



Kirriemuir Community Council

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM MEETING of 26 May 2021

Present: Heather Kelly (Chair), Irena Krasinska Lobban (Treasurer) part time, George Aitken, Graham Galloway, Brenda McIntosh, George Meechan

In attendance: Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Scott Nicol – Angus Alive (part time), Magnus Moncrieff – Angus Council (part time)

Minutes produced by Jean Henderson from a Zoom recording

The Chair welcomed Scott Nicol, Community Sports Hub Co-ordinator at Angus Alive, and Magnus Moncrieff, Active Schools Co-ordinator at Angus Council, to give a Presentation of their work in the community.

- Both Scott and Magnus work with local clubs, local organisations, etc. to bring the community together as a sports hub.
- Magnus's role with the Kirrie Cluster is to encourage more school children to be active and get involved in sport.
- The last year has been a challenge and, unfortunately, events across Kirriemuir had to be cancelled which involved extra-curriculum clubs.
- Currently, there is an increase in community engagement which is encouraging people of all generations to be more active and take up some type of sport.
- Magnus and Scott welcomed feedback from the community regarding people who may need their help. It has been proven that sport can improve mental health issues and Magnus and Scott visit Residential Homes. They asked the Community Councillors to let them know of any other areas which they think could benefit from their work.
- Scott confirmed that currently the Leisure Centre is not open during the day. There are plans to re-open in August but this is not a definite. Regarding using outside space as an alternative, Scott is unsure of the outside areas currently take up by the School.
- Most of Magnus's events take place in Websters. He suggested exploring other available facilities in the community, e.g. Martin Park, Bowling Club, etc. Scott said he would take that suggestion back to Angus Alive management and advise KCC of the outcome.
- Graham stressed the urgent need for the older generation to be able to access such facilities. There is a serious decline in the older generation's mental health, not just locally but nationally. Kirrie Connections has done a lot of work with Strathmore Rugby Club, Forfar, and would like some of the Kirrie clubs to get involved, too. Kirrie Connections has started a Health Walk every Tuesday and Wednesday and now have 30 walkers signed up. We must get people outdoors! Graham welcomed a chat with Scott and Magnus to discuss this.
- Kirrie Connections can offer training. They are currently looking at Kirrie Hill as a venue for an outside gym and funding is available.
- Websters has two sections in operation. 1) Working with children and disability and 2) working with older people. Scott and Magnus said they would be delighted to meet with Graham and discuss these points.
- Heather congratulated Kirrie Connections on their Health Walks but had concerns about the many older people who can't walk a great distance because of health issues. Therefore, the seated exercises are

critical for this group of people – they are being left behind. They are unable to use the swimming pool because it is being used by the school. Heather suggested there must be other venues in the town which could be utilised, e.g. the Town Hall, the Church Hall, etc.

- Ronnie reported that the Town Hall is owned by Angus Alive, and a fee is incurred to use it. Discussion ensued. Heather pointed out that a lot of people unable to use the Angus Alive facilities are members of Angus Alive and pay a fee. Surely, during these unusual times, Angus Alive could waive charges so that their members could use Angus Alive's various facilities in the meantime. Cllr Proctor, as a Director of Angus Alive, said he would investigate and report back. **ACTION: RP**
- Scott said he would bring this matter up, also, and report back to Heather by 28 May. The Town Hall is currently closed. **ACTION: SN**
- Graham made the point that Angus Alive has recently nominated the People's Champion. Younger people can have access but there is nothing for the older generation??
- Heather reiterated that young and old should mix together and that the younger generation would benefit from learning more about dementia. She thanked Scott and Magnus for taking the time to attend the meeting and they left.

	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies: Jeanette Reioch, Frances Havenga, Roy Christie, Cllr Julie Bell, Cllr Angus MacMillan Douglas.</p> <p>2. Approval of 28 April 2021 Minutes: Agreed as a true and correct record. Proposed by Irena and seconded by GeorgeM.</p> <p>3. Police Report: See attached GeorgeM reported that there had been a housebreaking incident in Croft Terrace recently. A number of Croft Terrace residents have installed CCTV cameras.</p> <p>4. Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Report: May 2021</p> <p>Community Safety: 12 x Home fire safety high risk – physical visit 0 x Medium risk – phone advice only re Covid 19 1 x Operational Intelligence visit</p> <p>Incidents: 1 x smoke detector operating 2 x AFA (automated fire alarm) 1 x Secondary fire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key Messages</p> <p>SFRS is called to hundreds of needless fires throughout the summer months – many of them started deliberately.</p> <p>And we see a worrying spike in these fires over the school holidays. SFRS calls on everyone to help us keep our communities safe.</p> <p>We want the public to know:</p> <p>4. We need people to join Scotland’s fight against fire and help us protect our communities</p> <p>5. Deliberate fire-setting is an offence; don’t accept it – report it</p>	

6. SFRS see an increase in the amount of deliberate fires over the summer season. These fires risk lives, threaten property and damage the environment
7. Outdoor fires, in particular rubbish and refuse fires, can overstretch local SFRS resources, taking firefighters away from other incidents and putting lives at risk
8. SFRS will work together with partner agencies during the period to reduce preventable fires and keep people safe – but we need the public's help to achieve these goals
9. Parents and carers have a responsibility to know what their children are doing and to keep them safe from fire
10. SFRS, working in conjunction with rural communities, businesses and landowners will support the use of 'Fire Plans' to prevent major fire emergencies involving heath, moorland and forestry. These plans will also detail how to respond in case of an emergency.
11. Information and advice is readily available about preventing countryside fires, such as the Muirburn Code, which applies to the controlled burning of heather within the permitted burning season.
12. Communities, tourists and visitors should be aware of the heightened risk of fire at this time of year and people should act safely and responsibly and follow the countryside code - <http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/>
13. People on holiday should be reminded to use barbeques responsibly and not use candles inside tents or store gas cylinders under caravans
14. Many wildfires and outdoor fires involving grass or refuse are started deliberately or are due to careless, reckless or irresponsible behaviour. If you suspect someone of acting suspiciously, recklessly or irresponsibly in the countryside call Scotland Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or call Police Scotland on 101.
15. As flytipping is a major problem, operational information and local knowledge should be used to proactively identify and report flytipping hotspots/locations. Where staff or the public identify flytipping or large piles of refuse they should be encouraged to report this via the Dump Dumpers website www.dumbdumpers.org or the stop line on 08452 30 40 90.
16. Everyone should be aware of the heightened risk at this time of year and follow SFRS advice to protect themselves and others.

Attached: Two leaflets: SFRS Deliberate Fire Setting leaflet and Wildfires leaflet

5. Treasurer's Report:

Total funds to May: £1143.92, comprising KCC funds of £450.42 and Defib funds of £693.50
Kiosk glass agreed to come from KCC funds.

Accounts for 2020/21 have been submitted to and accepted by Angus Council.

Battery for Defib has been paid from funds held at Heartstart at a cost of £150 + £10 carriage.
Leaving a balance in the Heartstart fund of £840.

Irena left the meeting.

6. Matters Arising:

T Participatory Budget update:

- The response to KCC's letter from Angus Council had been circulated. Heather asked for comments.
- The consensus of opinion was that the response was disappointing and vague. The question remained, "where did the money go?"
- Heather reviewed the letter. It appears the grant was only for two years and Kirrie + Dean would receive £65,000. This period, 2021, would have been 1% of the budget. Currently, Angus Council has not yet decided how the PB will be set up and who will be involved in

the decision making. If this is the case then why were Community Councils given training courses so that they could be involved in the Participatory Budget process?

- Graham reiterated that the Participatory Budget is about community involvement. In this case Angus Council is making the decisions. There has been no participation from the community. The two years was the trial period and we are now entering the 1% period which will be slightly different. How this period is managed is the problem. Clarity is needed. Graham has been advised to consult with COSLA.
- Heather will draft a response to Angus Council and include KCC's comments and circulate the draft to Community Councillors before sending. All agreed.

HK

B4 Reform Street/back entrance to Post Office, site visit:

Following a site visit by Cllr Julie Bell and Roy, the proposal of a barrier has been discussed and found not to be sustainable or practical in that area of the town. Full details of the response have been circulated to the Community Councillors. All agreed a reasonable response.

B8 Arrange a Teams Meeting with Police: Jeanette had arranged a Teams meeting, however, Heather decided that she wanted to speak to Sgt Crichton herself.

- Regarding the reporting of crime incidents in Kirrie, Sgt Crichton stated that a lot of the crimes are sensitive and cannot be put into the public domain. There had, in fact, been 151 crime incidents in Kirrie & Dean during the period in question, involving many of the Emergency Agencies.
- Sgt Crichton reported that there had been a large drugs seizure in Forfar recently. There have also been drugs seizures at schools, and schools have now become a focal point for the Police.
- Heather said she left the meeting with Sgt Crichton with a better opinion of our local policing. It appears they are trying their best with the resources available to them.
- The Police has asked for more community feedback. Sgt Crichton was not happy with some of the KCC's recent criticisms of policing in Kirrie, reported in their Minutes, and says her "door is always open."
- Sgt Crichton is looking into a few issues that Heather raised with her and will report back to KCC.
- Heather reported that she had recently spoken to PC Gail Beattie regarding the various "inflammatory" slates which have been found around the area. PC Beattie advises to remove and bin them as they are not illegal. Graham has spoken to other people in the Police and said he is advised that the slates constitute "hate speech" and are, in fact, illegal. Therefore, advising the public to "bin them," before the Police has read them, is poor advice. This is evidence.

B9 Inappropriate parking at Sidlaw range update: Cllr Bell emailed an update:

- The school bus issues and previous discussions surrounding Bellies Brae Car Park, are all connecting into the same issue, which is that there is a lack of dedicated bus/coach parking in Kirriemuir.
- Through the Traffic Co-ordination Group, the plan is to consult with elected members on whether some car parking spaces should be removed in Bellies Brae Car Park and turned into bays where bus/coach could park instead. I appreciated this may provide a solution in the medium to long term but in the short-term the issue of the school bus parking in Sidlaw Range is still live.
- Both Clova Road and Sidlaw Range have been fully assessed in the past as to their suitability for school transport operations and, subsequently, both streets have been a long-standing location for WHS school transport pick up/drop off.

- The vehicle requires to park somewhere, due to the short school day on a Friday, and whilst it may cause annoyance for local residents, there is no concern that the vehicle is parked illegally or unsafely. Given that the vehicle is clearly causing annoyance to local residents, we have reviewed nearby locations and, unfortunately, no alternative is available. Angus Council do not have any available off street locations that could accommodate a coach. Should the Community Council have a suggestion then we would be happy to discuss this alternative with Fishers Tours.
- Any ideas, please let me know and I will report when the Officers consult with the three Councillors.
- The Den House situation is still open. The legal team is having to prioritise the workload and, whilst the Den House is not a high priority, I am assured that Gavin Balfour continues to chase it for us.
- GeorgM recalled that a number of years ago visiting buses used to come into Kirrie and park in several coach parking bays which were available in those days in the Square. GeorgeM quoted an "old stalwart" of Kirrie, Elliot Clark, who once said the Square would be better used for coach parking than erecting a Peter Pan statue.
- Discussion ensued. All agreed that GeorgeM is making a good point. If you want visitors/trade to come to Kirrie then you have to give them the facilities, i.e. parking space. Locally, Glamis Castle is the only site that offers space for visiting coaches.
- Bellies Brae car park was highlighted as an ideal location. Section off say 2/3 bays for Coaches. The Coaches could drop off the visitors in the Square and then park up in the car park.
- Cllr Proctor agreed with the above and said he, too, was disappointed when the Square was re-arranged. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate and report back. Heather requested "dropped kerbs" in the town be included, too.
- If the Coach parking bays were realised then bus tour companies could be approached and "Marketing Kirrie's tourist industry" could commence.

RP

B15 Motor Homes facilities in Kirrie update:

- Heather pointed out that since the Angus Council legislation regarding Motor Homes was implemented, things have moved on since then. Encouraging visitors to Kirrie and reigniting tourism in the town is critical.
- Discussion ensued regarding available parking space. Agreed space is limited in the town and Bellies Brae car park was suggested. As with the coaches, it was suggested that 2/3 bays be allocated for Motor Home use. Once again, encouraging Kirrie's tourist industry and also announcing that "Kirrie is a Motor Home friendly town."
- Cllr Proctor offered to discuss the above suggestion with Officers and report back.
- Heather suggested inviting one of the Officers to come along to a KCC meeting to discuss the situation. All agreed. Cllr Proctor will investigate and report back.

RP
RP

B11 Contact with Mr. Fagan, Heart Start, re KCC's deposit:

- Heather had contacted Mr. Fagan regarding the need for a new battery and discovered that the money raised by Moira Ireland (£1,000) had not been ring fenced by Heart Start for Kirrie. This was subsequently "quickly" sorted.
- The battery has been purchased and installed, which leaves a balance of £840 in the Defib funds.
- Graham made the point that it is a little concerning and not a good position to be in when this company is holding KCC's money. Heather explained that Moira's donation went straight to Heart Start, not to KCC. This was the agreement with Heart Start that they would "control" the funds on behalf of KCC in order to qualify for Gift Aid.

B12 Continuing inappropriate parking at Beechwood update:

Double yellow lines are in the pipeline but this may take some time to be implemented. Meantime, Brenda reports that double parking continues.

B13 Unsteady benches in the Square:

Cllr Proctor has spoken with Karen Dillon and this has been actioned. Cllr Bell was due to speak to someone regarding having the benches varnished.

JB

B14 Lynn Hally's response to proposed Zoom payment. No response to date.

JR

B16 Yellow lines at Golf Club: Yellow lines are in the pipeline.

GeorgeM asked if there was an update for the yellow lines due to be installed in Croft Terrace. Also, it is a while since an update was received regarding the road adoption of Croft Terrace. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate and report back.

RP

B17 Plaques for Phone Boxes: Details have been circulated. £100 for all four plaques. All agreed with the wording. Heather will order. Heather congratulated and thanked everyone who has been involved in transforming the telephone boxes. Well done! Jeanette has sent a "thank you" to the Provisional Rotary Club of the Angus Glens. Books, CD's, games, etc. have been donated and interest in the community is growing.

HK

Graham has had a meeting with a new Kirrie resident, Deidre, who is getting involved in the Murals Project. She has a friend in St. Andrews who runs a telephone box there which includes art work. There are two further telephone boxes available in the town, the Gairie and the Post Office, which could be utilised for such art work. It was decided to initially invite Deidre to attend a KCC meeting to discuss this further. All agreed.

GG

7. Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Julie Bell reported:

Delighted to report I put forward a motion to council (Thursday May 13) to create an Older People's Champion, and nominating the SNP group leader, Cllr Lynne Devine. Very pleased this was passed unanimously and again, it was a joy to work with Graham Galloway of Kirrie Connections, and Age Scotland over this, with input from Diana Findley, chair of the Scottish Older Peoples' Assembly. Lynne will now link in with the network to deliver advocacy and results for older people across Angus.

I mentioned the Kirrie Art Project last time – I'm devastated to report that the benefactor of this inspiring and creative initiative, Neil Stevenson, passed away very suddenly on Monday May 10. My deepest condolences to Neil's wife, Sheila and their family. We will continue the project in Neil's memory in due course.

There was a full-on Angus Health and Social Care Partnership day on April 21, with both the Audit Committee and the full Integrated Joint Board. Children and Learning was held on May 18 and I also attended a board meeting for Public Health Scotland on May 19 which allows me to represent COSLA and the third sector across Scotland.

I continue to be very proud of our council, IJB and NHS staff and officers for their ongoing support of COVID-19 management, which is a huge task, and is allowing us to move gradually into more familiar territory. I'm also grateful to the citizens of Angus for their care and attention to hygiene precautions. Small local businesses have been

inspiring and diligent and I thank them all hugely for that. Please support our local shops and business wherever possible.

I am supporting the Sustainable Kirriemuir Active Travel Group with ongoing plans to make the area more friendly towards active travel and I welcome the installation of the new cycle shelters that I requested from the Roads Dept to utilise the COVID Safer Spaces for People funding. These have been installed across Angus, not only Kirriemuir.

I supported the upgrade to 60 minutes free on-street parking as I have spoken to people who have been anxious about lengthier queues for chemists and other essential shopping and the car park is a bit far for them due to their mobility issues. In practice, I very much hope the on-street spaces see plenty of flow to support people who may not have Blue Badge but whose mobility is a challenge.

Caseload has been quite heavy recently and, whilst I can't go into specifics, I'm very concerned about some anti-social behaviour reportings and I'm very grateful to local police for taking this very seriously.

Cllr Ronnie Proctor reported:

I have continued to be involved with numerous Ward issues across Kirriemuir + Dean, involving housing, drainage, road repairs and other issues.

I hope I have managed to keep you all informed regarding road closures and repairs, Covid updates and other matters which are issued by the Centre and which I think will be of interest.

Last week I seconded fellow Ward Councillor, Julie Bell, in her motion to have an elderly person's Champion at Full Council and then chaired the Full Council when numerous other Agenda items were ratified, including the increase in "On Street" parking time from 30 to 60 minutes.

I actioned the replacement of the bench which was set on fire by vandals on Kirrie Hill.

I have attended both the Communities Committee and the Children and Learning Committee.

I am a member of the Climate Change Group, MOG, and continue to highlight the sterling work being carried out by Sustainable Kirriemuir and the success of the Kirriemuir Allotments Association.

I also met with the Senior Parks Officer and his team to discuss the Kirriemuir Eastern extension to the Cemetery.

I am awaiting a reply regarding the proposal of a Camper Van Park in the town but have continued to ask for answers from Officers.

8. **Correspondence:** Jeanette has been very pro-active in circulating all of the correspondence over the past month,
9. **Planning:** No report.

10. AOCB

- 10.1. **Frances** is querying whether the Music Museum will be used to play music. Graham replied that there will be music played and there will be a level of noise, within the accepted decibel guidelines. The Museum has successfully gone through the Planning process. The Museum will not be open all hours. Graham suggested Frances contacts him so that he can further explain the situation.
- 10.2. **Heather** highlighted the old building at Ballinshoe, across the road from the proposed housing scheme. It is in a poor condition and could be a health and safety risk. Cllr Proctor confirmed this building/land is privately owned and isn't in Angus Council's remit. He offered to check it out with Planning on the grounds that it could be a safety risk.
- 10.3. **Heather** raised the recent fire incident at the Hill re the dust bin set alight under the bench. Cllr Proctor reported that a new bench has been ordered and slabs have to be replaced. Willy Doig's daughter, Ruth, wants to donate a bench in memory of her father. The replacement bench will be installed in the next week and will then be replaced with Ruth's bench. The temporary bench will probably be transferred over to the cemetery or it will go back in storage.
- 10.4. **Cllr Proctor** The benches at Glebe are being looked at, reports Cllr Proctor. He will investigate the progress. GeorgeM reported that he and his family have donated a bench at Glebe in memory of his mother and this is on order. Graham reported that GeorgeM's donation makes a total of two benches at Glebe. There is ample room for more benches. Cllr Proctor will investigate.
- 10.5. **Brenda** reported that someone has complained about Mike Shaw transporting a broken down old van and abandoning it on the roadside at Denfield Court. It is not taxed or insured. The lady telephoned the Police who said it is a matter for Angus Council and not them. Graham reported that they have a similar problem with an abandoned vehicle in Kirrie Connections car park. He has also been informed that it is not a Police matter but a civil matter. Cllr Proctor understands that this behaviour is fast becoming an ongoing problem in the area and will investigate and report back.
- 10.6. **Graham** highlighted the Murals Project and the very sad news of the passing of Neil Stevenson on 10 May. A real shock to everyone. Neil's wife, Sheila, has been in touch with Graham and said the family wish the project to continue and that they will be doing a fundraiser to help fund the project. The Project has secured £10,000 and £9,500 is currently in the pipeline. A Summer Programme has been organised for young and old from the community. The Murals Project will certainly continue. Heather offered KCC's help. Graham said the Project may need KCC's support when they come to apply for permission for the bigger sites. There is a plan to utilise the existing Klein advert on a gable end.
- 10.7. **Cllr Proctor** reminded the meeting of the Bi-Annual meeting due to take place on Thursday, 27 May, at 6 pm. Heather gave her apologies. Brenda confirmed that there is only one new sign leading to Slade Gardens instead of two. Cllr Proctor will investigate.
- 10.8. **Graham** reported a three day event at the Music Museum. The Museum is working with Consultants to determine what the community would like to see from the Museum. There is workshop space, DD8 are there, etc. The Museum covers all aspects of musical connections in Kirrie. There are a range of meetings over the three days and Graham encouraged everyone to try and attend at least one of the meetings. The details are in the email already circulated.
- 10.9. **Graham** reported that by the end of June the Kirrie Connections building will be complete. He kindly invited KCC to use the venue for their meetings in future, once the face to face meetings are allowed. Great news and *many thanks to Kirrie Connections.*

RP

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10.10. **Heather** wished Angus a speedy recovery on behalf of KCC.

11. Date of next Meeting: Wednesday, 30 June, at 7 pm

31.5.21

*Jeanette Eyles
Secretary*