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MONIFIETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8th APRIL 2021

Chairperson: Sheena Cochrane

Present; Ben Nicoll, Jack Brand, Peter Morrison, William Mutch, Stewart Ellis & John Thornton.

Others: Councillors Beth Whiteside and Hands. Angus Council Representatives: Dave Smith and Beth Reader (Monifieth Learning Campus), Members of Public; Lynda Petrie.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Sheena Cochrane welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting.

Apologies were received from Dawn McGaughay, Rob Crossland, Hazel Brand, Leanne Wilson & M C McInally.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read. Proposed by Ben Nicoll, Seconded by Sheena Cochrane.

3. Monifieth Learning Campus.

The Chair welcomed Dave Smith and Beth Reader to the meeting, both representing Angus Council to impart and collate information relative to the Monifieth Learning Campus. Beth and Dave gave a joint presentation highlighting the previous Capital Projects provided by Angus Council, including the Forfar and Brechin Campuses and various new schools. Concerns have been raised over the past years regarding the capacity and condition of Monifieth High School resulting in it being graded as "C" and a priority for replacement, in December 2020. There will be combined Scottish Government and Angus Council funding with a proposed capital budget of £50 Million. Dave said there have been consultations with the community, council departments, staff and pupils, since January 2021 with data gathering with high public response - the public will be encouraged to take part in the design. A planning application will be submitted and it is hoped for commencement in Spring 2023 and completion in August 2025.

Thereafter the old school will be demolished. Dave agreed there should be full use of the facilities with an increase in community use, and taking account of the changes in education with more flexibility now the norm reflecting the design, though there was a mixed response following staff and pupil consultations.

The subject of sports facilities was brought up but there has not at this stage been consultation with PE staff and there is doubt whether there will be a swimming pool in the new school. Lynda Petrie, a coach at Monifieth Swim Club gave an impassioned plea for inclusion of a swimming pool in the new building as this is such an important life skill. She pointed out the use by outside organisations could be a source of income. Beth stated no decision on inclusion of a swimming pool has been made, they are gathering views and will present findings to Councillors for a decision. Lynda was assured the Swim Club could take part in the consultation, along with individual viewpoints.

It was pointed out that Angus Council funding policy means any Burgh with facilities which become outdated and unusable will be replaced, whereas a Burgh, in this case Monifieth, which has no facilities stands no chance of getting new sports facilities. It was pointed out 2 recent examples where both Forfar and Brechin have seen new campuses with many facilities for their respective communities. The pool in the High School at present is used by outside groups though is not open to the general public for regular swimming sessions at this time, therefore if the argument for replacement of an existing facility is relevant, the new school should have, at the very least a new swimming pool, as this would be in line with current policy, as we strongly agree we should not lose what we already have.

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Spirited discussion followed regarding funding for furniture and fittings, the overall cost of the project, the possible inclusion of the public library in the new campus, with views both for and against, the fact that pupils are bussed in from distant parts of the Ward, resulting in very high numbers attending whereas a case could be made for 2 schools with less travel for pupils, always remembering the size of any school is dependent on the size of the community.

Ben Nicoll expressed thanks to Dave and Beth on behalf of the Community Council for their attendance and sharing of information and both gave reassurances their findings and that of the public consultation would be collated and would be presented to the Committee for full scrutiny. They then left the meeting.

4. Correspondence.

Email from Leanne Morris regarding the possibility of the restart of the VE Day projects. Stewart Ellis to pursue this.

Email from Councillor Whiteside regarding the matter of 114 Ferry Road which has been passed to the Council Land Reform sub committee, and the matter of lighting quality in Ferry Road which has been passed to the Lighting Partnership with no reply as yet.

Email from Roads Department regarding resurfacing of part of Rattray Street and information that the surface of South Street is beyond surface dressing and will be included in future resurfacing projects.

Email received re Vaccine Registry Newsletter. Discussed.

Various emails regarding the Seagreen Community Funding Project, also posters printed by Angus Council and available for distribution.

Emails re Monifieth Learning Campus (item 3 refers)

Emails re camper vans being parked in our area, presumably from outwith in contravention of Covid regulations. Police will follow up any information.

Emails from PSGA- Bill Mutch to follow up.

Emails regarding future Christmas lights – included discussion over funding potentially using part of the Seagreen money, replacement with LED's and should businesses be asked to contribute - this being described as a "no starter" due to present economic conditions and previous donations by them.

Email sent by Jack to aedDonate re defibrillators. No date for installation as yet.

Email re grit bin in Fotheringham Drive – refilled following contact.

Email received from Angus Council regarding Operational Grant and accounts etc. To be discussed at next meeting.

Email received from Derek Uchman tendering his resignation from the Community Council. This was received with regret and Derek was thanked for his great and valuable contribution to the work of the Council.

Email from Community Planning re grants being available from Bemis- Vaccine Information Fund to help make people aware of the vaccine programmes etc. Discussed. No projects on going which would be eligible.

Email Newsletter from Scottish Community Councils. Discussed.

All correspondence cascaded to Councillors.

5. Social Media

Ben Nicoll reported details of the Learning Campus has been publicised on Social Media. Applications have been received for Seagreen funding. A meeting to discuss will take place shortly after cut off date of 3rd. May 2021.

6. Treasurers Report.

Stewart Ellis reported the balance was £16661.97.

7. Planning Matters

Rob Crossland unable to attend and sent a report regarding planning applications for April meeting, none of which gave any cause for concern. These are erection of a dwelling house at 72 Hill Street, a dormer extension to rear of 23 Fairway, extension to existing house at 85 Margaret Lindsay Place, a single storey rear extension at 25 Ashludie Hospital Drive, formation of off street parking and dropped

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kerb at 26 Grange Place and formation of 2 football pitches and associated works at Marine Drive.

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 this month concerns Labour Exploitation and asks us all to "Break The Chain". Police Scotland saw a 135% increase in referrals in 2019 and the problem continues.

The other main theme concerns cycles, both the security of them and safety of riders and other road users. Cyclists are advised to wear bright fluorescent clothing and a helmet and always display lights at night. Reflectors on both wheels and pedals are also a very important requirement by law. Much advice is given concerning noting serial numbers, marking the frame and securing the bike either at home or work. Information can be obtained by visiting www.securedbydesign.co.uk , www.spokes.org.uk and www.sustrans.org.uk

Incidents in our area between 10/03/21 and 06/04/21. There have been 116 calls to the control centre in this period with 19 crimes reported 13 of which have been detected. These are threatening and abusive behaviour x 4, assault x 4, theft, speeding x 3, breach of bail x 2, fraud, police assault, drugs offences x 2, and possession of an offensive weapon.

"Emerging from lockdown, police are seeing an increase in "youths causing a nuisance" calls. There are issues with larger groups of youths socializing/drinking in parks and beach areas. Police would urge parents to monitor their childrens' whereabouts and associates. Police will continue to have a presence in hotspot areas and deal with any acts of anti-social behaviour robustly"

It was reported there has been an outbreak of Covid 19 at the High School which was reported in the papers; a crowd of about 50 youths was moved on from the beach area- breaches of covid regulations may lead to fines and prosecution with the ensuing publicity.

9. Angus Councillors' Reports

Councillor Whiteside reported the proposals for the new school remained the biggest item but unfortunately the opposition group on the council do not have a strong voice, although they do have ambition to deliver.

Councillor Hands commented on remarks from Bill Mutch regarding the 20 MPH speed limit recently introduced in parts of Monifieth. This is a county wide initiative which may be extended- it will be reviewed after 18 months. She also said it was very difficult to get work carried out in the Sidlaw area, though Angus officials are excellent at offering assistance and support. In relation to the extra costs for furniture and fittings and management fees for the proposed new school, Councillor Hands queried why the costs were extra as these were included in the estimates for both Forfar and Brechin campuses. She reminded the meeting that the Convenor and Vice Convenor of the Children and Learning Committee are responsible for the agenda and shape the order of the meeting and produce reports.

Councillor Hands expressed regret that the 2 other ward councillors were not present for such an important meeting.

10. Public Questions.

None

11. AOCB

None

12. Date and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of Monifieth Community Council will be held on Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

Secretary's Note. The next meeting of Monifieth Community Council will be held via Zoom on Thursday 17th June 2021.

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