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## MONIFIETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9th DECEMBER 2021

**Chairperson:** Ben Nicoll

**Present;** Sheena Cochrane, Stewart Ellis, Jack Brand, Rob Crossland & John Thornton.

**Others:** Councillor Beth Whiteside, Leanne Wilson, Shelley Hague and Peter Morton.

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Ben Nicoll welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting. .

Apologies were received from Peter Morrison, Hazel Brand, Andy Dingwall and Councillor Sheila Hands.

#### **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.

##### **Matters Arising.**

John Thornton reported he had not as yet sent a letter regarding the pedestrian crossing in Ferry Road. Shelley Hague advised an email be sent to her as she is working with Lisa Chiles on the matter of another faulty pedestrian crossing in Arbroath.

Ben Nicoll advised he had been informed by Andy Dingwall that Monifieth Community Council would be involved in the consultations for the new school.

He also stated the vacancies for invigilators had been filled.

#### **3. Shelley Hague, Community Council Consultation.**

Ben Nicoll introduced Shelley Hague and Peter Morton from Angus Council, who had been invited to give advice on ways to encourage new members and the retention of existing members of the Community Council. Shelley acknowledged councillors are doing a great job but said there has been volunteer fatigue throughout Angus and we are not the only Council to be affected. People are unaware of the amount of work done by Community Councillors; all on a voluntary basis and there is a need to publicise the hard work undertaken. In the run up to elections next year, there will be a campaign to generate interest and encourage new members to consider joining councils. She stated there may be assistance available from Angus Council for secretarial roles in the meantime and asked if we could keep going until October next year. The general feeling is that no one intends to leave immediately, but concerns were expressed that the general public and new members have false expectations of what a community council can do and the extent of their powers. Shelley stated a new service leader has been appointed and she will look to reducing the burden of paperwork and emails on councils concentrating on one publication like "What's On" to contain most of the new material in one condensed newsletter. There may be some money in the budget to have a paid resource to do minutes and the use of new technology may help.

It was agreed that Angus Council are better placed with wider coverage to publicise the issues through their Communications Team and the Improvement Service.

Beth Whiteside commented that most Community Councils meet every 2 months whereas we have at least 10 meetings a year. This was discussed and it was agreed this would lessen the workload and encourage members to attend if there was a lesser frequency for attending. Ben Nicoll proposed we move to bi monthly meetings and this was seconded by John Thornton. Jack Brand questioned whether this would serve our purpose and it was agreed we would carry this out and insert extra meetings if and as required.

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#### **4. Correspondence.**

Ben Nicoll has compiled a report for Seagreen in relation to the funding programme – this is to be cascaded to all community councillors.

Grange Primary School have been invited to the February meeting to make a presentation regarding the improvements planned for their grounds.

Email received regarding events and funding for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Discussed and it was thought the car park at the Vault could be used for an event. It was agreed such an event is a good idea and Sheena is to investigate funding opportunities and the logistics. Deferred to next meeting for full discussion.

Email inviting comment re the future of Lady Haig wreath making. Discussed. No action.

A questionnaire has been received from H M Fire Inspectorate and this will be completed by the Secretary. Stewart Ellis asked if there was any mention of the legal requirement for linked smoke and heat detectors and if any assistance could be given to members of the public on lower incomes as this could be a substantial burden. Enquiries to be made. There is unlikely to be legal action in the immediate future if householders have not yet carried out the installations required by law, though it is likely there will be input from insurance companies in the event of a fire. The cost of having them fitted by a contractor is believed to be in the region of £250 though what were described as fully compliant alarms are available in local stores for less.

John Thornton reported he had arranged for additional insurance cover for the Christmas Lights at a cost of £112.00. Stewart Ellis to send cheque to Angus Council.

Email re Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. Discussed and it was agreed this was an excellent initiative but we as a Community Council are lacking in membership to support such an initiative.

Community Councils newsletter was cascaded.

Carnoustie, Monifieth and Sidlaw Pre Training Introduction. Gemma Adair is a consultant who will undertake training for councillors in making better use of social media. This was discussed and it was agreed it would be advantageous to be involved. Meetings to be arranged as part of the Improvement Service previously discussed.

#### **5 & 6. Social Media Report and Christmas Lights Switch On.**

Ben Nicoll gave a combined report on Social Media and Christmas lights switch on. Community engagement of videos for streaming had not been as good as last year though Ben praised the content of those supplied. Several comments had been received from residents and some businesses regarding the alleged poor quality of Monifieth's Christmas lights, both the street lamp fixtures and the over the street feature. Ben replied to some comments on Social Media issuing an appeal for people to come along and help as all the work, including the light installation, a very onerous task undertaken every year free of charge, is carried out by volunteers in their own time. The problem was discussed at length and it was agreed the lights were past their best and would benefit from being replaced with more environmentally friendly units, though they are still providing a good show to cheer up the street. If funds became available, it was agreed the Community Council should, in the new year, consider a "best dressed window" competition and approach High Street shopkeepers for donations to augment any money received, though this would be difficult in the current financial climate. During discussions the obvious fact was pointed out we do not have the same amount of shops or people as Broughty Ferry and Carnoustie and cannot compete with the amount of lights, though the quality of our display can be even better. Jack Brand asked if we could buy our own Santa suit instead of borrowing others. It was unanimously agreed to spend up to £100 for a new suit.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report**

Stewart Ellis reported the current balance is £17148.08. He also said the cheque issued to the Scout Group as part of the Seagreen funding has not been cashed. Ben Nicoll to make enquiries.

#### **8. Planning Matters.**

Rob Crossland reported Taylor Wimpey have obtained an amendment to building warrant 19/00120/DOM for the addition of plots 10 – 12 at Victoria Street. Planning applications for December are erection of carports, installation of access gates, installation of canopies above doors and alterations to

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terraces for bin store at Paradise Cottages, remove outhouse and replace with single storey extension at 63 Durham Street and installation of solar powered lighting along path to Tayview Car Park. (Monifieth Athletic)

Rob expressed concern regarding the building works at a house in Grangehill Drive where planning permission did not appear to have been applied for, as lowering kerb works etc may interfere with services. Angus Council planning have been contacted, are looking into the matter, and will reply to Rob.

### **9. Police Report**

No police present. Police Report received and cascaded. Police Scotland launch "THAT GUY" campaign, the main theme of which is to encourage men "to take responsibility for ending sexual violence by changing their attitudes and behaviours towards women as well as challenging those of their peers". The campaign features a new advert which will run on several online platforms, including social media. On Launching the campaign, Deputy Chief Constable, Malcolm Graham said; "It's time we men reflected on our own behaviours and attitudes- and those of our friends, family and colleagues – towards women in order to prevent rape, sexual assault and harassment. We want all women to be free to live their lives without worrying about their safety". The campaign website can be viewed at [www.that-guy.co.uk](http://www.that-guy.co.uk) The police will not routinely enforce 20 MPH speed limits other than outside schools or where it is absolutely necessary and in the interests of casualty reduction. They require drivers to observe them willingly and if compliance levels are not at an acceptable rate, further traffic calming measures should be considered or a reversion to 30 MPH limits, if necessary.

190 calls were made to the Police for incidents in Monifieth between 14/10/21 and 05/12/21, several of these being duplicate calls and some that have not required police attention. Abandoned or silent 999 calls, road Traffic incidents and anti social behaviour calls feature more than others.

Speed checks continue to be carried out across Angus. 2 "pop up" officers replacing those stolen can now be deployed in Angus.

### **10. Angus Councillors' Reports**

Councillor Whiteside reported on the bad parking situation at Hill Street at Queen Street where double yellow lines are to be painted, this takes time to pass legislation, as previously pointed out. There was lots of disruption throughout Angus caused by the storm.

Grange Primary School were awarded money for their grounds improvements through Participatory Budgeting. It was agreed the Carnoustie, Monifieth and Sidlaw area was too big to be fairly treated by the system. A new director has been appointed.

Sheena Cochrane asked if Beth could make enquiries to have a tree removed at the side of the library and which had been split in the storm and fallen against the adjacent building. Beth was also asked to pursue the matter of domestic bins being left on High Street opposite the Episcopal church and which were encouraging others to dump rubbish.

A resident had asked via social media if anything could be done at the beach in front of the Bay Diner where the sand had been washed away, leaving slippery rocks to be negotiated. This had been the subject of a previous request by John Thornton to Angus Council, the answer being that nothing would be done as this was a natural occurrence which would likely recur repeatedly if action was taken.

### **11. Public Questions.**

Leanne Wilson reported they had received names for 80 pensioners to receive Christmas parcels, and asked for assistance to deliver them. Jack Brand and John Thornton offered their services which were gratefully accepted.

### **12. AOCB.**

Sheena Cochrane reported the 2<sup>nd</sup> defib has been fitted at the Vault. Jack Brand to arrange registration before it can be used.

### **13. Date of Next Meeting.**

The next meeting of the Community Council will be at 7pm. on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, via Zoom.

**Secretary's Note: The next meeting of MCC will be via Zoom on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

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