

APPROVED

MONIFIETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2022

Chairperson: Sheena Cochrane; co-chair Ben Nicoll

Present; Stewart Ellis, Jack Brand, Peter Morrison & John Thornton.

Others; Councillors Beth Whiteside, Sheila Hands, Ben Lawrie and Craig Fotheringham.

Guests; Vivien Smith, (Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform), Debbie Gowans, (Communities Team Leader), Kirsty Hunter (Chief Executive, ANGUSalive), Jean Lee (MCRG)

Members of the Public- 8

1. Welcome and Apologies

Sheena Cochrane welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting. .
Apologies were received from Andy Dingwall.

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.
There were no matters arising.

3. Library Consultation.

Vivien Smith introduced the item as a consultation to explore the incorporation of the library into the new Monifieth Community building at the Blue Seaway. This is a very recent proposal and all parties are keen to explore the issue with all speed. £250,000 was recently awarded to MCRG which made the Community Building project viable, whether the library is included or not. Jean Lee, on behalf of MCRG, gave the background to the project over the past 8 years with many delays including change of possible site from Invertay and last minute withdrawal of a funding proposal by the National Lottery. Planning permission and building warrants have been obtained and there are concerns that changes to original plans to incorporate the new library may cause delays. A big question is how to fit the library in to the existing site and it was agreed the footprint would have to be increased to the east as reduction of space in the Centre would not be acceptable. The co-operation of Angus Council planning department, readily acknowledged as having the best interface in Scotland, will be essential in considering changes to plans already approved. Jean Lee stated MCRG definitely agree in principle the proposed changes would be a great idea but the existing project, due to start at the end of March this year, cannot be stopped and hopes there will be no delays. She is willing to slow down the project if essential but for the sake of the Community it must go ahead . The subject of financing of the project was raised and Viv Smith stated there was £625,000 already allocated in Angus Council budget for the

existing library building which could be utilised. Kirsty Hunter explained meetings have already been held with MCRG and all agree this would be a great opportunity with wider use of the entire building in a purpose built facility, with natural daylight being a considerable feature of the new building, something distinctly lacking in the present building. There are many facilities already available in all libraries which would benefit the public, with books being available to take out and return outwith library hours, as long as the building is open.

Consultation with the community is essential. Architects are already looking at ways to incorporate the library into the new building.

Viv Smith stated the planning teams would work hard to facilitate things and would seek views through consultation then work with the planners to reach amicable solutions.

All involved agreed there is a great willingness to see the project succeed and confidence is high that the new scheme can come to fruition.

Questions raised from councillors, included the condition of the ground for foundations – matter resolved, safety issues for pedestrians accessing through the high bridge and lighting – taken on board, and possible change to bus routes were raised.

Hazel Cook, former librarian in Monifieth, said she is very excited at the proposal, the old building being a bit dark and dingy with no natural daylight. It was gratifying to learn Monifieth library already has the highest use by children in Angus, and it was agreed an inter-generational approach was very important. In reply to a question, Viv Smith stated the sum allocated of £625,000, did not include money received from the sale of the old building. The current building is not suitable for wheelchair or buggy access- this would be greatly improved. Our Angus Councillors have long pushed for changing facilities and toilets at the seafront area which would hopefully attract more visitors.

In conclusion, all parties agreed this would be a great success for Monifieth and would bring great advantages for the Community. The meeting brought many new issues of consultation, feasibility studies and planning to the fore. In the words of Viv Smith, “Let’s get on with it”

Ben Nicoll stated the Community Council would keep discussions going during the Angus Council recess.

4. Correspondence.

All following correspondence cascaded to Community Councillors

11.12.21 Beth Whiteside - advance notification of funding for MCRG. BW

13.12.21. Hong Zang re Monifieth P B Query. Replied but not received by Hong. HZ

16.12.21. Carnoustie, Monifieth, Sidlaw pre training introduction. LH

17.12.21. Scottish Civic Trust- My Place Awards. Comm PI.

17.12.21. Seasons greetings, Pauline (Seagreen)

19.12.21. Christmas tree lights failure.

20.12.21. Defibs for Monifieth. JB

21.12.21. IS Data and Intelligence Team. End of year newsletter. CP

10.01.22. Craig Mullen. Seagreen micro grants update.

10.01.22. Pedestrian Crossing Ferry Road. One of many updates.

11.01.22. Christmas tree removal. AA

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- 12.01.22. Training Event with Gemma Adair. CP. Ben to attend
- 14.01.22. Dawn McGaughey. Community Office now. DM
- 14.01.22. Seagreen Cheque for Scout Group. Discuss SE. It was agreed Secretary should contact the Scouts Group Treasurer and, if no response received for MCC Treasurer to contact Seagreen for advice.
- 14.01.22. Choice for Angus. Report required. Awaiting Christmas Lights proposal.
- 21.01.22. Angus Community Resilience. Webinar . LH
- 21.01.22. Support with Using I.T. LH
- 23.01.22. Anguswide Events Network. J Anderson
- 23.01.22. Angus Community Council Scheme of Establishment Review. LH
- 26.01.22. Village & Town Community Led Halls Grant Fund. LH
- 28.01.22. Draft National Planning Framework 4 online events. LH
- 03.02.22. Queen's Platinum Jubilee. LL. This was discussed at length and it was agreed in principle we could co-operate with the Medieval Fair Committee to hold an event in the car park at Reform Street over one day, probably Saturday 4th June, with a street party type event with picnic facilities and entertainment for children and adults. It was acknowledged that the impact of Covid was not so relevant at this stage though it should remain a consideration. Councillor Whiteside reminded the meeting the Lord Lieutenant for Angus is planning an event to be held in Montrose involving the 7 burghs on Sunday 29th May for a day of fun and entertainment. Contact to be made with relevant representatives and a meeting is to be arranged
- 03.02.22. Link to Survey.LH
- 04.02.22. Scotland's Census. LH
- 08.02.22. Anguswide Events Network Link for Meeting. JA
- 08.02.22. Ben Nicoll report to Beth Whiteside re fires in grounds Seaview House. BN
- 10.02.22. John Thornton reporting Street Lighting fault Ferry Rd, Maule Street and Albert Street.
- 11.02.22. Grange Primary Playground development. Meeting no longer required but request made for councillors to complete a survey. BN
- 11.02.22. Power of Youth 2022 Funding LH
- 13.02.22. Update 114 Ferry Road. BN
- 14.02.22. Public Access Defibrillators. EC. This was discussed and it was noted Guardian Angels would require to be appointed and the defibs would require to be placed on the circuit. Jack is to contact AEDdonate and photos will require to be taken for publicity.
- 14.02.22. Update Planning. Local Place Plans, OurPlace website, Draft National Planning Framework, Local Development Plan Regulation and Guidance, Open Space Strategies and Plan Sufficiency Assessments by 31.03.22. Discussed. No action at present.
- 15.02.22 Training Session 22.02.22 External provider. Gemma Adair Marketing etc. LH
- 15.02.22. MCC Financial Statement. SE
- 16.02.22. Seagreen Audit SE

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5. Social Media Report.

Ben Nicoll reported the main thread for the last week or so has been the library consultation which has drawn a large response. Thanks to the Monifieth Community for their interest and support.

6. Treasurer's Report

Stewart Ellis reported the current balance is £16912.08. Stewart commented fund raising for Christmas lights should be considered and he has been in touch with the High School re the planned commemorative garden.

7. Planning Matters.

Beth Whiteside informed the meeting that an enforcement notice is to be issued in respect of the planning issue at 114 Ferry Road. The matter is expected to go to court. It was also revealed the resident's representative had not consulted with the High School.

8. Police Report

Above received from PC McGaughey who has now been reassigned to carrying out the Angus wide Community Policing admin work. Our Chief Inspector for Angus LPA is Leanne Blacklaw and David Gibson the local area Inspector. The main thrust of the report concerns the serious issue of domestic abuse and advice is given to those affected. The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse gives people the right to ask about the background of their partner. Concerned relatives and friends also have the right to ask about someone else's partner. More information is available on the Police Scotland website. There have been a total of 256 calls to the Police for incidents in Monifieth during the assessment period 05.12.21 to 15.02.22.

Recorded crimes.

There have been 33 crimes recorded in our area during this assessment period. A breakdown of these are as follows:-

Group 1 – Crimes of violence. 3 crimes, 2 detected, 1 under investigation.

Group 2 – Crimes of sexual nature. 2 crimes recorded. Online offences under investigation.

Group 3 – Crimes of dishonesty (includes shoplifting & fraud). 8 crimes, all currently under investigation

Group 4 – Crimes involving property damage. 5 crimes, all currently under investigation

Group 5 & 6 – Miscellaneous/ other crimes including threatening & abusive behaviours, offences against emergency workers. 11 crimes, 9 detected and 2 still under investigation.

Group 7 – Motoring offences. 4 crimes, currently under investigation.

Monifieth remains a low crime area in comparison with the rest of Angus.

9. Angus Councillors' Reports

Beth Whiteside reported the Councillors have been very busy during budget setting. Craig Fotheringham reported he had been contacted by several residents regarding overhanging trees at High Street and Hill Street which is being dealt with by the tree

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officer. Trees are still lying in Ashludie Park following on from the big storm, but they are not a danger to the public and the council is aware and work will be carried out in due course. Speeding cars in Victoria Street has been passed to the relevant team, Lights are still flashing 24/7 at Grange Primary due to a faulty piece of equipment, the replacement having been delayed at Customs. The pedestrian crossing in Ferry Road continues to give cause for concern with its sticking buttons, but this will hopefully be rectified soon. Reports have been received of overflowing dog bins in the area of the 7 Arches – this has been passed to Dundee – a reminder given that dog waste can be put in any bin.

Monifieth residents can now use the Baldovie skip site. A nearby resident has concerns about the brightness of the lights at Monifieth skip site – this is probably for security. Some residents have been asking if there is any financial assistance for installing the new fire and smoke alarms. Angus Council will be responsible for fitting the requisite items to council houses.

10. Public Questions.

Leanne Wilson reported the High School had delivered 80 Christmas boxes to elderly residents in Monifieth. She thanked Jack Brand and John Thornton for their assistance. The children were delighted to receive many letters of thanks..

11. AOCB.

Ben Nicoll thanked our Angus Councillors for their outstanding support over the last couple of years, a time made especially difficult for all, due to the Covid pandemic and subsequent restrictions. In particular he paid tribute to Sheila Hands who has decided not to stand for re-election, for her dedicated service to the Communities of Monifieth, Carnoustie and Sidlaw over two terms since 2012. We wish Sheila and her family well for the future.

12. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be at 7pm. on Thursday 14th April 2022, via Zoom.

**Secretary's Note. The next meeting of the Community Council will be at 7pm on Thursday 9th June via Zoom.
20/04/22**

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