



Kirriemuir Community Council

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM MEETING of 28 July 2021

Present: Heather Kelly (Chair), George Aitken, Graham Galloway, Brenda McIntosh, George Meecham

In attendance: Cllr Angus MacMillan Douglas, Karen Carrick – Improvement Services (part time)

Minutes produced by Jean Henderson from a Zoom recording

	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies: Jeanette Reioch, Irena Krasinska Lobban, Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Cllr Julie Bell, Roy Christie, Frances Havenga</p> <p>2. Approval of 30 June 2021 Minutes: Agreed a true and correct record. Proposed by Heather and seconded by Brenda.</p> <p>3. Police Report: No report received.</p> <p>Heather introduced Karen Carrick, Improvement Services, to talk to the meeting.</p> <p>Karen thanked KCC for their invitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen represents a public sector organisation who are currently working with Angus Council. Angus Council has requested the organisation to carry out an assessment with Angus Community Councils on “Improvement Services.” Their survey was recently circulated to Community Councils. • Karen is attending the KCC meeting to explore a few topics in relation to the value of the work done by Community Councils, by asking a few questions. • One of the main barriers of the Community Councils (CC) was diversity of membership. There is not a lot of awareness of the role of the CC. • Question: How do you think you might be able to increase the range of people involved in the CC and is there anything we can do? • A unanimous response: Get more younger people involved, i.e. the High School pupils. • Approach local organisations and request that they send a representative to sit on the CC. Kirriemuir has some excellent organisations, all doing great work by some very talented people. • Highlight what the CC does through social media and at the same time increase the social media presence. Using social media requires constant managing. Perhaps, get the High School involved. • The community appears to be unaware of who is on the CC and what they do. Use social media to make the public aware of who they can contact with issues. • Possible CC representatives from the Guides and Scouts. • Graham proposed that now that KCC's meetings are recorded on Zoom, that they are put out on YouTube. Is permission needed? • Cllr MacMillan Douglas made the point that the CC should not be standing on their own but working with Angus Council, via the elected members, as part of the process. 	

- Karen asked if training on social media would interest the CC. Yes, all in favour. GeorgeM pointed out that managing a Facebook page is an important commitment as it is essential it is kept up to date.
- Graham congratulated Jeanette for the information she circulates on social media but felt we must explore how do we get followers and how we keep the posts up there.
- Karen can make recommendations for such training, which is available on online platforms.
- **Question: If you could change one thing what would it be?**
- Get younger people interested in the CC and, subsequently, to become a Community Councillor.
- Additional funding to allow the CC to be more active in the community.
- Heather pointed out that the CC grant has dropped dramatically from £1020/year to this year's grant of £630. A small increase would help with purchasing leaflets, etc., as a tool to publicise the CC and improve CCC communication to the community of the services available to them.
- Give the CC more responsibility, not necessarily through money. Involve the CC in the Participatory Budget process.
- Cllr MacMillan Douglas suggested caution when discussing money. CC's are not elected and if you are going to change how any local authority money is used then there has to be a democratic process. Cllr MacMillan Douglas continued to congratulate the six CC's in Kirriemuir + Dean. They are all very active in different ways and have representatives from the local Church, various women's groups, etc. etc. However, they all have one thing in common – they are all over 21 years of age!
- GeorgeM pointed out that the reason CC's are not elected is because there is not enough interest in the CC, therefore, there isn't a queue to join. Currently, if someone is prepared to be a CC then they are co-opted straight on to the CC.
- **Question: What do you think are the main benefits people get from the CC and how do you know this?**
- KCC is a bridge between the community and Angus Council, via the elected members. The community can use the CC service to air their concerns. Prior to the pandemic, KCC regularly welcomed members of the public to their open meetings in Fairlie House, when the elected members would be present.
- When members of the community feel their issues have not been addressed by the various agencies, then the CC is another avenue to seek assistance. GeorgeM didn't think the CC did enough to assess the community's opinion of the CC and what they expect from the CC.
- Karen thanked the meeting and said their responses had been a great help. Her final question she thought may surprise the CC. **Question: Do you think people would be willing to pay for this pathway to the elected members?**
- Graham responded that the community begrudge the £30 they now have to pay for the emptying of the green bin, therefore, another charge would not prove popular. Payment is not the way to social value. Surely, social value is what the community is getting from the CC. However, the first step is to establish the role of CC and get this out to the community.
- Graham pointed out that KCC has organised three defibrillators around the town – if they save a life how do you put a price on that? The bigger social value picture needs to be considered.
- Graham highlighted the mobility audit he and Brenda had carried out recently around the town with one of the Angus Council Officers, with regard to mobility scooters. This audit had uncovered areas of concern around the town which have previously been overlooked. These areas are now in the process of being rectified.

- A proposal is in the pipeline to convert a telephone box into an art gallery. Of the four telephone boxes taken on by KCC, one had previously been used by addicts. This box is now improved and streamlined and a credit to the town.
- Kirriemuir is renowned for its generous support (both financially and voluntary help) of good causes, charities, etc. in its community over many years. The town's response to any appeal/project/donation is always one hundred percent, without hesitation.. It was, therefore, the general consensus of opinion that to ask the community to sign up to a "regular payment" for the services of their CC would be very unpopular and could prove counter-productive in the long term.
- Karen will send a copy of her report, via Lynn Hally, to KCC

Karen thanked the Community Councillors for taking the time to respond to her questions and said their feedback had been most helpful.

Karen Carrick left the meeting.

4. Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Report:

26 June to 25 July 2021:

Community Safety:

6 x Home fire safety visits

1 x Operational Intelligence visits

1 x Planning Meeting for large scale joint exercise

Incidents:

2 x Smoke detector operating

1 x AFA (Automated Fire Alarm)

2 x Fire (dwelling)

6 x Special service

Water Safety: Have fun and stay safe.

Sometimes it can be tempting to go for a dip in the river or loch, especially during the summer months but swimming in unsupervised, open water can be extremely dangerous. Open water can become very cold just a few feet under the surface and can cause cramps or "Cold Water Shock." Very cold temperatures can also affect your stamina and you may find your strength and ability to swim deteriorates rapidly. You might find yourself getting tired a lot more quickly than you would normally in a heated pool.

Open water can also look very calm on the surface but strong undercurrents, or unseen objects which could trap or injure you, can lie beneath. It is also important to remember not to enter the water if you have been drinking alcohol – alcohol and water do not mix.

To parents, guardians and teachers -

It is important to talk to children about their safety if they are playing near water. Have a conversation about it today and explain:

- They should never swim in an unsupervised area like lochs, rivers or ponds, where there is not an adult available to help if they get into trouble.
- It is much safer to go to a swimming pool where there is a lifeguard on duty.
- They should not play with or touch lifesaving equipment like life rings by the side of waterways. That equipment might be used to save a life.

5. Treasurer's Report:

£1083.92 in Bank, comprising £390.42 KCC funds, £693.50 Defib funds.
Grant received of £630.00, giving a total of **£1615.92**. Min Secretary Honorarium has been paid.

6. Matters Arising:

T Participatory Budget update:

- Cllr MacMillan Douglas apologised that he did not have an update. Mark Armstrong does not return from leave until Monday, 2 August. Heather reiterated that time was running out for the September deadline and expressed disappointment at the way PB has been managed, with no one being in contact with the CC.
- Cllr Macmillan Douglas proposed that he will speak to Mark Armstrong on his return from leave, thereafter arranging a special meeting as soon as possible with KCC, which will include the elected members. All agreed to a meeting.

B9 Inappropriate parking at Sidlaw Range update: Agenda item

B14 Lynn Hally's non-response to proposed Zoom payment: Agenda item

B15 Motor Homes facilities in Kirrie update: Agenda item

B21 Relocation of temporary bench from the Hill: Heather reported that a lovely bench has been erected on the Hill by the family of Mr. Doig.

B23 Abandoned vehicles around the town: Agenda item

B25 Common Good Fund representative to attend August meeting: Ian Lorimer, Angus Council, will attend the August Zoom meeting.

B26 Ground near Fire Station update for Irene Robertson: Agenda item.

B27 Wild flower space proposal at steps near Tannage Brae: Agenda item.

B28 Painting Den benches in "Season" theme: Agenda item.

B29 Marywell Brae telephone box – BT update: BT's response was circulated. This has been sent for consultation. Ongoing.

B30 Survey on public transport services in Angus: Survey was circulated to CC's for completion.

B31 Focus Group – Community Councils for winter road services review and public transport review. Heather reported that this was a request for the public to participate in looking after pavements near their property. In her response to the survey, Heather asked about insurance for the public in the event of an accident. Cllr MacMillan Douglas offered to check on this and report back.

GeorgeM reported that last winter Croft Terrace had an issue in getting a gritter to clear their road, because at that stage Croft Terrace road was unadopted. The residents were subsequently supplied with a "sand bin and a shovel" so that they could clear the road themselves. Given the age and ability of the Croft Terrace residents, this had not been thought through and was a totally inappropriate situation.

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AMD

7. Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Julie Bell reported:

- Whilst July is recess for Angus Council, which means no committee meetings, there has been plenty to keep me occupied.
- I have been involved in the interview process for the new Chief Officer for the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership. Gail Smith has been covering the vacancy on an interim basis since February 2020. I am delighted to report that she has now been appointed to the substantive post after a rigorous process.
- I attended the Voluntary Action Angus AGM on 8 July and have continued to be involved in focus group work for the Angus Women's Centre, an online resource to meet the needs of a wide range of women across the country, to ease the way they access support.
- The absolute high spot of the summer has been the Kirriemuir Street art project. Signs of Change. As a steering group member, it has been great to be part of judging the open call submissions from artists. Graham Galloway and I had a very eventful trip to Doune to collect huge cubes which feature in the activity. I managed to help out at an indoor session.
- I have continued to deal with caseload. I had asked Roy for the dash cam video from his taxi regarding an incident relating to the school bus. I am happy to share that with Officers when it comes through.
- I detail below the results of a speed survey on the Brechin Road which was carried out on behalf of a constituent. I felt you might be interested in the results and to have reassurance that Officers are monitoring it. The attachments relate to this survey.
- As promised, hereunder (and attached) is the speed data for Brechin Road, Kirriemuir. The results are self explanatory but should you need further information then please let me know. Hopefully, in time the speeds will reduce further as motorists get used to the new 20 mph limit. I have plans to introduce further 20 mph road marks in towns and these will be provided in due course.
- **AM check – 09.20 to 10.20**

Average speed – 23 mph

85% speed – 28 mph

Highest speed – 32 mph

Number of cars – 82

- **PM check – 16.00 to 16.55**

Average speed – 24 mph

85% speed – 29 mph

Highest speed – 36 mph

Number of cars – 100

On behalf of Kirriemuir Community Council, Heather has sent condolences to Cllr Julie Bell on the sad loss of her mother.

Cllr Ronnie Proctor reported:

I have been on leave recently, therefore, all issues against my name are ongoing.

I have been active in organising the removal of a large volume of rubbish from a Council tenanted property, for which the neighbours are extremely grateful. I have carried out a few Civic engagements over the past weeks and have been active in addressing housing, environmental and other issues.

Cllr Angus MacMillan Douglas reported:

- I have handed over to Cllr Mark Almond my role of Finance Convenor, which I have held since May 2017. Over this period we have transformed the Council's financial position

from one of facing a seemingly, unresolvable deficit and service cuts, to one of maintaining key services and building reserves for investment.

- I am continuing as Depute Leader of the Council, which I have held since September 2017. As such, I shall continue to deputise for the Leader (Cllr Fairweather) in such activities as: Chairing Group meetings, attending Confederation of Scottish Local Authority Leaders' meetings, attending weekly meetings with The Council Chief Exec, etc.
- I shall continue to fulfil other long-term roles, e.g. lead on economic redevelopment of Angus, including encouraging economically dynamic companies into Angus and to start-up in Angus.
- During the month I have continued to follow up on various issues raised by constituents across the Ward of Kirriemuir + Dean.

8. **Correspondence:** Circulated during the month.

9. **Planning:** No report.

10. AOCB

10.1. **Graham** reported that Kirrie Connections hope to be opened in mid August. Following the review of the Covid restrictions on 9 August, he said it may be feasible for KCC to hold their August meeting in Kirrie Connections. Heather thanked Graham for the offer, however, she referred to Lynn Hally's notification, discussed at a recent KCC meeting, that all Community Councils should continue with Zoom meetings until at least the end of the year..

10.2. **Graham** reported that the Art Project has raised £25,000. Two gable ends are being considered along with some smaller sites. Graham paid thanks to George and the Angus Glens Rotary for their support. *Congratulations and well done !*

10.3. **Brenda** highlighted the proposed gym equipment discussed at the last meeting and reported that Blairgowrie has installed a similar, successful, project down by the river.

10.4. **GeorgeM** raised an accessibility issue at Croft Terrace, Tannage Brae and the Health Centre. Poor access for wheelchairs. The ramp up to Croft Terrace from the Health Centre stops abruptly near the top and is replaced with steps which is not practical for wheelchair users. Heather said this issue had been discussed a while ago and there had been plans to extend the ramp at the top and remove the stairs. August Agenda item.

10.5. **GeorgeM** reported that when he was on the Community Council many years ago the CC used to run a Quiz – Top of the Town Quiz – complete with a trophy. It had been running since the 1960's. George thinks it would be a good idea to resurrect the Quiz and offered to try and locate the shield, as a start. All agreed a good idea. Go ahead.

10.6. **GeorgeA** has been approached by one of the Den volunteers. There has been no communication from Angus Council's representative, Karen Dillon, and the volunteers are becoming frustrated. There are various small painting jobs outstanding in the Den, e.g. rails, etc. The volunteers approached Parks Department for their help but received a negative response. The volunteers also asked Parks Department for black bags, etc., so that they could collect litter. Unfortunately, another negative

Agenda
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response. The volunteers would like Karen Dillon to carry out a site visit so that they can discuss the situation with her. Cllr MacMillan Douglas offered to investigate. On behalf of KCC, can GeorgeA thank the volunteers in the Den for a wonderful job on behalf of the community!

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10.7. Can everyone please complete the surveys.

Also, please submit any apologies directly to the Secretary, Jeanette.

11. Date of next Meeting: Wednesday, 25 August, Zoom at 7 pm

31.7.21

Jeanette E Riocl
Secretary