



Kirriemuir Community Council

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM MEETING of 30 June 2021

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

In attendance: Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Cllr Angus MacMillan Douglas, Cllr Julie, Bell, Deirdre Bennett (part time)

Minutes produced by Jean Henderson from a Zoom recording.

	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies: Graham Galloway, George Meecham, George Aitken, Frances Havenga</p> <p>2. Approval of 26 May 2021 Minutes: Agreed as a true and correct record. Proposed by Brenda and seconded by Irena.</p> <p>3. Police Report: See attached. Irena referred to the item on shoplifting and the problem the Police are experiencing in identifying the culprits because they are wearing masks. Cllr Bell reported that this had recently been raised at an Angus Council meeting.</p> <p>4. Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Report: 24 May to 26 June 2021: Community Safety: 11 x Home Fire Safety Visits 3 x Operational Intelligence Visits Incidents: 1 x Smoke detector operating 7 x AFA (Automated Fire Alarm) 2 x Secondary Fire 1 x Fire (building) 2 x Fire (vehicle) 1 x Fire (dwelling) See SFRS leaflets attachments</p> <p>5. Treasurer's Report: £1143.92 in bank, comprising £450.42 KCC funds and £693 Defib funds.</p> <p>Heather welcomed Deirdre Bennett who had come along to the meeting to discuss her proposed art work project for Marywell Brae telephone box.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This telephone box is in a conservation area, therefore, BT has been approached for approval for KCC to adopt the box.• The exterior of the box would remain red in colour. The interior would be changed.• Deirdre has a power point covering the details of her proposal. She will send this to	

Jeanette for circulation to KCC.

- A colleague of Deirdre's currently runs a similar telephone box, very successfully, in St. Andrews. A lot of artists, students, etc. exhibit their work in it and Deirdre's colleague maintains the box.
- The proposal for Marywell Brae box is to run it as an art gallery, contemporary art.
- Deirdre is a lecturer, teaches art and is a practising artist. She has a degree and teaches ethics so she is well aware of what can and cannot be exhibited in a public area, i.e. health and safety, etc.
- Deirdre wished to dispel any concerns regarding passing the telephone box on to someone very new into the town, like herself, but she wanted to reassure everyone that she now considers Kirriemuir her home and is totally committed to this project.
- How it works. A recent exhibition in Fife involved a couple of artists so it was very much inter-active. However, it all depends on the art work.
- Deirdre proposes engaging with the local school children, whereby they can present their art work for display in the Telephone Box. A competition could follow with a winner announced every year.
- The artists who wished to use the Telephone Box would present their proposal and Deirdre would decide suitability. It has to be curated.
- Cllr MacMillan Douglas pointed out that if the Box is in a conservation area then there could be planning issues and Stephanie Porter, Planning, Angus Council, would need to be involved. Cllr Bell said she would look into this also.
- Deirdre will look after the exterior of the Box – bring it back to its former glory – and maintain the interior, also.
- *The following day (1 July) Jeanette received an acknowledgement of the application and BT will now arrange for a consultation to take place. They will advise in due course the outcome.* Planning will also be contacted.
- Heather asked for a show of hands in favour of Deirdre's proposal. All in favour.
- Irena reported that the Box at Knowehead is looking so much better after being painted. Irena is still awaiting to hear from Mr. Stott regarding the windows, which he is supplying free of charge. Heather offered to investigate and report back.

Heather thanked Deirdre for her Presentation and she left the meeting.

6. Matters Arising:

- **T Participatory Budget update – letter to Mark Armstrong:** Heather's letter to Mark Armstrong had been circulated and Heather asked KCC for comments and how they wished to proceed. It was suggested that some of KCC's questions were left unanswered. Heather suggested asking Mark Armstrong, or one of his colleagues, to attend a KCC meeting in an attempt to resolve the situation.
- Cllr MacMillan Douglas pointed out that this was all discussed at the KCC meeting two months ago and Mark Armstrong's response echoes everything that was discussed then.
- Heather pointed out that the cut off date is September which does not leave a lot of time for the Community Councils to submit funding applications.
- No public consultation, communication or publicity has taken place. The public and Community Councils were supposed to be involved in the Budget.
- Cllr MacMillan Douglas responded that there is no possible way it could have gone out to Groups because the Paper laying down the rules was only passed in May of this year. No action could have been taken prior to the Paper being passed. Now that the Paper has been passed, Officers will now be issuing details. Kirriemuir + Dean and Forfar are combined for this. The Officer is Ian Cochrane. Cllr MacMillan Douglas said he can understand the frustration which has been highlighted.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather reiterated “where are we at the moment on this” - why were Community Councils not involved, given they had attended meetings, some involving training, but are now being told they will not now be involved in the decision making. This was first raised in 2019. • Cllr MacMillan Douglas offered to take KCC's comments back to Ian Cochrane and also clarify the details of the Paper and report back. 	AMD
<p>B9 Inappropriate parking at Sidlaw Range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Bell responded to this – see Councillors' Reports. Cllr Bell suggested that perhaps KCC could carry out a consultation on this with the public. The Elected Members would support. If a public consultation went ahead then Heather suggested including Motor Homes in Kirriemuir. • Cllr Proctor suggested a better location for the proposed Motor Homes parking would be Tannage Brae, where there is a toilet facility. However, he suggested awaiting the Officers' report before going ahead with a public consultation. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate and report back. • Regarding the Sidlaw range parking issue, Roy maintains it is dangerous where the school bus is parked on a Friday, not where the bus drops off and collects but where it is parked up for the afternoon.. He has video evidence to prove this. • Discussion ensued at length. Fishers, who operate the school bus, are contracted by Angus Council, as is Roy. If residents are complaining about the bus parked on a Friday then surely it is Angus Council's responsibility (they engaged Fishers as a contractor) to instruct Fishers to find an alternate parking space and resolve the situation. • Cllr Bell will report back on the outcome. 	RP JB
<p>B12 Beechwood Parking issue: Angus Council's response to this was circulated. Their decision is that no yellow lines are necessary. Heather suggested that KCC had done everything they could on this issue and, perhaps, residents should take this up with Angus Council. Cllr Bell will let the Officers know that their response was not well received and see if there is any movement on this. Heather will advise the residents. (Off Agenda)</p>	JB/HK
<p>B13 Varnishing of benches in Square: More varnishing required. Awaiting Karen Dillon's return from leave to move this forward. The “unpaid work teams” are not doing the same amount of work as in the past and only smaller jobs are undertaken. (Off Agenda)</p>	
<p>B14 Lynn Hally's response to Zoom payment: Jeanette reported there has been no response from Lynn Hally to date. Cllr MacMillan Douglas said he didn't think there was a problem and it could be Lynn has been heavily involved in other work. Cllr Bell understood that it is the intention that all Community Councils will have their costs covered. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate and report back.</p>	RP
<p>B14 Motor Homes Facilities in Kirriemuir: See above.</p>	
<p>B16 Yellow Lines at Croft Terrace: Confirmed Croft Terrace is on the list. 18 month to 2 years window. (Off Agenda)</p>	
<p>B19 Bi-Annual meeting feedback: Interesting meeting. Heather reported most of the topics were Covid related. Some groups could do with more help – barriers, hand sanitising, etc. Groups should get in touch with VAA who could possible assist. Not a lot of items on the Agenda. Risk assessments and public health were discussed.</p>	

B20. Ballinshoe derelict building issue: Cllr Proctor has spoken with Alan Winter, Planning, and he does not think there is a danger to the public from the old castle. Cllr Proctor has also been assured by someone who is involved in the project that they will monitor the area. (Off Agenda)

B21 Relocation of temporary bench from the Hill: Ongoing. Cllr Proctor will speak to Karen Dillon. Irena asked if there was any reason why there can't be more than two benches on the Hill. Cllr Bell didn't see a problem for more benches to be installed and suggested Karen Dillon would be the contact for this.

- Discussion ensued on a suggestion for a "fitness circuit" in Kirriemuir, either on the Hill or the Den.
- Cllr Proctor advised that Kevin Robertson (Angus Council) has been approached by two local groups about this. Cllr Proctor said his preference would be for the Hill and suggested KCC take the lead on this.
- Irena reported that KRG has been enquiring about fitness groups in the Den. The toilets there are now looking very good. There are members of KRG who volunteer in the Den and they are trying to make the Den as attractive and popular as they can. KRG's proposal was for more gym equipment or additional equipment for the children, e.g. a putting green, not for a fitness circuit.
- Cllr Proctor said that wasn't the information he had received, therefore, he will revisit the subject with Kevin Robertson.
- Irena reported a new Kirriemuir Tourist App is about to be introduced with includes the Den.

B22 More benches at Glebe: Ongoing

B23 Abandoned vehicles around the town, specifically at Mike Shaw's: Cllr Proctor will investigate further with Richie Strachan, Angus Council, when he returns from leave. Roy highlighted a number of vehicles "abandoned" around the town. Cllr Bell said there is an Angus Council website (Suzanne Austin) to report such incidents.

B24 Slade Gardens needing extra signage: Cllr Proctor has been advised that the sign has been moved and it is considered one sign is sufficient. (Off Agenda)

7. **Councillors' Reports:** All circulated prior to the meeting. Jeanette asked Cllr MacMillan Douglas if he could please submit his report by the Monday before the meetings at the latest.

Cllr Ronnie Proctor reports:

- I have been involved with a number of constituents' requests/problems this month which takes up quite a lot of time.
- Chairing the Bi-Annual Community Council meeting was both enjoyable and informative from the feedback of the Community Councils who attended.
- As a Director, I have taken part in Board Meetings of Angus Alive, discussing the way forward with the organisation.
- Also attended Directors meetings of Voluntary Action Angus at the Cross in Forfar.
- I chaired most of the full Angus Council meetings on 24 June and then I attended the funeral service for Andrew Welsh MP, MSP, and former Provost of Angus and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Angus.
- Attended Tayside and Central Transport Partnership (TACTRAN) where I have firmly

RP

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lobbied for active travel projects within Kirriemuir and Dean, hopefully with some success.

- My role as Veterans Champion has also meant that I have attended various virtual meetings, including those concerning housing and mental health.
- Their Royal Highnesses, the Earl and Countess of Forfar, visited Forfar recently and I was in attendance when they visited Forfar Golf Club. The Chief Executive accompanied them thereafter to two, shorter visits.
- I have tried to get an update on the points from the previous Kirriemuir Community Council meeting, however, I have not been as successful as I have in the past. This has been due to some Officers being on leave. I hope to have further updates for the meeting on 30 June.
- Croft Terrace is confirmed as being adopted.
- I took part in the first actual Citizenship Ceremony two weeks ago. This is the first since the start of lockdown. There were six new citizens from Asia, USA, France and the Middle East
- Attended a virtual meeting of the Provosts Association on Friday.

Cllr Julie Bell reports:

Hope you're all well and avoided the recent spike in Kirriemuir's COVID-19 infection rate, which was quite a bit of a worry, and that the vaccination programme is reaching you OK.

Since our last meeting, it's been hectic, and a lot has been achieved. This week past was jam-packed and an epic full Council meeting on Thursday 24th June, started at 10am instead of its usual 2pm and ended at 4.25pm. If you want to watch at any time here's the link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtdcoPEFDA_CikJMiJjDtA

We had Children and Learning Committee on May 25 and approved the council's formal assessment process for young people that replaces exams in the current situation. The Director's narrative around this and the staged process gave us comfort that there are sufficient checks and balances to allow young people a fair assessment of their course work. If any student or parent has any concerns, please don't hesitate to raise with me via my council email address: CllrBell@angus.gov.uk

I've attended Scrutiny and Audit Committee (June 1) and the issues I keep raising with Angus Division of Police Scotland around hate crime and gender-based violence, around inconsistent data capture I have also raised with Public Health Scotland. There are national issues that require to be addressed. In fact, at the PHS board development session on Wed June 23, gender-based violence formed a major part of the discussion and I have huge support from the chair and the rest of the board on this.

I continue to join the steering group for an online initiative to improve access for women to local services being led by Angus Women's Aid.

We attended an elected members briefing on the council Mainstreaming of Equalities Reporting; another briefing on councillors' roles both strategically and avoiding being too operational; I took part in Angus Carers' Centre Carers' Conversation on June 9 for Carers Week (more on that later); various meetings around suicide prevention, including one with a director of PHS who has this in her remit.

I've attended COSLA training on the EU Settlement Scheme, should that come in handy with constituents. On the back of gender-responsive budgeting training I attended and a request I made to the Improvement Service (IS), the Scottish Women's Budget Group and the IS have issued a briefing to all councillors and councils on the topic.

I took part in the Great Angus Beach Clean and attended its launch with Keep Scotland Beautiful at East Haven on Friday May 28 and the Arbroath beach clean on Saturday May 29, as Angus's Marine Litter and Habitat Champion.

On Wednesday June 23, I chaired the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AH&SCP) Audit Committee, then attend the full AH&SCP Integrated Joint Board (IJB) in the afternoon.

I am delighted to report that, in light of the paper about the waiving of carers' charges and third sector funding that I had paused two meetings ago, we have now ensured that Kirrie Connections is receiving core funding from the IJB at £50,000 a year for the next 3 years and we approved an additional £50k for one year to employ a development worker to extend the Meeting Centre model further across Angus. In another paper on the day, I asked if development work on a dementia care pathway (something I've been pushing for years too!) could be added into a workplan as it overlaps both older people's care and mental health. This was agreed too. The element about how unpaid carers' allowances are agreed requires further work and carers will continue to receive their current level of funding until this is properly thought through. Please be assured that I will not support any reduction in support available to carers. They have borne significant additional pressure over the pandemic and I absolutely refuse to allow them to be penalised. I had support from the Carers Rep on the IJB and from the Interim Chief Officer of Voluntary Action Angus on this, and the Interim Chief Officer of the IJB is also on board. I mention this because this is a major achievement not only for Kirrie Connections but for carers across the whole of Angus and I am committed to making sure carers' voices are heard at the IJB. Kirrie Connections is a local anchor institution in our community and extends its reach much further afield due to the skills and passion of its Chief Officer, Graham Galloway – we cannot afford to lose this organisation and it remains a priority for me.

I am also involved in the Signs of Change street art initiative with DD8 and local artists. I was asked onto the steering group and we are very excited about the progress that's being made. You may be aware that the original benefactor, who kicked this off with a significant donation to mark his retirement, Neil Stevenson, died very suddenly recently. With his family's support and approval, we are going ahead with this in his memory and donations are being sought to make this a bigger project than first anticipated. Here is the link in case you feel able to contribute to this special project:

https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/SignsofChange?fbclid=IwAR1rgfr0VGxWdl2jtny1jIRdJS_kzMY_USG0_hckskSAvDKEWvxxhyYyWic

Caseload has been significant over the past few weeks and very varied. Our Roads Team and the Road Safety Traffic Co-ordinators Group have reported back that they feel the issue at the corner of Beechwood Place do not represent a significant concern to them as any action would push the issue further into residential areas. However, they did agree to extending the lining at the Forfar Road/Morrison Road end and included that in the existing traffic order that was live.

I have escalated the issue of the Den House title deeds to the head of finance to support the property manager to prioritise this with our legal team.

The bus parking issue update from service manager:

This 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 Coordination 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 appreciate this may provide a solution in the medium to long term but it 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 long-standing locations 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. The Council do not have any available off-street locations that could accommodate a coach but should the community council have a suggestion, we would happy to discuss this alternative with Fishers Tours.

My personal view was that perhaps this is something that, if the community council wishes to undertake a temperature check with the community to ascertain views before progressing, that might be a good project. Happy to discuss.

Cllr Angus MacMillan Douglas reports:

- Helping further develop economic recovery in Angus. Main step this month has been working on economic opportunities in Montrose.
- Helping to develop the Angus Council Paper on Consultation and Engagement.
- Working with Officers to develop the Council Paper on Paths and Cycle-ways. This included the Kinnordy Path and Newtyle cycle-way.
- Review of use of Common Good Funds.
- Working with Officers on the recovery from Covid and effect on AH&SCP.
- Working with Angus Council and Scot Excel in improvements in the economic efficiency of Procurement.
- With Leader and Chief Exec, regular monitoring of Covid position in Tayside.

8. **Correspondence:** Circulated

9. **Planning:** No report.

10. AOCB

10.1. Cllr Bell reported that she has advised Irene Robertson (Planters Group) to contact Andrew Barnes, Angus Council, with regard to planters. This is covered by KCC insurance and there is no charge.

10.2. Cllr Bell has been asked to speak to Ian Lorimer, Angus Council, regarding the Common Good fund. How it came about, how it is managed, and does Angus Council run it. Cllr MacMillan Douglas reported that he is already briefed on this and was willing to give a report to the meeting.

- There is very little in the Kirriemuir Common Good Fund and Cllr MacMillan Douglas explained that this is due to the lack of donations to the town over the years plus no property assets in Kirriemuir generating interest into the Fund.
- Arbroath and Forfar, for example, have a very healthy Common Good Fund. They receive regular donations and also they benefit from “interest” coming in from Websters Theatre in Abroath and the Reid Hall in Forfar.
- Cllr MacMillan Douglas said that for some reason the Funds in Kirriemuir have not been invested but left in a Bank current account, therefore, no growth in the Funds. Kirriemuir is the only town in Angus which does not have their Funds invested.
- Cllr Proctor pointed out that Forfar, Brechin, etc. have hereditary properties. Carnoustie and Monifieth don't have any Common Good Funds. Kirriemuir has a total of £7,500 but it does not generate interest.
- Cllr Proctor said he would welcome someone from Ian Lorimer's office to give a talk to KCC on this matter.
- There was a suggestion a while ago for every Common Good Fund to be put into one Fund and shared equally. This was not accepted.
- Cllr Bell will organise for someone to attend the July KCC meeting regarding the Common Good Fund. All agreed.

JB

10.3. **Irena** asked if there was an update for Irene Robertson regarding the ground near the Fire Station. Cllr Bell will chase this up.

JB

10.4. **Irena** reported that the Planters Group want to make the area near the steps at Tannage Brae a “wild flower” space. Cllr Bell will investigate with Karen Dillon.

JB

10.5. **Heather** reported on the youngsters who have been painting the toilets in the Den and done an excellent job. One of the youngsters asked if they could paint the benches also, in a “Season” theme – two benches painted in “winter” and two benches painted in “summer.” Cllr Bell is on the Steering Group for the Art Project in Kirriemuir and said she would discuss this with the Steering Group. Cllr Bell asked for Karen Dillon to be involved. Cllr Bell congratulated the youngsters and said the area now looked amazing. “Well done...”

JB

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday, 28 July, at 7 pm, via Zoom.

6.7.21

Jeanette E. Resal
Secretary