

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held remotely, on Tuesday, 24 November 2020, at 2.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors MARK SALMOND, TOMMY STEWART, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN BEM, DAVID CHEAPE, BRADEN DAVY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, DAVID LUMGAIR, MARK McDONALD, IAN MCLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, and LOIS SPEED.

Councillor Salmond, Convener, in the Chair.

## 1. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Ronnie Proctor, with Councillor Colin Brown substituting.

## 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Stewart declared a non-financial interest in Item 7 (Report No 286/20) in that one of the owners of properties adjoining the parcels of land referred to in the Report was a relative. He indicated that he would not participate in discussion on that item and would leave the meeting during any discussion.

Councillor Cheape declared a non-financial interest in Item 8 (Report No 287/20) in that he had met with residents, but had expressed no opinion on the matter. He indicated that he would therefore take part in any discussion on that item.

## 3. **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 September 2020 was submitted, approved as a correct record, and signed by the Convener.

## 4. **INFORMATION REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD 30 SEPTEMBER TO 24 NOVEMBER 2020**

There were submitted and noted the following:

### (i) **Communities**

Report No 283/20 by the Service Leader (Housing) with one Schedule, providing information to members with regard to the Scottish Government's latest consultation paper to suspend the operation of local connection referrals between local authorities in Scotland. The Schedule included the Ministerial Statement along with the responses by Angus Council to the consultation questions.

### (ii) **Infrastructure**

Report No 289/20 by the Director of Infrastructure with one Schedule providing information to members with regard to services provided by Infrastructure Services through an adjustment to Winter Services Policy and Provision for 2020/21 from that previously noted and approved at the meeting of the Communities Committee on 18 August 2020, Article 6 refers.

## 5. **INTERIM MANAGEMENT RULES FOR KEPTIE PARK AND POND, ARBROATH**

There was submitted Report No 284/20 by the Director of Communities, presenting proposed Interim management Rules to regulate the conduct of members of the public within Keptie Park, Arbroath.

The Committee heard Councillor McDonald who considered that the rules as proposed were old-fashioned and could be improved; as an example, he referred to the definition in the Rules of a vehicle, which he believed could potentially exclude a child's buggy, or bicycles, from the Park. Councillor Cheape supported simplification of the Rules, and the Convener agreed that

the language used could be modernised for better understanding, and so be more effective.

The Director of Communities emphasised that the idea of the Management Rules was to persuade visitors to the Park to behave appropriately within Park boundaries. If approved today, the Rules would go out to public consultation. As part of that process he would welcome contributions from members if they wished to contact him directly.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the proposed Interim Management Rules for Keptie Park and Pond as set out in Appendix 1 to Report No 284/20;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Communities, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to make such further amendments to the proposed Interim Management Rules as might be considered appropriate;
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Communities, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to initiate the necessary procedures for public consultations on the proposed Interim Management Rules; and
- (iv) to note that a further report on the outcome of the consultations would be submitted in due course to the full Council seeking a decision on the making of the proposed Interim Management Rules.

## **6. ROAD SAFETY FRAMEWORK TO 2030**

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 24 September 2019, there was submitted Report No 285/20 by the Director of Infrastructure, updating members on the work of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) in response to The Highway Code consultation, and seeking confirmation of the revised remit of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group.

The Committee heard the Service Lead – Roads and Transportation, who advised members that as part of its development of a new Road Safety Plan for Angus, the MOWG had recently reviewed draft responses to consultations on Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 (Appendix 1 to the Report); and The Highway Code (Appendix 2 to the Report).

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the response to the Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 consultation and the response being submitted by the Service Leader – Roads and Transportation;
- (ii) to note the submitted response to The Highway Code consultation as reviewed by the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group and submitted by the Service Leader – Roads and Transportation; and
- (iii) that the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group, in reviewing associated policies, plans and strategies, would include Active and Sustainable Travel, which formed a key element of Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030.

Councillor Stewart, having declared an interest relating to the following item, left the meeting at this point.

## **7. SURPLUS PROPERTY**

There was submitted Report No 286/20 by the Director of Infrastructure, seeking approval for the disposal of certain parcels of land at two locations, one to the north-east of 109 River Street, Brechin; and the other to the south-west of 45 Arbirlot Road, Arbroath, both of which were surplus to the requirements of the Council.

The Committee agreed that the parcels of land listed in Report 286/20, and shown outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 to the Report, be declared surplus to the requirements of the Council, and be disposed of to the owners of the adjoining properties.

Councillor Stewart re-entered the meeting.

## **8. THISTLE STREET, CARNOUSTIE - ROAD SAFETY**

With reference to Article 8(i) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 February 2020, there was submitted Report No 287/20 by the Director of Infrastructure, presenting the findings of the feasibility study carried out into the proposed introduction of a one-way traffic management system on Thistle Street, Carnoustie, to address road safety concerns, and seeking approval for consultation to be undertaken on the proposals.

The Committee heard from the Director of Infrastructure, who highlighted the severe parking and access difficulties experienced by residents of Thistle Street. Consideration of the matter by this Committee had been deferred to allow for the consideration of the one-way traffic system which now required to be consulted upon. The Committee also heard from local member Councillor Cheape, who thanked members for their patience with this matter, which was of great importance to the local residents. He was keen to learn the details of the proposed consultation.

In response, the Director of Infrastructure confirmed that notices regarding the consultation would be posted on lamp posts as this was in line with statutory requirements. They would be supplemented with a letter drop for residents in the area indicated in Appendix 4 to the Report, and also to the Community Council and the emergency services. The findings of this consultation would be reported back to the Committee in due course.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the findings of the feasibility study into the proposed introduction of a one-way system on Thistle Street, Carnoustie;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Infrastructure to undertake consultation on the above proposal to introduce a one-way traffic management system on the east side of Thistle Street from its junction with its north cul-de-sac to its junction with West Path; and the previous option of 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions on the south side of Thistle Street; and
- (iii) to note that a further Report would be brought forward to this Committee following completion of the proposed consultation.

## **9. WESTWAY, ARBROATH – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 25 February 2020, there was submitted Report No 288/20 by the Director of Infrastructure, presenting the findings of a consultation exercise undertaken with the local community to determine the most appropriate site for the proposed pedestrian crossing on Westway, Arbroath.

In the course of discussion, the Committee heard from Councillors Cheape, Speed, Moore, Braes and Durno. Members expressed disappointment at the very low number of responses – only 3 individual replies – to the consultation exercise. Of these, one response agreed, and two disagreed, with the proposed pedestrian crossing location. Given the low response, the Report proposed that the crossing be installed at the original suggested location on the Westway to the south of its junction with Arbirlot Road.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the comments received during the consultation process regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing installation on the Westway, Arbroath;
- (ii) to note the range of opinions expressed by those who responded to the consultation: and
- (iii) to approve the location for the installation of the proposed pedestrian crossing on the Westway, as detailed in the Report.

**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 possible disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraphs 6, 8 and 9.

**11. SUPPORTED HOUSING IN WEST ANGUS**

There was submitted Report No 290/20 by the Director of Communities, providing an update to members.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, as detailed in the Report.