

# Carnoustie Community Council



## 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 Carnoustie Community Council Minutes

**Attending:** A Rhind, A Murray, M Forbes, A Laing, E Oswald, N Ross, L Marr, P Manley, J Roberts, D Taylor, D A Rorie (mins). Also present Angus Cllrs B Boyd, D Cheape and M Mc Donald, and Pauline Lockhart (observing).

**Seagreen windfarm update:** The meeting started with the Chairman welcoming a deputation from SSE who spent an hour updating us on the progress of the Seagreen windfarm. Work is continuing to schedule throughout the whole stretch of 19km from landfall at Carnoustie bay to the sub-station at Tealing. They took questions, noted some concerns we raised, and intend to keep in touch regularly. The meeting thanked them for their attendance.

**Apologies:** None tendered.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** The minute of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January was considered and accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings. Prop MF, Sec MF.

**Angus councillors:** After spending £300k installing payment meters AC has decided to waive parking charges at all the off- street parks in the county until at least after the next local elections in early 2022. This course of action has been a financial embarrassment for AC, an economic disaster for shopkeepers in the boroughs and a political mess from start to finish. Very slow progress is being made with regard to developing the Kinloch site but eventually when various matters have gone through a series of committees AC will, hopefully before too many years, put houses on that land with an area reserved for communal civic use. The CAT of the Panmure Centre is proceeding, again very slowly, a survey has been carried out on behalf of the Men's Shed, and in due course a decision will be taken as to whether this is viable or not. Cllr DC reported that following the newspaper appeal for volunteers to help with various projects in town including the TCF and Golf Heritage Trail, 14 people have come forward including an offer to help with project management, and these enterprises are going to move forward now much more purposefully. The meeting thanked DC, PM and LM for their involvement.

**Finance:** The Treasurer had circulated the most recent financial details prior to the meeting and these show a bank balance of a little over £10,000, with approximately £1000 earmarked for Christmas lights and events, and about £1700 for recovery from the effects of Covid

locally. We also have £5k we are reserving to part pay the “Butterfly”. We are actively seeking donations for the balance. The report was accepted. Prop DAR, Sec DT.

**Planning:** AM had provided members in advance with details of the eight planning applications submitted to AC since our last meeting. Six were considered routine and non-controversial and required no comment from us. Two involved largescale housing developments. The development of 249 houses plus all the infrastructure at Victoria at the west end of town was approved some time ago and will go ahead in stages over several years. The CC expressed concern as to how the Medical Centre and Burnside School will cope. We have been notified recently by Emac Planning on behalf of Kirkwood Homes of their intention to apply in the future for planning permission for a development of 62 houses at the east end of town between Carlogie Rd and Panbride Rd. Details are on their website and an online Q&A session is scheduled for 3 – 6 pm on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**East Haven:** No report.

**Seagreen/SSE/CBF:** The CBF subcommittee has not met since the last CC meeting. We still await Craig Mullen’s response to some points we put to him.

**Town services:** EO’s report mentioned how well the town has responded to this most recent lockdown. For instance Franco’s restaurant staff are offering to go shopping or collect prescriptions for the housebound, and Links Cabs are giving free lifts for senior citizens to get their Covid vaccinations. The Spar at the Cross will become a Premier Store in mid March with no job losses. There are potholes appearing everywhere and many motorists have had burst tyres especially on the Dundee – Arbroath A92. We hope AC can find money soon to fix these serious road defects. There are thirty three off- street carparks in Angus and three years ago AC wasted over £300k installing meters to charge the public to park. Income from this has been negligible and is nowhere near the installation costs. Now AC has decided to drop the charges meantime. This policy has been a misguided waste of time and money and has done huge damage to High street trade in all the boroughs. AC has raised the rent for council house tenants by 2%, an average rise of £1.49 per week. After years of it lying idle someone has applied for planning permission to change the use of the old public toilet in Ferrier St. Covid vaccinations are proceeding at the Medical Centre as fast as supply allows.

**Town centre fund etc:** This was dealt with adequately in the Angus councillors’ update.

**Caterpillar/Butterfly:** The total cost of producing and siting this impressive artwork is now in the region of £10k. This amount was initially underwritten by the CC to enable work to go ahead promptly. Funding has now been procured with £5k from the SSE and the balance from the NHS Community Innovation Fund. EO is going to liaise with Colourful Carnoustie who are upgrading and improving the Rest Garden. We need to keep their approval and co-operation. We understand a suitable elevated site has been identified and look forward to the Butterfly being installed later this year at the Rest Garden on the seafront and this will surely become a popular tourist attraction and serve as a memorial to our late friend and council colleague David Mackland.

**Police:** No report received.

**Christmas:** The Christmas subcommittee held its first meeting of the year on 18<sup>th</sup> February and decided to switch off all the lights at the end of the month. Some lights need replaced and

the group is successfully undertaking fundraising for this. With current restrictions it is not permitted for the group to get together and remove the lights so they will stay where they are meantime. The CC will be represented at a meeting with AC and lights teams from all the boroughs early in March to discuss Christmas lighting arrangements for later this year.

**Beach cleans:** At present it seems unlikely the usual CC organised mass beach cleans will be possible this year. We plan to repeat last year's arrangement whereby several councillors have a supply of hoops and pickers at their homes and members of the public can get the use of this sanitised equipment by arrangement, go and do their own litter collection, dispose of the rubbish then return the equipment to the councillor's garden or front door for sanitisation and re-use later. We are grateful to those of our members who participate.

**Correspondence:** DAR reported that AC have arranged a meeting for all the boroughs to discuss Christmas lights and events and several of the lights subcommittee will attend. Under the heading of Training Support, AC propose to set up an online communication channel for all CCs to share information. DAR will contact AC. Holyrood is proposing a Strategic Transport Project Review – seeking the opinion of the public to align transport objectives to bring about a strategic recovery from Covid 19. Details are online and the public are invited to comment by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Carnoustie Heritage Group have been in touch expressing an interest in some of the CBF. AM will acknowledge their inquiry, and applications to put forward suitable projects will be invited when the CBF subcommittee has finished its deliberations.

**AOCB:** A brief discussion took place about membership of the CC. There are some vacancies.

**DONM:** The CC will next meet via zoom at 7pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021.