Director of Infrastructure advised the Committee of the ongoing consultations process with Angus House staff and the role of this Committee as Roads Authority and responsibility for road safety matters.

On a vote being taken members voted:

For the motion:

Councillors Salmond, Stewart, Davy, Fotheringham, Lumgair, McLaren, Proctor and Speed (8).

For the amendment:

Councillors Bell, Braes, Cheape, Devine, Duff, Durno (6).

No vote:

Councillor Moore.

The motion was declared carried and the Committee resolved accordingly.

9. WESTWAY, ARBROATH – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

There was submitted Report No 58/20 by the Director of Infrastructure, presenting the findings of an investigation carried out into the potential of a pedestrian crossing on Westway, Arbroath, following a request for such provision on the Westway in the vicinity of Arbirlot Road, where local residents had reported experiencing difficulties in crossing the Westway due primarily to high volumes of traffic and high traffic speeds.

The Committee heard from Councillor Durno, who welcomed the proposal, and also from Councillor Moore, in response to whom the Director of Infrastructure advised that Paragraph 4.6 of the Report should have been worded to state that the school crossing patroller would, in due course, no longer be required *at this particular site*.

In the event of the Committee approving this report, the location would be subject to community consultation and a further report to Committee.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the current difficulties which pedestrians, particularly the elderly, encountered when crossing the Westway, Arbroath;
- (ii) to note the results of a recent site survey carried out following the request to investigate the possibility of installing a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing on the Westway, Arbroath;
- (iii) that in principle, a pedestrian crossing be provided on the Westway potentially to the south of its junction with Arbirlot Road; and
- (iv) that consultation be undertaken with the community on the most appropriate site for the pedestrian crossing.

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved in terms of Standing Order 28(2), that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Part 1, Schedule 7A, Paragraphs 8, 9 and 10.

Prior to the next Item, the Depute Chief Executive reminded members of the confidentiality of the content of Report 59/20, which should not be discussed outside the Chamber.

11. EXTENSION OF HOUSING REPAIRS TERM CONTRACTS

There was submitted Report No 59/20 by the Director of Infrastructure, seeking an exemption from competition under Financial Regulation 16.24.10(2) (no suitable tenders received) to allow the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Convener of the Communities Committee, to negotiate an extension to all of the 15 current Housing Response Repairs Term contracts for the period of up to one year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, as set out in the Report.