



# Kirriemuir Community Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING of 31 August 2022 7 pm in Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre

**Present:** Heather Kelly (Chair), Jeanette Reioch (Secretary), Irena Krasinska Lobban (Treasurer), George Aitken, Graham Galloway, Frances Havenga, Ian Lynn, Jim Stewart

**In attendance:** Jean Henderson (Minute Secretary), Cllr Julie Bell, Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Cllr George Meechan, Constable Scott Anderson (part time), **PUBLIC:** Audrey Middleton

	ACTION
<p><b>1. Apologies:</b> Roy Christie</p> <p><b>2. Approval of 27 July 2022 Minutes:</b> Agreed as a true and correct record. Proposed by Irena and seconded by George.</p> <p><b>3. Police Report:</b> Circulated. Copy attached.</p> <p>Constable Anderson reviewed the Police Report. In future, the Report will focus on Kirriemuir and Forfar. A Police Survey is currently available online, asking the public what they want from their Police. Constable Anderson recommended everyone, if possible, to complete and submit the survey. “Pop up Police” are currently available. The Police is recommending community groups to purchase one, however, it would be a Police decision where they were sited. Cost £205 each, with a cheaper option at £80.</p> <p>Cllr Bell highlighted an issue of “neighbour inappropriate behaviour” which she is currently dealing with via Constable Taylor. Constable Taylor has said he will be contacting the Housing Department, however, currently the Housing Department is operating on 50% staff capacity. Constable Anderson is aware of this particular issue and a Housing Meeting is planned for 6 September. Can Constable Anderson keep Cllr Bell informed on this issue.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor highlighted the speeding problems on Brechin Road. A Safety Officer has already monitored the area but the speeding problem continues. The problem is exacerbated because young children live in this area. Can the Police investigate, please.</p> <p>Constable Anderson reported that speeding is a problem throughout Angus, unfortunately. However, he will add Brechin Road to the list of traffic management issues. <i>Constable Anderson left the meeting.</i></p> <p><b>4. Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Services Report:</b> <b>August 2022 to date</b> <b>Community Safety:</b> 7 x Home fire safety visits 2 x Operational Intelligence visits <b>Incidents:</b> 9 x AFA (Automated Fire Alarm) 6 x Smoke Detector Operating</p>	

- 2 x Dwellings (fire)
- 1 x Special Service Call
- 2 Fires in open – small
- 1 x Fire in open – large

Chimney Fire Safety Week:

Ultimately, the campaign strives to raise awareness of chimney fires and to encourage consumers to take action. The campaign focuses on the importance of chimney sweeping and appliance maintenance, the use of quality fuels and tips to get the most efficiency from a stove. Chimney fires have been steadily decreasing in most regions over the years. The period from January to March is usually the peak season for chimney fires. Figures identify over 40% of chimney fires in England take place over these three months.

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

As at 31 August 2022: FPP Funds £200.00; KCC Funds £670.89; Defib Fund £595.50; Grant £577.04; VAA Fund £10,300.00 **Total: £12,343.43**

Rental of Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre has just been paid which will be deducted from the Grant funds.

**6. Matters Arising:**

**B25 Development Trust:**

- Graham reported that two meetings have recently taken place. Nine people from Roundyhill attended the first meeting. Their concerns surrounded whether the Development Trust was for Kirriemuir or Kirriemuir + Dean.
- The follow up meeting took place in August. The meetings are generating more interest – what the process will be and thinking about the structure.
- It is a Steering Group at the moment. The trip to Huntly was encouraging, as were the conversations with Linlithgow regarding their strong focus on sustainability. They have set up solar power which supplies the local Rugby Club with solar energy.
- The next meeting is scheduled for **26 September, 7.30 pm in Kirrie Connections.**
- Encouraging people to attend. If it is going to happen it will be a membership organisation, with a minimum of 20 members. Currently, Huntly has 200/300 members and progressing well.

**B49 No signage at Slade Gardens:** Cllr Proctor will chase this up.

**B55 Free period products promotion:** No response from DD8 to date. Heather will chase this up.

**B63 Outdoor Gym – urgent decision needed from Legal:** Jeanette has circulated the documents from Legal. Any comments? If acceptable, Heather will get the documents signed so that the gym equipment can be purchased as soon as possible. All agreed.

**B64 Promoting Community Council:** Heather and Jeanette did the video but haven't yet seen it. Jim and Cllr Meechan attended the Live in the Den, on behalf of KCC, with some hand-outs. Jim reported that the KCC stall was quiet and the Rotary Club was also quiet. Discussion ensued about a banner. Include the logo, pictures of landmarks, some of KCC's achievements, strap line, etc. etc. Agreed to await the delivery of the gym equipment so that can be included. Banner prices - £40/£60. Perhaps, Louise Kerr could help with the graphics.

**B65 Temporary barrier at Beechwood Place/Muirhead Place update:**

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- Cllr Meechan reported that a concrete barrier has been ordered, as has “No through road” signs. It is only a matter of time before these are in place.
- Regarding Google maps, Cllr Meechan said that most people enter from the far end so if the signage is in place that should be sufficient.
- George pointed out that the Google maps cannot be changed until the area is permanent.
- All agreed that this is a move forward.
- The Delson road was discussed.

**B66 Millennium Globe in Cumberland Close update:**

- Cllr Meechan reported that the Millennium Globe is available for any community group who want it. However, the proviso is that the community group maintain it, totally. Cllr Meechan has one group in mind who could be interested.
- Discussion ensued and the general feeling is that this would be costly for any group, especially with ongoing maintenance.
- A solar panel at the back of the unit was suggested.
- Heather suggested getting the pump running and then explore the power later. However, all agreed it is stalemate.
- A cost figure talked about is £2,500.

**Off the Agenda**

**B68 Overgrown hedges/plants hazard update:** Jeanette has taken this up with Alan Allardyce and sent him photographs of the offending areas. Jeanette understands the owners have received letters from Angus Council, however, there is no improvement to date. If there is no improvement by the September meeting (two months since first reported) then Heather suggested contacting Alan Allardyce again and inviting him to the KCC meeting. Cllr Proctor offered to discuss this with Alan Allardyce.

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**B69 Inappropriate parking continuing in the Square:**

- Cllr Bell has been advised that there are evening shifts. She suggested taking photographs of the offending vehicles and putting them on the website.
- Heather has been approached on two occasions - an accident waiting to happen. This has been on the Agenda for months.
- Cllr Bell suggested citizen reporting. However, Jeanette pointed out that the Access Line is unsatisfactory and not fit for purpose. There is no response to any reporting. This was echoed by the rest of the meeting. Cllr Bell offered to investigate.
- The offending vehicles are a mix of delivery people and the general public.
- If anyone has photographic evidence can they please pass this on to the Police or Angus Council.

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**B70 Reduced Pharmacy opening hours:**

- Cllr Bell has investigated this and responded with an explanation from the Chief Officer of Angus Health & Social Care Partnership. This explanation was emailed to KCC on 18 August and subsequently circulated to the Community Councillors.
- The situation is of great concern and the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership are fully aware of the impact on the community.
- They are regularly in touch with Lloyds. Because of the Lloyds issue, the community is turning to Boots which is having an added impact on their staff.
- This issue was discussed at length, with various incidents highlighted by the Community Councillors. Issues surrounding not only the Pharmacies but also the Health Centre and Vaccination Centres.



news.

- Finally, the Den House. As of 29 August the Council's Legal Department is compiling the documentation which is required to be submitted to Registers of Scotland as evidence of Angus Council Possession. Once they are satisfied that they have all of the required documentation then they can submit the disposition.
- I will update the Community Council on any developments between now and the next meeting.

**Cllr Ronnie Proctor reported:**

- I have attended Community Councils in both Glamis and Inverarity, the latter on zoom, and have taken part in Council Communities Committee and Scrutiny and Audit meetings. At the latter I highlighted the ongoing speeding problems within the town and rural area, particularly Brechin Road. Many drivers are not adhering to the 20 mph speed limit on Brechin Road. Thoughtless and inconsiderate parking was also highlighted.
- I attended vital meetings on Procurement and Resilience, which were both interesting and informative.
- I have continued to deal with Ward issues, particularly housing and roads. Flooding after the dry period caused some concern due to blocked drains in and around the town. Hopefully, this has been addressed, although there is still ongoing work in the Northmuir area near Kate's Wood.
- There is still a backlog of housing repairs to be carried out within the Council's Housing Estate.
- I am a member of the panel to appoint a new Director within the Council.
- There has been concern regarding the easy access to children at an SSE sub-station within the town, which am currently addressing.

**Cllr George Meechan reported:**

- It has been a busy month with meetings and constituent issues.
- I have attended the following Committee meetings:
  - Children and Learning
  - Communities
  - Civic Licensing
  - Licensing
  - Integrated Joint Board
  - Tayside Contract Joint Committee
  - Tayside Joint Valuation Board
- I visited Websters High School to see what they are doing regarding rural outdoor skills for students.
- I visited Strathmore Estates with Cllr Bell to meet Andrew Bough the new Estates Manager.
- Updates:
  - I assisted with the Community Council stall at Live in the Den.
  - I am working with Jim Stewart to fit the glass to the Northmuir telephone box.
  - I met with the Head of Community Health and Care Services, Angus Health and Social Care Partnership.

- Constituent Issues:
- Welfare issues/benefits
- Roads
- Dog poo bins
- Housing issues, repairs
- Recycling issues

8. **Correspondence:** All circulated during the month.

9. **Planning:** Minor planning applications reported.

**10. AOCB:**

10.1. **Cathy Stephenson** has kindly sent an update to her July Bus Report, as follows:

**-Quote-** Since the last meeting we had two weeks which saw lots of cancellations - mainly due to drivers being scheduled on their annual leave and a few drivers did go to the Commonwealth Games - I understand those drivers had to pay for their own accommodation whilst there so I hope the community will realise it would have been unfair to expect them to lose that money and not go. With the number of drivers we have and the frequency of these big events most drivers get one opportunity in their career.

As we had many cancellations early morning and Stagecoach had so many tweets I realised that I need a separate group to report the cancellations on. I very much appreciated the Oor Kirrie site hosting the reports initially and especially Elaine for allowing me to post without awaiting the Admin approval. So Kirriemuir Bus Info was created (I couldn't afford to fund a website and didn't have time to learn a freebie website and when I tried a FB page there were too many adverts for me). The risk in a group is they can get out of hand when posters disagree. I also did not want this to be a campaign group and I did not want Drivers, Stagecoach or Angus Council to feel we were going behind any backs. So the group is fully free to access - people who don't wish to join can get posts approved. However membership does include several drivers and an STV journalist. A few people have tried to turn it into a campaign against Stagecoach but that has been stopped and will continue to be and I have not responded to the request by STV journalist to talk about my experiences.

Each post is shared by the Community Council (Thank you) and if there are cancellations or breakdowns I do also share it to Oor Kirrie.

Lead Transport Officer at Angus Council did take some points to Stagecoach and as a result Angus Council are getting notified of expected cancellations - including for the weekend each Friday. I did ask about the College buses and I shared that with the group - the college journeys are commercial but there is an understanding that they should be a priority especially at the start of term when young people are unfamiliar with their journeys.

Since 8/8/2022 we have had far fewer cancellations and we got our buses back over the course of that week. It was great to have comfortable buses with seat belts, USB and tracking. I appreciate some may think USB is a luxury - however if my buses are delayed/cancelled I might only end up with an hour to charge my phone between getting home and bed and with constant checks for any bus issues I need to charge daily; however a bigger deal for me personally are the seat belts having been injured in a bus RTA wearing a seat belt allows me to be relaxed and keeps me from my back being in pain.

Unfortunately several of them had breakdowns and we have been returned to 10 year old fleet and broken tracking again; plus the buses that are working fine are working out of Arbroath. Not all of these issues are being reported to us by Stagecoach eg today:

11182 did the 07:15 and should have returned to do the 09:46 but had to be swapped at Seagate and then after a rest did the 10:46 and then got put back at Seagate for another rest. She then had a mechanic out to reset something and did the 16:00 College bus and on to Brechin but running 30 minutes late

11185 Came out of the Seagate Bus station to do the 10:25 to Kirrie - she got opposite M&S and stopped. This was tweeted.

Later I was waiting for the 16:00 service 22 when 11185 came into the bus station and moved all her passengers to an older bus which was there to run the 16:00 College bus. The driver had left the bus station and couldn't get any power so came straight back into the bus station. This delayed him about 20 minutes on a service that comes to Kirrie and returns to Dundee by the 17:55 back to Kirrie - it has little spare time at any part of its runs.

11184 has been running all day (she previously had breakdowns just over a week ago) but she is very confused and is tracking as 15626 alternating one of our buses with a 73.

Of our other vehicles:

11181 has not been tracking since she returned and has I think been over in Arbroath.

11183 spent last week doing Midgrip to Ferryden in Montrose

11186 has been doing X7s / 73s and 39s

On the plus side we have I think 4 "new" drivers at Forfar depot each at different stages of their experience and training and we continue to have Arbroath drivers covering some of our shifts.

The FB group Kirriemuir Bus Info has 222 members today - with no heavy promotion. There is more we can do to get this out there and avoid people being stuck without buses but I am also aware of the limit of time I can give to that and the specific skill-set to keep this information and not a campaign.

I will continue to provide a daily post and check for updates until we reach a point where there are no cancellations for several consecutive weeks.

**I continue to collect examples and am considering if the fleet state is a good enough reason to go to the Traffic Commissioner. -Unquote-**

On behalf of Kirriemuir Community Council, Heather wished to thank Cathy for her dedicated and continued support of the community, in giving up her time to monitor and report on the bus issue. *Well done, Cathy!* It was reported that there has been an improvement in the last two weeks.

- 10.2. **Irena** reported that Ian needs Scott's telephone number so that the toilets can be closed for a couple of hours for maintenance.
- 10.3. **Irena** reported three panes of glass broken at Northmuir telephone box. Jim said he had accidentally broken one. Discussion ensued on the type of panel to use for the base window.
- 10.4. **Frances** reported that the Tannage Brae car park is in poor repair. Cllr Proctor will investigate.
- 10.5. **Audrey Middleton** (member of the public) highlighted the case of two elderly ladies who wish to apply for a house and don't have access to the web. Discussion ensued. A number of similar cases were highlighted during the discussion and, again,

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the Access Office problem was raised. Cllr Bell reported that the Housing Department is 50% down on staffing which is causing delays. Cllr Proctor offered to help the two ladies with their application.

10.6. **Heather** hoped everyone had submitted their Election Forms. This is urgent.

**11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 28 September, 7 pm at Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre**

3.9.22