



Kirriemuir Community Council

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM MEETING of 26 January 2022

Present: Heather Kelly (Chair), Jeanette Reioch (Secretary), Irena Krasinska-Lobban (Treasurer), George Aitken, Graham Galloway, Brenda McIntosh

In attendance: Cllr Julie Bell, Cllr Angus MacMillan Douglas, Cllr Ronnie Proctor

Minutes produced by Jean Henderson, Minute Secretary, from a recording of the Zoom meeting.

The Chair opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies: Frances Havenga, Roy Christie, George Meecham</p> <p>2. Approval of 27 October and 24 November Minutes: Both Minutes agreed as true and correct records. 27 October Minutes proposed by Irena Krasinska-Lobban, seconded by George Aitken. 24 November 2021 Minutes proposed by George Aitken, seconded by Jeanette Reioch</p> <p>Police Report: Received and circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irena said it was good news to read Barrie Taylor is returning to his usual duties.• Graham highlighted vehicles regularly parked on the pavement of Bellies Brae outside of two houses, totally blocking the pavement and the dropped kerb. Cllr Bell confirmed this issue has already been raised with Craig Hudson, Angus Council. A warning to the offending residents is planned.• Discussion ensued. Take-away drivers are also causing problems when they park opposite Visocchi's. Cllr Bell confirmed this issue had also been flagged up and is being investigated. However, resolving the pavement parking will take priority.• Cllr Proctor and Cllr MacMillan Douglas have also got involved in both of these issues and spoken to the Wardens and parking tickets have been issued.• Heather said the Community Council will send a note to the Police on this matter.• Although agreeing that the parking on the pavement at Bellies Brae is unacceptable, Heather highlighted the many narrow side streets in the town, whereby residents parking on their pavement is vital to allow any emergency services access to their streets. Should legislation be introduced then this would cause these residents major problems. Cllr Bell reported that a full assessment of pavement parking will be made, taking into account Heather's comment. Cllr Bell will discuss with Craig Hudson and report back.	<p>JB</p>
<p>4. Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Report:</p> <p>December and January Report:</p> <p>Community Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">14 x Home Fire safety visits1 x Operational Intelligence visits1 x PDIR (Post Domestic incident response)	

Incidents:

- 5 x AFA (Automated Fire Alarm)
- 3 x Smoke Detector Operating
- 1 x Fire in open
- 2 x Special service
- 2 x RTC
- 2 x Lockfast
- 1 x Fire (building)
- 1 x Fire (dwelling)

● **Smoke Alarms**

All Scottish homes need interlinked fire alarms by February 2022.

New legislation, brought in following the Grenfell tragedy, means that Scotland will become the first UK nation to require every home to have interlinked fire alarms, which significantly reduce the risk of injury or death.

● **Play an active role in keeping your home safe from fire**

It is essential that your home has a working smoke alarm on each level of the property. If a fire starts, this will give you and your family time to get to safety.

Doors slow down the spread of potentially deadly smoke and flames, so it is important to remember to close them at night.

Fire often starts in the kitchen, and no-one should ever leave a cooker unattended while it is in use. It is important to keep lit candles away from children and pets, and from curtains or other flammable materials.

● **Home Fire Safety Visit**

If you, or someone you know is over 50 years old and smokes and either lives alone, has mobility issues or uses medical oxygen, we need your help to identify them. Ask them to get in touch or if you are a family member or a carer, refer them to us. We will undertake a Home Fire Safety Visit where possible. Make the Call, it could save a life.

As part of our commitment to building a safer Scotland we offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. We'll help you sort out a fire escape plan and provide information about smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms.

Contact us:

0800 0731 999 | Text "FIRE" to 80800 from your mobile phone

5. Treasurer's Report:

January: KCC funds £390.42, Defib funds £595.50, Grant £612.20 Total £1598.12

6. Matters Arising:

T Participatory Budget update:

- Kirrie Connections didn't get the full amount. Not a lot of successful bids for the town.
- There are still a lot of issues to be resolved. Heather stated that Angus Council need to produce a more community acceptable Participatory Budget format. All agreed. The voting format was vague and left to the last minute, with voters unclear "how to vote." Heather reported that the Officers working for us had done their best on this matter.

- Cllr Bell's Participatory Budget Guidance, which has been circulated, has been well received by everyone. This Guidance document highlights a lot of the problems which have already been well discussed and gives hope for the next PB – a collaboration of all parties working together.
- Irena suggested that the PB should start immediately. This will avoid a last minute rush like last year when only a six week window was left for voting. Cllr Bell confirmed this is on the Agenda for this year and she will keep the Community Council posted.
- Cllr Proctor reported that an Officer, Audrey Meachie, has been appointed as the Lead Officer on PB. Ms Meachie has other tasks in Angus Council, however, it was reported that PB is her main responsibility.
- Cllr MacMillan Douglas confirmed that he is working with Audrey Meachie and they have both had a recent meeting with the Government Minister involved. PB covers the whole of Scotland. At this meeting the Leader of Fife Council gave an excellent talk. He said that while the Scottish Government is controlling and reducing funding across Scotland, it is impossible to process PB at this time. This would involve cutting funds from other budgets. Thus, this is causing pressure on PB across Scotland. Cllr MacMillan Douglas said he agreed with the Leader of Fife Council.
- Encouraging to hear a dedicated Officer had been allocated to PB. All agreed.

B15 Motor Homes facilities in Kirriemuir update: Cllr Proctor will investigate current situation and report back. *Update subsequent to the meeting: Cllr Proctor has received the following from Economic Development Officer, Jane Gray. "I can confirm that this is being picked up by Economic Development. We will be contracting research to identify options based on consumer demand, impact on infrastructure, identifying possible locations and cost implications. A report with recommendations will be submitted in due course. Due to priorities dealing with Covid, this item has been delayed and will be investigated as soon as possible."*

B25 Common Good Fund update: A meeting took place on 17 January which was open to all groups. Three very good speakers, discussing a variety of ways to get funding and set up a Trust. The Huntly speaker was very good and she outlined the ambitions of the plans, genuinely thinking about the economic future and sustainability future of the town. This is a 20 year plan.

There is another Open Meeting on 15 February, 7 pm, at Kirrie Connections. Whether the Common Good Fund can be transferred to a Trust will be investigated. The Speakers' Presentations have been circulated.

B32 Poor access for wheelchairs update: Cllr Proctor reported work is in hand. When known, he will advise the start date.

B33 Location of Quiz shield: Cllr Proctor will see Dave Milne soon.

B35 Speaker re Stracathro Stroke Unit update:

- Cllr Bell's information on the Stracathro Stroke Unit has been circulated. Cllr Bell welcomed anyone with questions on this information to send her an email.
- Heather expressed disappointment that the Unit has actually closed and staff have been redeployed elsewhere. Also, there is "no one available" to come and talk to the Community Council.
- Cllr Bell reported that getting treatment at home is the strategic plan. Also, it is reported that there is a lack of Stroke Consultants. Cllr Bell pointed out that a lack of NHS staff, in general, is an ongoing problem. Currently, there are resources to allow delivery of a 7 day community Mental Health service which is working well.

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- It was agreed to take this item off the Agenda. However, Cllr MacMillan Douglas suggested it remained on the Agenda. He said the way Stracathro has been treated recently is unfortunate. He is aware that many stroke patients very much favour treatment in a local hospital, in this case, Stracathro, reducing their stress.
- All agreed to take this item off the Agenda.

Cheryl & Eric Mitchell joined the Zoom meeting.

B43 Cars parked in Angus Council car park: Cllr Proctor reported that he had received the Officers' report and cars have been moved. Off the Agenda.

B46 Cancellation of 2021 Christmas Lights switch-on update:

- Brenda reported she has been on the Christmas Lights Group for some years, raising money for the lights. However, she was disappointed with the lights display this year and the tree. She has received complaints from members of the public also, people who had previously donated to the Christmas Lights fund.
- Heather explained that the tree had been vandalised the previous year which accounted for the lack of parcels, decorations, etc. last year.
- When Kirriemuir Community Council offered their help this year Jeanette reported that they were "sharply rebuffed" by one of the Christmas Lights Group, and the offer not accepted.
- Businesses in the Little Roods and the Glengate were disappointed this year with lack of Christmas lights.
- Discussion ensued. It was agreed there had been ample time over last year to check the Christmas Lights. Necessary repairs could have been carried out in the summer months.
- A report on the condition of the Christmas Lights was sent to the Christmas Lights Group well ahead of Christmas. No response received.
- Heather reported that the town has expressed disappointment with the 2021 lights display. Some of the Christmas Lights Group had worked extremely hard to make it happen but it is claimed that some of the Group's suggestions, improvements, etc., were ignored within the group.
- Brenda reported that she received a message on 26 November 2021 from Elaine Findlay, Administrator of the Christmas Lights Group, advising her she had been removed from the Group without an explanation. Jeanette reported that she, too, had been removed from the Group.
- Graham pointed out that the Christmas Lights Group is a sub group of the Kirriemuir + Dean Area Partnership. KDAP's AGM is due to be held on Monday, 8 February, 7 pm in Kirrie Connections. Graham suggested this meeting would be an opportunity to raise these issues.
- Jeanette gave a "vote of thanks" to Brenda, George Aitken, and George Meecham for their support with the children's Santa letters – making them happen! Also, a thank you to Craig Fotheringham and the Post Office staff who delivered, free of charge, to those children up the Glens. Also, thank you to Angela McKenzie, Realm of Imagination, for having the post box for Santa letters. All very much appreciated!

B47 KCC's future November meeting date change (re late night shopping): All agreed to move the November meeting, in future, to the second last Wednesday of that month, due to the fact that the last Wednesday of November is usually the town's Christmas late night shopping. Angus Council to be advised of this change.

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7. Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Ronnie Proctor reported:

Please see below my report of activities for December and up to the present date. Although we were supposed to be in Christmas recess other Councillors and I were kept busy over the period.

Storm Arwen caused a lot of damage in the surrounding rural area and I gave support regarding informing departments and officers if there was a problem such as trees down loss of power etc, this is still ongoing to the present date.

I also attended Community Councils during the period. Ward work still ongoing such as Roads Complaints ,housing issues including sheltered accommodation and other matters. Requested to and assisted the "Arbroath Dookers "get clearance for their annual New Year's Day Dip!

On the Civic side I participated in two Citizenship Ceremonies, took part in the Provost and CEO'S Christmas message which was filmed on a really cold day at the Cross in Forfar and other Civic Events.

I attended and participated in numerous meetings such as TACTRAN, Veterans Housing, Participatory Budgeting , Children and Learning, Voluntary Action Angus Directors. Angus Alive Directors Meetings including the pre selection and selection panels to select an new independent director to the Board.

I attended and participated in a presentation regarding Carnoustie Golf Links and chaired Angus Council meetings including a special Angus Council meeting regarding the way forward for Carnoustie Golf Links Management committee which indirectly involves the whole of Angus particularly in the ongoing development of tourism.

Cllr Julie Bell reported:

First of all, I wish you all the very best for 2022 and I hope beyond hope that it brings more good fortune than recent times. During recess I have continued to receive caseload, including three on Christmas Day, and I have volunteered extra shifts at the Kirriemuir Food Hub. This includes the deliveries of food donated by Dan at the Golden Palace, who was keen to support local families who might not otherwise be able to treat themselves to a takeaway.

Christmas Hampers were also delivered to local families and we continue to contribute significantly to reducing food waste. Over 21 tonnes of food used, 40,000 meals, preventing food from going to waste. I am also working with the social work staff to progress volunteering and unpaid work opportunities at the Hub.

On 11 January we held Children and Learning Committee which had a very brief Agenda and lasted all of two minutes. In a meeting with the Director the previous week, we discussed arrangements for schools returning on the 10th and were assured that planning was as robust as could be expected.

I attended a briefing on Participatory Budgeting, also on 11 January, and please be assured that feedback about recent process has been shared with Officers.

I attended a Voluntary Action Angus Board Meeting on 13 January, visited Rossie School on 17 January. As a corporate parent, it is really important to ensure services are delivering on the Promise – <https://thepromise.scot/> - for looked after children and young people. We also attended a briefing and subsequent council meeting about Carnoustie Golf Links and potential major developments which Council agreed to further explore. We are soon to launch the Angus Women's Centre – an online resource to help pull existing services together for easier access, as demand rose during Covid, especially in relation to domestic abuse, housing and isolation.

Caseload has mainly featured delays in housing repairs and there is a major issue with the contractor who is withdrawing from the contract at the end of March. If anyone wishes to raise related matters with me then I will ensure Officers receive them. I have asked what interim arrangements will be put in place and await a reply.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. CllrBell@angus.gov.uk

Cllr Angus MacMillan Douglas reported:

1. Working with the rural community councils and the emergency centre to assist remedial action over the 3 weeks of Storm Arwen. This included putting people in touch with the emergency centre, trying to ensure welfare provisions went to the right areas and people. After the storm it included working with the Communities Convenor and Officers to ensure that electricity generators could be more widely provided to help people to be able to recharge their communication devices and have hot food when they lost electricity for a number of days. Also, trying to make provision in the future for loss of water where the electricity outages meant that pumps did not work. In particular working with Cllr Proctor, Cllr Salmond (Communities Convenor), the various rural community councils and the Eassie resilience group and the emergency centre.
2. Working with Officers and the Finance Convenor to prepare for the 2022/23 Angus Council Budget against a background of yet another year of substantial underfunding of Councils across Scotland by the Scottish government. Most unacceptable is withholding by the Scottish Government of the money that it was funded by UK Government for covering an increase in National Insurance. This should be worth £1.4m to Angus Council alone and hopefully the SG will change its mind and pay this. Work continues across most Scottish Councils of whichever political leadership to try and get a SG change of mind.
3. Along with Leader of Council, met with SG Ministers, Ms Robison and Tom Arthur, to discuss funding of Angus Council and our successes in attracting businesses into Angus. Useful discussions and follow-ups planned.
4. Represented Angus Council at a meeting of leaders and Tom Arthur, Minister responsible, for discussions on progress on Participatory Budgeting (PB). The Minister handled a difficult meeting well. The overwhelming message that came across from Councils of all political persuasions was that due to the last 5 or so years of stringent SG cuts in funding for all local authorities there was little money for PB. If the money was only coming from cuts in other budgets the point was repeatedly made that it would not benefit the population. The argument was made most lucidly by David Ross, Labour Leader of Fife Council.

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

9. **Planning:** No report.

10. AOCB:

10.1. **Graham** is pleased to report that Bonfest will go ahead again this year. 29, 30 April and 1 May. Hopefully, Covid restrictions will have eased by then. Some of the planned events will be scaled back. A Street Market had been planned. This will now take the form of a Street Market in Bellies Brae. Graham assured everyone that Bonfest will do everything possible to make it a safe event. However, if anyone has any concerns then please contact Graham.

10.2. **Jeanette** reported that everything has gone through with regard to the telephone box at Marywell Brae. Dee knows it has been adapted at no charge. Jeanette wants to know if the shelves are removable? Heather will check and report back.

10.3. **Irena** asked if Heather had heard back from Douglas Stott, re the glass panes? Irena will remind him. Irena submitted her apologies for the February meeting.

10.4. **Irena** reported that Kirriemuir Regeneration Group (KRG) had received an email from Suzanne Austin regarding funding for community run public toilets. £40,000 is available between six group across Angus who run seven toilets. Cllr Bell offered to investigate and report back. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate with Mark Salmond. Cllr MacMillan Douglas reported that he and Mark Salmond had devised this scheme – community based toilets. He said he was pleased that Cllr Bell is following this up and that he and Cllr Proctor would also investigate.

10.5. **Graham** confirmed Community Mental Health funds, administered by DEA. £1m of applications for £350,000 of funds. Results will be announced in February.

10.6. **GeorgeA** highlighted the path that runs parallel to the Slade Road. Cllr Proctor advised that this path was raised a number of years ago as needing made into an established path. Currently, it is "man made." Cllr Proctor reported that the outcome of the investigation was that it would be difficult, giving the terrain, to lay an established path. Discussion ensued. This man made path has developed because the road parallel to the path has no pavement. Residents, therefore, found the man made path was safer than walking on the road. Albeit, it is on a slope and some residents could slip and injure themselves. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate and report back.

11. **Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 23 February, 7 pm in Kirrie Connections.**
Zoom will be available also, if needed.

28.1.22

Jeanette Lence
Secretary

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RP/AMD

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