



# Kirriemuir Community Council

## MINUTES OF THE ZOOM MEETING of 31 March 2021

**Present:** Heather Kelly (Chair), Jeanette Reioch (Secretary), Irena Krasinska Lobban (Treasurer), Brenda McIntosh

**In attendance:** Jean Henderson from a Zoom recording of meeting, Cllr Angus McMillan Douglas, Cllr Julie Bell, George Aitken (Public)

Heather welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting. However, not a full quorum.

	ACTION
<p><b>1. Apologies:</b> Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Graham Galloway, Roy Christie, Frances Havenga, George Meechan</p> <p><b>2. Approval of 24 February 2021 Minutes:</b> Not a full quorum for this meeting, therefore, unable to approve Minutes.</p> <p><b>3. Police Report: See attached</b> Irena raised concern at the reported increased crime numbers in Kirriemuir. With a much larger population, Forfar's numbers were much less compared to Kirriemuir. Irena suggested the withdrawal of a community policeman presence in Kirriemuir could be a reason. All agreed and discussion ensued. Cllr MacMillan Douglas is surprised to learn that Kirriemuir does not have a Police presence, stating there is a community policeman presence in other areas of Angus, e.g. Community Police Officer Gail Beattie is still in place. Heather pointed out that Officer Gail Beattie does not cover Kirriemuir. Cllr MacMillan Douglas offered to investigate and report back.</p> <p><b>4. Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Services Report:</b> <b>To 28 March 2021</b> <b>Community Safety:</b> 1 x Home fire safety high risk – physical visit 2 x Medium risk – phone advice only re Covid-19 Operational Intelligence Visits: 1 x High Risk completed <b>Incidents:</b> 2 x Special Service Call 2 x AFA (Automated Fire Alarm) 2 x Fire 2 x False Alarm – Faulty Smoke Detector</p> <p><b>5. Matters Arising:</b></p> <p><b>T Feedback from Bi-Annual Meeting update: Funding, Participatory Budget, lack of Community Councils' involvement:</b> Cllr Julie Bell had not joined the meeting at this point, therefore, Cllr MacMillan Douglas gave a report.</p>	<p>AMD</p>

- Re: Participatory Budget: Cllr MacMillan Douglas had received his brief on this that day.
- Budgets had been agreed for each of the localities, including Forfar/Kirriemuir, for the year 2020/21.
- Due to the pandemic in 2020 no one could spend any of the funds.
- What has been agreed is that the money will be held over until people are in a position to spend it.
- The year 2021 ended on 31 March 2021.
- Cllr MacMillan Douglas thinks the amount is £6,000 per locality but will email confirmation of the exact figure to KCC.
- The intention of Angus Council is to wait until restrictions are over and things are back to normal and decide then how 2020/21 year's fund will be spent.
- Heather expressed concern and hoped last year's funding would not be cancelled. She also said that she expected Community Councils to be involved in the process.
- Cllr MacMillan Douglas reiterated that no final decision has yet been made and only Angus Council elected members would be in the decision making process, not Community Councils. This is not a Community Councils' decision.
- Irena requested Cllr MacMillan Douglas to put forward a strong case that this money is not "lost" to Community Councils. Cllr MacMillan Douglas stated he could not predict the outcome but agreed to put forward the argument for all of the localities.
- Heather stated that she understood the total figure is around £70,000 and hoped this amount would remain in the Participatory Budget.

AMD

AMD

**W Angus Council & Resources Committee:** Jeanette is awaiting a response from her email to Roy. Cllr MacMillan Douglas referred to an Agenda item regarding Unfair Dismissal. He is on this committee but pointed out that he is unable to comment on individual cases. Off Agenda.

**B4 Reform Street/back entrance to Post Office, site visit:** Site visit still to be carried out.

JB/RC

**B6 Angus Council Community Council budget allocation appeal:** Jeanette reported that she had emailed Lyn Hally, Angus Council. A second email was sent, copied to Cllr MacMillan Douglas and Cllr Ronnie Proctor, which eventually resulted in a reply from Angus Council. The response is that Angus Council is rolling over the 2020 remaining funds.

**B7 KCC Support letter for Kirrie Connections and DD8 Declaration of Interest:** Letter was sent. Reply received and the planning has been approved. Cllr MacMillan Douglas reported that he has recently been on a Selection Panel at Websters High School for a competition to decide which local charity would receive a donation of £3,000. Competition was won by pupils Isla and Zara, and Kirrie Connections was the winning charity. *Well done!*

## 6. Councillors' Reports:

### Cllr Ronnie Proctor reported:

Technically, I am still on special leave but continue to do Ward work and attend committee and other meetings, as and when I can. I continue to assist people with housing and other issues, e.g. roads and road safety, etc.

### Cllr Alistair McMillan Douglas reported:

- As Finance Convenor and Depute Leader of Council, finalising the 2021/22 Council Budget; presenting it at a Special Council Meeting; covering Press, Radio, TV, etc., interviews.
- As Chair of the Capital Projects Monitoring Group, chaired the Quarterly Meeting to

review capital project progress across Angus.

- Meeting with the Unions involved with Angus Council in the annual formal meeting of the Consultative Council.
- Attending weekly Covid Resilience Report-back meetings with the Administration Cabinet and Senior Officers on Gold and Silver pandemic management groups./
- Meeting with the Council CEO and Leader on weekly basis to consider major issues across the Council.
- Attending Tay Cities' Deal Governing Committee meetings, at one of which Angus Business Cases were agreed for the initial Angus Projects.
- Held discussions with a number of interested parties to facilitate a satisfactory future for the former Lochside Leisure Centre.
- Attended the Scotland Excel Exec Group to consider the financial and workforce plan for 2021/22 and consider the programmes for provision of supply teachers and Care Home workforce across Scotland.
- Attended the Business Gateway Board to consider future role and strategy for this organisation across Scotland. In particular, consider how to take full advantage of the UK Prosperity Funds and ensure this organisation helps small companies to grow through recovery from Covid. This feeds into the Angus Economic Recovery Programme.
- As Vice Convenor of the Policy and Resources Committee, attended a special meeting which agreed the final route of the wire taking electricity from offshore wind generators to the SSE sub-station at Tealing.
- Working with Inverarity CC (and others) as part of the consultation for the route of the new SSE north-south electricity line, taking into account health and tourism issues.

**Cllr Julie Bell reported:**

- I continue to be involved in discussions between Scottish Water, statutory services and the community, regarding opening up the area around Lintrathen and Backwater.
- Committees attended include: Scrutiny and Audit; Special Children and Learning; Special Budget-setting Council; Special Council over a planning application; Angus Council; Angus Health & Social Care Partnership (AH&SCP) and Audit Committee; and various Public Health Scotland committees. I also had a meeting with the new Audit Director from Audit Scotland for the AH&SCP Audit Committee, which I chair.
- I have also attended an employee recognition event (until I was kicked off and couldn't reconnect); the inaugural meeting to support a parents' LGBTQ+ support group in Kirriemuir; a domestic abuse and homicide event with our social work/community justice teams; at the time of writing, there will be Corporate Parenting training and Children and Learning Committee on Tuesday, 30 March.
- For International Women's Day, I hosted an online event with the Scottish Women's Budget Group, which was well attended by Council Officers, third sector colleagues and others from across Scotland.
- I continue to progress the Bee Bus Stop Project with Officers and Sustainable Kirriemuir. I was invited to do some filming with Kate Munro for Sustainable Kirriemuir on Saturday, 20 March.
- Caseload activity has remained steady with housing probably remaining the main concern, but also business support grants for Covid.

**7. Treasurer's Report:**

Cash in Bank £1754.07. Cash in Hand £20.00

Total KCC Funds £1080.57

Total Defibrillator Funds £693.50

- Irena reported that the Zoom connection fee has been paid to Kirrie Connections.
- Expenses have been paid together with the licence for microsoft.
- The Angus Council Community Council grant is based on the population of the area. Discussion ensued.
- Regarding insurance, Jeanette confirmed that the KCC insurance was paid by Angus Council last year.
- Angus Council will accept un-inspected Accounts this year.
- Irena requested the Treasurer's Report be moved to follow the SFRS Report for the next two months. Irena may not be able to stay on Zoom for the full meeting. Agreed.

IKL

JH

8. **Correspondence:** All circulated during the month.

9. **Planning:** No report.

### 10. AOCB

10.1. **Heather:** Heather reported the sad loss of Sonia, Cllr Proctor's wife. On behalf of the Kirriemuir Community Council, Heather proposed sending a card of condolences and flowers. All agreed.

HK

10.2. **Irena** highlighted the current situation surrounding a member of the public's negative comments aimed at Kirriemuir Community Council. The female in question has posted such comments on social media. Discussion ensued.

- Jeanette reported that the female in question has been bombarding her with emails and causing her undue harassment. Jeanette has tried on numerous occasions to placate this person, to no avail.
- She also approached Angus Council for Jeanette's telephone number, which, of course, was not given. She made the same complaints to Angus Council. Angus Council referred her back to Jeanette.
- The female has posted on social media that KCC is a "shambles" and is not circulating the Minutes so must be "hiding something." It was pointed out that all Community Council Minutes are circulated around the community, including the Library for public access. The Library has been closed, of course, due to the pandemic.
- Angus Council's copy of the KCC Minutes is posted on their website. Angus Council has made various changes to their website recently and plan to post KCC's January 2021 Minutes as soon as possible.
- Cathy Stephenson, ex Secretary of KCC, has advised Jeanette that she, too, received similar harassment all those years ago from the same female with the same accusations. This person actually turned up at Cathy Stephenson's home.
- This female attended a KCC meeting in January 2020 and raised the same points. All of her issues were successfully dealt with at that meeting.
- Discussion ensued. The Community Councillors expressed their disappointment at these comments and were at a loss to understand the reasoning behind this person's totally unnecessary outburst. The Community Council is a voluntary organisation and every endeavour is made by the Community Councillors to serve the community of Kirriemuir to the best of their ability.
- Cllr MacMillan Douglas echoed the concerns of the Community Councillors and stated that it is unacceptable for Jeanette, in her role as Secretary, to be treated in this manner by a member of the public. Cllr MacMillan Douglas offered to investigate at the earliest.

AMD

10.3. **Roy** reports that the school buses are still parking at Sidlaw Range. Cllr Julie Bell

will investigate.

- 10.4. **Jeanette** has been contacted by the Planters Group enquiring if someone could varnish the benches in the Square. Cllr Bell offered to liaise with the unpaid workers and report back.
- 10.5. **Jeanette** reported that Carly McConichie is enquiring whether she can set up a "Book Swap" in the remaining Telephone Box. All agreed a good idea. Go ahead. One of the panes of glass needs replacing and temporary shelves will be required. Heather will investigate the availability of a "voluntary joiner" with the promise of a "wee plaque" in recognition. Stickers "Book Swap" was suggested for the Telephone Box, cost of which could come from KCC funds. All agreed.
- 10.6. **Brenda** has received several complaints about continuing inappropriate parking at Beechwood. Cllr Bell re-confirmed that double yellow lines have been approved and are in the course of being processed. KCC stated that a number of Community Councillors have received similar complaints and the local residents are becoming impatient and frustrated at the delay. Cllr Bell offered to chase this up and also make a site visit. Jeanette suggested that the double yellow lines should be extended to the full length of the road in order to resolve this problem once and for all.
- 10.7. **Brenda** has a laptop which she is happy to pass on. Heather will collect. Kirrie Connections and the Youth Project are both in need of used laptops. The schools are receiving funding from the Government for laptops.
- 10.8. **George Aitken** said he would like to join Kirriemuir Community Council. Proposed by Heather and seconded by Brenda. The Community Councillors welcomed George to KCC.

**JB**

**JB**

**HK**

**JB**

**11. Date of next Zoom meeting: Wednesday, 28 April 2021, at 7 pm**

5.4.21

*Jessica Elrod*  
*Secretary*