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MONIFIETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14th JANUARY 2021

Chairperson: Sheena Cochrane

Present; Ben Nicoll, Jack Brand, Stewart Ellis & John Thornton.

Others: Councillors Beth Whiteside, Hands and Lawrie. Members of Public; Mrs. M-C McNally, Leanne Wilson, Fergus Cameron, Margaret McArthur and William Mutch.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Sheena Cochrane welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting. Vice Chair Ben Nicoll stated that he will be sharing the meeting chair position for the immediate future with Sheena until she is up and running with her new IT equipment. The format will be for Sheena to open the meeting, welcome everyone, then hand over to Ben. Sheena will continue to announce the agenda items.

Apologies were received from Dawn McGaughay, Rob Crossland, Derek Uchman, Hazel Brand, Lloyd Melville and Peter Morrison, Councillor Craig Fotheringham.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read.

3. Correspondence

Email received from Natalie Ross outlining the help which can be offered to the community by VAA; Email re Angus Parking Review. Discussed and noted;

Emails from Pauline Allison, Seagreen, regarding the work ongoing in our area for laying the cables from the offshore windfarm landfall to Tealing. She is hopeful community payments can be extended to Monifieth and has passed on details to Craig Mullen in the Communities Investment Team, who has been in touch. He expects to have news later in the new year.

Email from Angus Council re 2 cycling shelters to be erected in Monifieth, one at the Blue Seaway and the other in the area of Tesco car park. This is to accommodate the hoped for increase in cycle use by commuters.

Letter received from Angus Council Planning Department regarding the refusal for planning permission at 114 Ferry Road. Also letter to secretary from member of public - same subject. To be dealt with under Item 7, Planning Matters

Emails have been received with regard to the ongoing debate re the very poor condition of the waste bins in High Street. During the meeting Councillor Ben Lawrie received an update from Councillor Craig Fotheringham informing the decision has been taken to replace the bins. A very good piece of news as the bins are in poor condition and not conducive to good health for users, particularly during the pandemic. (see also item 9, Angus Councillors' Reports)

Emails exchanged concerning a contribution of £200 to the work of the Community Garden in Carnoustie which had been badly damaged following a recent incident of fire raising.

Letter received via Angus Council from a member of the Soyaux Twinning association, which had been active several years ago. Discussed and decision reached that no action could be taken at present, again due to the pandemic. To be discussed later.

Email received from Hong Zhang regarding the lighting project at the Blue Seaway. Angus Council employees who were to be assisting in planning the project have been reassigned to emergency Covid work, and without plans, nothing can be done. Preliminary enquiries have been made with the Parks Department and Planning, neither department raising objections but require plans. Lisa Chiles of the Lighting Partnership to be contacted again in an attempt to progress the issue. The completion date should hopefully be extended once again.

Letter from Angus Licensing Board re application to vary premises licence in respect of Dobbies Garden

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World, Ethiebeaton Park. There are no grounds for objection.

Email from M C McNally regarding letter to be sent to Tesco thanking them for their contribution to the Christmas Hamper Appeal. This led to much discussion and agreement by all that the project was a resounding success. M C stated that one of the initiatives involved including in each hamper a letter from a 1st year pupil, this having been very well received, resulting in replies and gifts being sent to the school. Many letters and expressions of support have been received from recipients who were delighted to have been considered for the gifts. It was found by people doing the deliveries that there are many lonely people in Monifieth who have been affected by the Covid restrictions and who were delighted to have the chance to speak to someone. It is hoped the Befrienders Organisation and the 6th year pupils who are also befrienders along with Lunchclub and similar organisations will manage to resume their activities in the near future. In the meantime, the Community Council will look into ways of keeping contact with our elderly people in the community, bearing in mind the assistance offered by Natalie Ross via the VAA. M C thanked all who helped with deliveries and also stated there had been a very successful appeal for people to donate unwanted/unused/old I T equipment for use by pupils to assist with home schooling. M C also said she is shortly to be writing her "School Improvement Plan" for session 2021/22 and would like to incorporate several ideas from her previous school including pupils working together with silver surfers to "upskill" their I T knowledge. Stewart Ellis advised money could be available from the National Lottery for projects involving interaction between the young and elderly. All correspondence was cascaded to Councillors.

4. Co-option of New Member

Bill Mutch having expressed an interest in joining the Community Council, and all procedures having been carried out, John Thornton proposed he be co-opted onto the Community Council. This was seconded by Sheena Cochrane and William Mutch was duly welcomed onto Monifieth Community Council. Bill said he is very interested in working on the Community Council to facilitate and assist the work of other local organisations particularly during this difficult time for everyone.

5. Social Media

Ben Nicoll reported on the virtual Christmas lights switch on which was a great success, though notably different from previous years. Many people had viewed and commented favourably on the standard and content of the videos supplied and streamed online. Thanks to all participants for their excellent contributions. The actual switch on of the lights was a much smaller ceremony than usual attended by Santa and one of his Elves and several councillors, with a Christmas message being delivered and streamed online. Grateful thanks are again accorded to Martin Jamieson for his excellent work installing the tree and street lighting to the usual high standard.

6. Treasurer's Report

Stewart Ellis reported the cash in the bank stood at £16,661.97, this being made up of £9600.00 for the Blue Seaway Lighting Project, £3232.00 in respect of National Lottery funding previously granted for VE Day commemorations, and a balance of available funds of £3829.97. There had been expenditure during the year of £1257.01.

7. Planning Matters.

Rob Crossland was unable to attend the meeting but sent details of the planning applications for the December 2020 and January 2021 meetings. These were in respect of the conversion of existing dwelling house to form 2 flats at 50 Hill Street, and internal and external alterations at 1-3 Dalhousie Street, and a single storey extension to the rear of the house at 19 Dalhousie Street, none of which raised any concerns.

With regard to the planning application for change of use of land at 114 Ferry Road, a letter from Angus Council Planning Department had been received, informing of planning application refusal. A letter from a local resident had been received by the secretary, stating the Community Council should address the issue. A reply was delivered, indicating the Community Council had been fully involved in promoting the views expressed by many people opposing the matter, and a formal objection had been made.

Angus Council has asked Monifieth Community Council to publicise a survey into the use by the general

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public of the path, which is regarded as a right of way. This has been done, though it is emphasized Monifieth Community Council remains impartial and unbiased, though individual members are entitled to express their personal views on the matter.

8. Police Report.

In the absence of a police presence due to pressing duties at this time, John Thornton reported he had received and cascaded the Police Report to all Councillors. The main theme of the Police report relates to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the powers granted to the Police to uphold the law and keep the public safe. The intention of the Police is to engage with the public in a positive and constructive manner and only use the powers available as a last resort.

Crimes reported during the last month were; attempted housebreaking x1, fraud x 4, accidents x 2, careless/dangerous driving x 2, vandalism, theft, assault x 3, drugs offence, offensive weapon, attempt to pervert the course of justice, driving (no licence x 1), (no insurance x1), speeding offence, and theft by shoplifting x 2.

During the lockdown, police are receiving a high number of calls regarding people breaching lock down rules which are in place to ensure public safety, therefore it makes sense to abide by those rules.

Relating to the Pandemic, Bill Mutch asked if the Community Council could use the social media forum to praise and thank local people who are in the main complying with Scottish Government requests and behaving sensibly. Ben agreed to post such a message on Our Monifieth and the Community Council web page. Councillor Hands pointed out there were more patients in Covid beds at Ninewells during the second wave than during the first wave.

Sgt Stewart Ramsay has been appointed as Community Sergeant in our area and we look forward to welcoming him either via Zoom or in person.

9. Angus Councillors' Reports.

Councillor Ben Lawrie reported he had received an email from Councillor Fotheringham notifying agreement has been reached to replace the existing litter bins in the High Street. Grateful thanks were expressed as the current bins are in a sorry state and generally unhygienic.

Stewart Ellis reported 2 cyclists using the path along West End Park as far as the Dighty as a race track for time trials on recent Sundays between 12 and 2pm. Councillor Hands to follow up with Angus Council re signage. Secretary to email PC McGaughay.

John Thornton reported a large amount of graffiti on the Parks Dept building at the Blue Seaway which has been reported. Councillor Whiteside has received a reply promising action but not deemed urgent so no action has been taken so far to cover this up/remove- Councillor Lawrie to pursue. Also to report the poor condition of the boardwalk to the south of the Albert Street footbridge.

10. Public Questions. None

11. AOCB

Bill Mutch stated one of his neighbours has been selected for the Great Britain team for the "Ironman Games" due to take place in Germany in July 2021. It was agreed we should assist using publicity for fund raising and to promote the local group and in particular her achievement .

Bill also praised the local Monifieth publication "What's In A Name?" which makes for excellent reading.

Ben Nicoll asked if there was any progress in the proposed new use for the Angus Gateway premises at Ethiebeaton Park. There is no news at present.

John Thornton asked for clarification regarding the use of Drive Thru's for food purchases, given the current advice to stay at home. Councillor Hands stated the exemption given, provided service is through a hatch and there is no collection inside the premises, is to try to improve mental health by allowing people, some of whom live alone, to leave their houses for a short period.

12. Date and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of Monifieth Community Council will be held on Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

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