

MURROES AND WELLBANK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Virtual Meeting held on Thursday 21st October 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: S. Anderson(Chair & Planning); A. Martin(Vice Chair); G. Reid(Treas); G. Anderson(Youth Rep); G. Cowper(Secy); I. Robertson(Stop the Crem); Cllr B. Whiteside; Cllr S. Hands; K. Gerrard; A. Fraser; J.Bell; J.Crozier. G. Anderson (youth Rep)

Apologies: D. Murdoch; G. Millar; K. Smith.

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

GR asked that 'Matters Arising' be put to the end of the meeting for others to join. This was agreed.

Previous Minutes

These were read and approved.

Police Report

SA stated no Police Report had been received to date. He had contacted Police Scotland but no reply yet. BW stated Constable Dawn McGaughy was off on long term sick. BW advised emailing General Police Scotland site.

JC raised concern that two cars had crashed on her land at the blind corner near Murroes Church. One was a hit and run and the other a drunk driver. Both reported to police.

After the meeting Police Scotland made contact and provided an update for the area.

Between 20/09/2021 and 12/10/2021 there had been six calls made to Police Scotland in the area, two with Murroes P.S alarm activation, a road traffic matter, a stolen motor cycle from the blacksmith building and a report of suspicious vehicle.

Police Scotland report to be issued out with the minutes.

Secretary Report

SA welcomed AF and JB to the meeting.

GC raised the issue of correspondence from Angus Council was overwhelming the amount of information and SA asked SH if there was any update in support for minute taking and Secretary support from Angus Council. SH informed the meeting that other CC groups had been in contact with Shelley Haig and suggested Lynne Hally of Angus Council may help with Minute Taking. It was suggested to invite Shelley Haig to our next meeting. SH suggested info being distributed to help CC regarding attracting new members to join CC along with printing, etc.

Treasurers Report

Our grant of £400 had been received from Angus Council along with an additional £100. There are still outstanding Hall Rentals from 2020 to be paid.

Planning

SA stated there were a number of planning applications:

New house at Duntrune Steadings.

New house at Bankhead Cottages, Monikie.

Swimming Pool extension at Gagie house, Duntrune.

New house at Wellbank Cottages.

Ballumbie Golf Course fencing extension.

New extension at Bucklers Wynd, Kellas.

There were no points raised on the above application.

Matters Arising

Proposed Crematorium

IR provided an update on the information recently added to the Angus Planning portal and from his email exchanges with the planning officer. He also requested two actions by our Councillors.

The Application is still undetermined by the Planning Officer (i.e handling report containing either a refusal or a conditional approval not finished) and only available information is that it is anticipated to be determined before the end of 2021.

- 1) First of all thanks to Councillor Whiteside for obtaining the findings of the road junction studies that Angus Council Roads Dept carried out in early June. These confirmed that at least 3 of the junctions on the approach roads to the proposed site have sub-standard visibility splays. Dangerous to push more traffic through them.
- 2) It's now one year since local residents were first notified of the landowner's intention to submit this planning application.
- 3) Outstanding consultees - SEPA have withdrawn their holding objection as they were satisfied with the additional information provided by the applicant in response to SEPA's questions. No other consultees expected to comment.
- 4) Applicant has supplied further information on apparent public transport options (use of Fishers school buses, existing commuter bus services into and out of Dundee and local buses at Hawick Drive) in an attempt to tick the sustainability box.
- 5) IR and another local resident have submitted further comments on this pointing about the lack of suitability of such bus services due to infrequency, lack of nearby bus stops with footway link to proposed site and fact these services do not serve the main population centres of Angus e.g. Forfar, Monifieth, Carnoustie etc
- 6) Applicant has supplied further irrelevant data in support of their false claim that the Angus Council area needs another crematorium to satisfy demand.
- 7) IR has challenged all this and again pointed out that the recent UK wide study by the Competition & Markets Authority is calling for price transparency and potentially price control to address 'funeral poverty' rather than an increase in number of service providers into a volume constrained market which would ultimately be counterproductive.
- 8) In the 18 day period 4th – 21st October there have been 4 accidents on the approaches to the proposed site (2 at South Kingennie , 2 at Burnside of Duntrune). Police were informed of the accidents and IR has submitted further comments on the unsuitability of the local road network to accept the predicted 39% uplift in traffic volume that would result were this application approved.
- 9) Due to resource constraints within the planning department at Angus Council, they are still working on the determination of this application. On the planning portal the determination date is still shown as 13/2/21 and the expiry date as 25/6/21.

Requested Actions:

For the Councillors to please formally request that the Northern and Western approaches to the proposed site are fully assessed by Angus Council Roads Service for their suitability for this level of increase in traffic. Currently these routes have not been assessed at all and recent accident evidence demonstrates a real safety concern with them.

For the Councillors to please impress upon the relevant parties within Angus Council the need to bring this matter to a conclusion (determination of the application) as soon as possible please.

IR stated there had been 4 crashes in 18 days. BW stated she could not comment on any aspect of the planning procedure. SH suggested sending the planning department information and pictures of the crashes.

GR stated any new houses in the area would impact on the roads in the area along with mourners traffic.

JC was not in agreement with the suggestion mourners could use school buses to access the proposed Crematorium. The buses are only one in the morning and one in the afternoon, the suggestion was unanimously rejected by residents at the meeting.

Brighty Wood

AF stated nothing had been taken forward by Brighty Wood Group to increase the East side gate width. The Wood Group had been contacted by Angus Council, but as The Chair of the group was busy with the harvest, Angus Council would get back in touch. This had not happened. AF is to contact Angus Council personally and raise concerns. SH added that disabled access width was a minimum of 1.4m.

De Fibs

SA is contacting local businesses to find out if they would be willing to purchase a De-fib and place it outside their premises and to train staff in its use. SA will look to see if funding available to help organizations with purchase costs of De-fibs. KG stated Wellbank Club would be interested in accessing training for De-fibs. SA will forward company training details to KG for Wellbank Hall to contact.

Play Park Wellbank

KG confirmed the consultation process had been progressed with resident and 110 responses to date. Phase 2 of the process involving the local Primary Schools and feedback ideas for the type of equipment local children would like to see at the park.

KG stated Wellbank Hall Committee had contacted Softplay and several other companies regarding play equipment for the park area.

There are to be site visits with Cllr Fotheringham and a member of staff from Angus Council Parks Department. A Focus Group has been set up to deal with the Play Park funding and consultation. The Hall Committee had been in consultation with SSE and hopeful of funding support.

There is to be a Craft Fair on 28th November 2021 in Wellbank Hall.

Roads

The pop-up police officer that Police Scotland had placed at Westhall Terrace had been stolen after approx 2 days. Chain had been cut. AM stated speeding through this section of road is well in excess of 30mph. Measures were needed to reduce the speed of traffic.

It was suggested a Police Officer be sent out to Murroes School, as all requests to stop parking by parents etc on the road had been unsuccessful. Northmuir School has a parent/guardian/resident that puts out cones to prevent parking and this has been successful. It was thought a Lollipop person would help, but due to the numbers at Murroes P.S this would be an issue. A Zebra Crossing was suggested.

A path from Kellas to Murroes P.S may help reduce the number of vehicles parking. Murroes Primary School car park is not being used and it was suggested if this could be increased to access the school buses, this could help.

GR stated the pavement from Westhall Terrace to Murroes P.S is too narrow.

Christmas Lights

SA stated that with the SSE funding, the CC look to purchase Solar lights/Christmas Trees for the local Primary Schools in the area. Everyone agreed this would be a good idea. KG suggested SA contact Mattocks Head Teacher Gary Robertson.

Angus Council only provide Christmas Trees to areas that have previously received support and would not extend this to any new areas requesting festive funding, which is disappointing.

AOCB

Wellbank Hall

KG informed the meeting, Wellbank Hall had a busy diary of event for 2021 and were considering closing the diary. Their funds are quite low and it was hoped with the Christmas/Craft Fair, this would help with funding. The Wellbank Hall is looking for a new Chairman and Treasurer along with additional Committee Members.

The Wellbank Hall are to have a Park Consultation Focus Group to help with understanding what the local resident want as part of the Park Development. The Wellbank Group received £1,000 from the CC through the SSE Community Funding.

DMcN reminded the group of the Thursday Night Youth Project. There are approx 20 pupils from P6 to S2 with various activities throughout the evening.

Electric Charge Points

It was noted until Wellbank Car Park has been re-surfaced, no charge points would be installed. The Welbank Hall Group have applied for funding from SSE for the car park, and Angus Council may be willing through external funding, to install a charging point at the Hall. It was also hoped to have an electric charging point at Murroes Primary School.

Proposed Solar Farm

AF and JB had attended a Developers virtual meeting. The proposed area is to be 300 acres and may extend to Leyshade Farm. It would be for a period of 25/40 years with high fencing/glare and a possible de-valuing of surround properties.

SA stated as no planning application had been received, he could not comment, but did request a detailed map from consultants showing the development. As this is still at the consultation stage, people should still be made aware of the proposal.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

NEXT MEETING 2ND DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM.