

## **MURROES & WELLBANK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Hybrid Meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 in Wellbank Hall at 7.30pm.

**Present:** S. Anderson(Chair/Planning); G. Reid(Treas); A. Martin(Vice Chair); A. Fraser; J. Bell; J. Crozier; Cllr B. Whiteside; J. Collins; Cllr S. Hands; G. Cowper(Secy); K. Gerrard; I. Robertson

**Apologies:** K & S. Smith; D. McNeil(Angus Council); G. Anderson; D. Murdoch.

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

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes were read and approved with the below amendments.

AF requested the statement she made to be changed as below.

“We have road safety concerns over the eastern entrance to the equestrian path, as it is located on a bend with poor visibility of approaching traffic. It should ideally be located further north, away from the bend, however we understand that this would involve crossing an area of wet ground and removal of a moderate number of native trees as well as creation of a new gap in the stone wall. An alternative solution would be to improve sight lines to the west by felling and pruning roadside trees. We discussed removal of a group of small diameter beech trees and pruning of a birch tree.

Eastern pedestrian access point

The gap at the eastern pedestrian entrance to the wood is currently around 730mm, which is less than the 815mm recommended minimum width for disability access. The narrow width is also likely to create difficulty for other people including parents with young children in pushchairs. The angle of the gap and its proximity to the parking area will also create additional difficulties if a car is parked in the immediately adjacent space. We recommend that the post, if still needed, should be moved in line with the main gap, and that it should be positioned to leave a gap no less than 815mm wide and preferably wider. The minimum recommended width for disability access is 815mm".

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Proposed Crematorium**

IR gave an update on the STOP THE CREM campaign. (Included)

SA thanked IR and stated he hoped there would be a positive response from Angus Council regarding the complaints IR has raised.

#### **Speeding**

SA stated Police Scotland are looking to deploy pop-up police in Wellbank and Murroes area in April and May. No confirmation of exact locations, but assured they would be at points throughout the area, hopefully this would have an impact on speeding drivers. Police Scotland asked residents to take registration numbers or make of cars speeding through the villages and forward to Police Scotland.

### **Play Park**

SA asked GM to give an update on progress.

GM confirmed that an application has been submitted to SSE and the group involved are to give a presentation over the next period supporting the proposal. SA hoped that the funding would be forthcoming and was impressed with the proposed plans submitted. GM raised concerns over some behavior of youths in the areas and hoped the park would improve this as not much for the young people at present in Wellbank.

### **Solar Farm, Gagie**

SA informed the group of the initial application for a battery storage facility proposed for the Gagie/Westhall Tce area. The Community Council had put their concerns to the Scottish Government and Angus Council. Residents who have concerns will be given the opportunity to voice concerns via the Angus Council Planning portal and it was hoped that residents' concerns would be taken into consideration.

AF stated there is an opposition group – Stop TB (Tealing Bess). The group have negotiated an extension for objections to 30<sup>th</sup> June. A number of crucial issues have been identified in the application and more will be updated on Facebook along with discussion with residents in the area. The intension is to submit a group objection in due course.

If the discovered issues in the application have foundation, then the application should be rescinded. The group believe the site is not considered to be a proper place for the battery storage unit or the proposed solar farm. AF stated a fire at a similar site in Liverpool had taken 59 hours to be extinguished. If this happened at Gagie, crops would be lost and any natural flammable materials would be destroyed, particularly with the concerns over the local water supply. JB stated the screening panels were much higher than was thought. AF also stated the proposed site was good arable land. GR noted that there was an alternative location for solar farm locations at Criagowel, with existing wind turbines on moorland, a potential alternative location with the available power cable supplies. AM reiterated the concerns over prime arable land being used and the importance of producing much needed crops, particularly with the Ukraine war. AF continued, Scotland is not the best place for solar farms, they are not farms, they are industrial developments. AF noted that there was not a formal Public Consultation and only a virtual meeting had been held. SA noted these concerns and suggested it was trying to get the right balance with energy price increases, location and means of producing energy, but if the points of concern are raised to Angus Council, it is hoped they would be taken into consideration. SA also stated these units could be located where there is less impact on the environment. SA also encouraged AF to put forward their concerns to the authorities. AF continued that the Seagreen development has had a big impact on the area and this would cause more upheaval for residents.

### **Brighty Wood**

SA said moving the post would be carried out in due course when it was safe to do so. JB asked if the CC had heard of a childrens play group, Brighty Wood Group Forest School, being given permission to use the wood during the summer holidays. JB raised concern over the available facilities for such a group attending the wood. GC had never heard of this, but would investigate.

### **Queens Jubilee**

The Community Council are to hold a small event in Murroes Hall on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> between 2 and 4 pm. This will be a small exhibition of royal memorabilia and would be on Facebook with an invitation for anyone who would like to exhibit items to contact the Secretary. A cup of tea and biscuits would be served. JC offered to help with the event.

GM/KG are looking to hold family/community events at the Wellbank Hall, with updates on dates due soon.

### **Community Resilience**

SA thanked JC for offering to help put a Community Resilience document together for us. There is a course organised by Angus Council for the 27<sup>th</sup> April, which may offer assistance to help put that together. SA considering the issues recently, it was important for us to put something out there as a Community Resilience document for the future, whether it be winter issues or power outages, as it would benefit all. JC asked if anyone was present from Wellbank Hall Committee to liaise with, then if another Storm Arwen were to happen, the Wellbank Hall could be opened for residents without heat and power. Wellbank was also without power for 5 days, but were going to look at resolving the issues, again volunteers to help was a concern, but a network of support would certainly help. SA said that Wellbank Hall and Murroes Hall would benefit from SSE funding to maybe purchase generators and have a joined-up approach, making the Halls emergency hubs for the schools and residents in the area. Extending Murroes Hall to make it more suitable for emergency situations would be a benefit.

### **Police Report- Attached.**

SA stated the police report theme this period was concerning hate crime. There were 18 No calls to Police Scotland over this period covering various incidents, with a crime of suspected Fraud still under investigation. Community Police Officer for the area, Dawn McGaughay, was retiring and we await her replacement in due course, but the Murroes and Wellbank CC would like to thank Dawn for her help with providing reports and wish her all the best for her retirement.

BW stated she wanted to feedback to JC regarding rural crime issues raised at the last meeting. BW had raised concerns with the new Superintendent who would pass on these concerns to Local Community Officers who were all trained in rural crime and he would also feedback concerns with the Police report and ask for it to be more relevant to the rural area.

GM raised concerns with youth behavior at the Wellbank Hall. GM hoped Police Officers may come and speak to the young people. SA to ask Police to contact GM. AF asked if the kids had been asked what they want? GM has asked the community what they want, but due to the lack of volunteers it is not possible at present to provide cover at the Wellbank Hall all week for youth groups.

JC wanted to thank Cllr Whiteside for raising her issues with Police Scotland. JC stated Iceland had made an impact on youth anti-social behaviour and was anyone aware of this? BW confirmed funding from Iceland's Central Government was made available to help solve youth anti-social behaviour. Investment on a massive scale which involved parent contracts to help solve the issue, young people received professional coaching in football from the national team and other sports and it was inspiring. KG - GM wondered if funding could be available for similar in the area, but BW suggested this would need to be from National Government considering the funding required. SH stated they had been asking for something similar for a number of years and pointed out some areas of Angus receive funding and support from Voluntary Action Angus (VAA), for children and young people's activities and they are involved in the Friday night provision, but Kirriemuir is the only area which receives additional funding at present. SH had asked for a report on funding for young people across the county and an undertaking was given back in March 2022. There would be a report coming out around June 2022 for future Councilors to be aware of the issues concerning young people who have nothing to do. VAA does not have a big footprint in Sidlaw ward. BW stated Monifieth/Sidlaw seem to miss out on funding etc, but hopefully

this may change after the elections. GM stated there was nothing in the area for kids during Easter holidays although other areas had events. BW stated Angus Council are to talk with Dundee Council to give children who live nearer Dundee access to facilities. KG stated she had been in contact with Jono at VAA and hoping there would be some input from VAA for Wellbank kids soon.

### **Secretary's Report**

GC had been in contact with Scottish Water to inform them of low water pressure, especially when the Fire Service were involved with a fire in the area recently and had turned water off to local houses for several hours. This caused issues for people with babies and for elderly residents. GC was provided with a number for residents to call if no water or if a drop in water pressure occurs.

Scottish Water Customer Service – 0800 0778778 or email [help@scottishwater.co.uk](mailto:help@scottishwater.co.uk).

There is also a Priority Services Register for any vulnerable residents who wish to be added to this register. Anyone who has issues please contact Scottish Water directly. GC added it would be good if residents were informed before water was turned off, in order to fill containers, etc. This was noted.

### **Funding**

It was stated that funding emails are abundant and it was difficult to complete these applications as they had short completion dates. Angus Council had offered their services to help with completing these applications. SA asked if any volunteers to assist with completing these funding applications. GM offered to help look over any applications. SA stated paths were needed to access Murroes School from Ballumbie Castle and Kellas. BW agreed footpaths to the schools should be given priority and the criteria for new paths needs to be reviewed to give more importance for children walking to school. It was hoped that requests for these would be looked at favorably in the near future, and to keep putting applications in to AC as necessary. Murroes PS access is paramount as parking and traffic is extremely dangerous.

### **Treasurers report**

GR stated there was £3771.63 with only Secretary's expenses being deducted to date.

### **Planning**

Solar Farm - Gagie/Westahll Tce  
Conservatory- Elm Rise, Baldovie  
Farm works- East Denside

### **AOCB**

Wellbank Hall. GM stated there had been a successful family night on Saturday and it was hoped to repeat this. The Hall is starting to be used on a regular basis again after Covid with various groups throughout the week. New CCTV installed at the Wellbank Hall. SA stated if the information was sent to the SA/GC, the Community Council could post on its Facebook page. The AGM held and more committee members added to help with the hall which is positive. KG updated the meeting regarding Elec charging points, with AC Roads Department suggesting it would be in 2022/23 budget, hopefully it would be installed before April 2023. AC have the agreement for 24-hour access and all relevant papers have to be signed before planning and installation.

### **Ballumbie Castle Residents Association**

JC stated their AGM is next week. JC is stepping back from the group after 20 years so is hoping someone will step into his role. They are to have a virtual meeting with Greenbelt regarding landscape maintenance. Feedback will be given to the CC. Residents are trying to find a suitable place in the estate to install a defibrillator. They are unsure if lamp-posts can be a suitable site? SA stated he had a contact in Monifieth and would pass on their details. He also said the lack of buses in the area was an issue for residents, and road markings over the years.

### **Flytipping**

GC raised the issue of new flytipping legislation to Cllr Hands and Cllr Whiteside. Are there confirmed numbers of prosecutions for fly-tipping in the area? BW stated she thought the numbers were very low. BW stated it was still worthwhile reporting any fly-tipping even though it was not on council land. Proposed new legislation is upping the fine to £1000, but to catch dumpers is extremely difficult. GC will complete fly-tipping survey on behalf of the CC, raising issues of concern in the area. JC stated she does regular litter picking around her area, but this is dangerous with heavy traffic. JC asked if it was possible for the road to be closed on a Sunday to carry this out. JC stated litter picking at Carnoustie beach had less litter than rural roads in the area. BW had not heard of road closures for litter picking. BW stated AC would supply equipment but JC already has this. Contacting Walter Scott in the Roads department may help with advice.

SA stated Cllr Hands is retiring from Angus Council and thanked her for all the help she has given the Community Council over the years and her contribution has been appreciated. He wished her well in her new ventures and best wishes for the future. SH said she had enjoyed the last 10 years and wished us well for the future.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Murroes Community Hall at 7.30pm.

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