

## **MURROES AND WELLBANK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Meeting held at Wellbank Hall on Thursday 8th December 2022 at 7.30pm

**Present:** S. Anderson (Chair); A. Martin (Vice-Chair); G. Reid (Treasurer);  
G. Cowper (Secretary); J. Crozier (Minute Secretary); M. Went (Planning);  
K. Gerrard; Martin Brennan (Community Police Officer); I. Robertson;  
A. Fraser; J Bell; F. Stewart; K. Smith

**Apologies:** Cllr H. Doran, Cllr C. Fotheringham, Cllr L. Melville, Cllr B. Whiteside

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed introductions from those present.

Apologies were given

### **Previous Minutes**

The Minutes were read and approved.

### **Matters Arising**

- Wellbank Playpark

KG provided an update. Seagreen funding has went through and KG will keep us updated on timescale of works, which hopefully should start in early spring.

Kevin Smith and Fiona Stewart entered the meeting.

- Community Resilience

SA attended a community resilience meeting with Angus Council remotely on Thursday 23rd November.

Due to recent flooding, road and school closures and the subsequent disruption in our area it was decided it would be useful to take a proactive approach. A map will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting where members can note areas of flooding and concern. This can then be used to help future co-ordination of resources in conjunction with Angus Council.

Sandbags to help residents combat flooding had been requested from Tayside Contracts and a pallet was dropped off at Murroes Community Hall. GR suggested a more suitable drop off area needs to be identified.

A personal resilience plan was sent out with the minutes of the last meeting. This detailed basic information on supplies, advice, actions, contact numbers and where to go for help if required in emergency situations.

GC and AM have given feedback to SSE (Scottish Southern and Electric) on their experiences during Storm Arwen. Better communication and more targeted support for vulnerable persons were highlighted. GC stated that there are grants available from SSE to support the community when we find ourselves in another emergency situation. It was felt generators for both Wellbank and Murroes Halls would be a priority for our area and applications from the Community Council should concentrate on this equipment.

- Brighty Wood

AF stated that the post at the entrance to the wood is now at the minimum gap required and hopefully disable access and buggy users will not have a problem accessing the wood.

JB noted that there had been a significant growth in the number of dog walkers using the woods and was worried about an increase in dog fouling.

MB as our Community Police Officer stated that dog fouling and failure to pick up and dispose of it correctly was a criminal offence. The Angus Council Dog Wardens are responsible for enforcing this. If residents are at all concerned then they should contact the Dog Warden who can monitor the situation and enforce any action that needs to be taken. SA to raise concerns with local Councillors.

- School Parking

GC stated there had been no update with the ongoing communication with Angus Council and the Community Council on residents' concerns surrounding busy and dangerous parking around our Primary Schools. GC will contact Cllr Beth Whiteside for an update. Cllr L Melville is aware of this problem and is also looking into it.

The road around Murroes Primary School is currently closed but this has just pushed the problem further out and the situation is still dangerous.

MB stated that this is a Council wide problem and its down to the sheer volume of traffic. It was agreed that a Police presence would be provided as this has helped to improve similar situations. Other solutions discussed by MB are a letter from headteachers to parents highlighting the problem and in the longer term, the creation of a suitable car park. KS also suggested a drop off and pick up similar to the American school system.

- Christmas Lights

SA stated that solar lights are available for both the outside of Wellbank and Murroes halls to decorate and celebrate the Festive Season.

KG as chairperson of Wellbank hall committee thanked SA.

SA to look into funding for Christmas Trees next year.

- Speeding

MB stated that overall, there had been a decrease in speeding in Angus area due to lack of visitors.

MB stated that flashing speed signs at the entrance of many villages (Kingennie, Wellbank, Kellas) record the speed of vehicles. Councillors will be able to access this information and provide it to Murroes and Wellbank Community Council. SA will request this data.

MB will make sure Kellas and West Hall Terrace have a visible Police presence to deter speeding vehicles over the coming months.

The Community Council is to look into buying a pop-up Police Officer for West Hall Terrace again to deter speeding motorist. The pop-up Police Officer is most effective being out for thirty to forty minutes rather than having a continual presence and with the danger of disappearing like the last one.

FS highlighted the lack of signage at the road junction at the Spar shop in Wellbank. The local Councillors will be contacted for action on this.

## **Police Report**

MB suggested a Coffee with a Cop session for our area and members were interested to arrange. This is a relaxed meeting in Wellbank and/or Murroes hall where members of the public could come and speak to MB and discuss any issues openly or confidentially, find out what they do and how the Community Police can help. Full Police report in **Appendix 1**.

When a date is set all members to promote this event to ensure success.

## **Secretary's Report**

GC reported recent road closures from Angus Council on Facebook.

Tayside contracts have funding available for any community groundworks. It was agreed that funding should be applied for both carparks at Wellbank and Murroes Hall. An appeal to members was made for any ideas of further suitable projects.

## **Treasurer's Report**

GR stated that there was no change in bank balance which stands at £3973.83 (Three thousand nine hundred and seventy-three pounds and eighty-three pence).

## **Planning Application**

MW stated that there are two planning applications in Murroes and Wellbank Community Council area.

- Extension to a bungalow at 3 Backmuir, Duntrune
- Ethiebeaton dog park

JC noted that there had been severe flooding on the road adjacent to the Ethiebeaton application and that it would be prudent to highlight appropriate drainage measures in the Community Council's response to this application.

- Solar Farm

The recent information sessions on the two potential solar panel installations in the Murroes and Wellbank area were discussed.

SA stated that no planning applications had been posted on the Angus Council planning portal to date.

It was discussed that the local community should financially benefit and/or local facilities improved from these projects due to the disruption and change in landscape that will ensue, if any developments are progressed.

- Crematorium

IR provided a Crem Campaign update to the Community Council. Please see **Appendix 2**

**Question:**

Has Cllr Whiteside had the opportunity to feed back the concerns raised by the Community Council regarding the Roads Service's response to the recent complaint or is this something that would need to be taken forward after the conclusion of the DMRC (Development Management Review Committee) outcome? The appeal for the decision on the crematorium is yet to be decided upon by the DMRC and at the time of the meeting there was no publicly available date given when this will be.

IR appreciated Cllr Whiteside may have to deal with this question after the appeal has been determined.

SA agreed that no response would be given from the councillors until this appeal has been through the DMRC.

### **Councillor Update**

- SA relayed that our Councillors have requested they come out of Community Council meetings when planning elements are discussed. Therefore, in future all planning issues will be discussed under the Planning Agenda item.
- A Councillor update section will be a regular agenda item, so that our Councillors can keep the Community Council up to date with what is happening in Angus council.

SA presented a Councillor update from Cllr Melville. Please see **Appendix 3**

### **AOCB**

- Wellbank Hall Update

KG stated that the Christmas Fayre held on the 4th December was well attended.

The Wellbank Hall have received a grant for £10,000 for renovations and repairs from the National Lottery Fund.

A Christmas Party is to be held on Saturday the 10th of December. An event will take place at New Year, but with limited tickets available. Both events will be promoted on the Wellbank Hall Facebook page.

- Bullumbie Castle RA Update

SA to contact Alex Harvey of BCRA.

- Any other Business

AF highlighted a problem the gritter driver is having to safely access Mattocks School in Wellbank and the surrounding roads due to problematic traffic.

It was suggested the gritter driver contact the school to make them aware. SA also suggested the Roads Department be informed as they may do a letter drop in the area so that residents are mindful of this situation.

AF pointed out the importance of horse riders to wear appropriate reflective clothing whilst out riding in the dark nights, as a lorry driver had nearly collided with two horse riders recently.

The Chair closed the meeting, thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 16TH OF FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM

**APPENDIX 1**



**Tayside Division**

Angus LPA

LPA Commander - Chief Inspector Leanne Blacklaw

<b>LOCAL COMMUNITY POLICING AREA REPORT – 6<sup>TH</sup> October – 5<sup>TH</sup> December 2022</b>	
<b>Local Community Policing Area</b>	Murroes, Kellas, Wellbank, Ballumbie Castle Estate <a href="mailto:TaysideMonifiethSidlawCPT@Scotland.police.uk">TaysideMonifiethSidlawCPT@Scotland.police.uk</a>
<b>Local Area Inspector</b>	Inspector Mahboob Ahmad <a href="mailto:mahboob.ahmad@scotland.police.uk">mahboob.ahmad@scotland.police.uk</a>
<b>Local Community Policing Team</b>	Sergeant Stewart Ramsay <a href="mailto:stewart.ramsay@scotland.police.uk">stewart.ramsay@scotland.police.uk</a> Constable Martyn Brennan <a href="mailto:martyn.brennan@scotland.police.uk">martyn.brennan@scotland.police.uk</a> Constable Ronnie Irvine <a href="mailto:ronnie.irvine@scotland.police.uk">ronnie.irvine@scotland.police.uk</a>

To be sent to the following Community Council email addresses a few days before the meeting documenting the previous month's activity.

Murroes CC – Steve Anderson [sanderson0@talk21.com](mailto:sanderson0@talk21.com)

Beth Whiteside [cllrwhiteside@angus.gov.uk](mailto:cllrwhiteside@angus.gov.uk)

Heather Doran  
Craig Fotheringham  
Lloyd Melville

[cllrDoran@angus.gov.uk](mailto:cllrDoran@angus.gov.uk)  
[cllrFotheringham@angus.gov.uk](mailto:cllrFotheringham@angus.gov.uk)  
[cllrMelville@angus.gov.uk](mailto:cllrMelville@angus.gov.uk)

## NATIONAL AND LOCAL CAMPAIGNS AND MESSAGES



**Check out our web page:**

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

## Winter road safety

Winter means changes in the roads, shorter days and changing weather.

We all have a responsibility to keep Scotland's roads safe during the winter months.

### Advice for pedestrians

Advice if you are out walking during winter:

- Dress for the weather by wearing reflective or bright-coloured clothing so other road users can see you when it's dark or visibility is poor
- If you are walking home late at night, make sure someone knows where you're going and when
- Vehicles can take up to ten times longer to stop on slippery road surfaces so take extra care crossing the road
- Stick to pedestrian crossings
- If there are no crossings nearby, find a place with a clear view and wait for long gaps in the traffic before crossing the road
- Don't cross the road between parked vehicles, unless it can't be avoided then take extra care (look out for vehicles that suddenly pull out or reverse)
- Never cross the road behind a bus
- If there is no pavement, keep to the right hand side of the road so you can see traffic coming towards you.

### Advice for cyclists

Advice to consider if you are cycling during winter:

- Make sure your bike can be seen by people on the road
- Use a good set of front and rear lights (white at the front, red at the back)
- Wear clothes that help you be seen on your bike, such as bright and light reflective items
- Pay attention to road signs, markings and particularly red lights

- Do not cycle on the pavements, they may be slippery and can also endanger pedestrians
- Be mindful of the effects poor weather can have on other road users
- Make sure you know about the dangers around you
- Cars can take twice as long to stop in wet weather
- Braking can be unpredictable in ice and snow.

### **Advice for drivers**

Advice for drivers during winter:

- Make sure your car is ready for winter
- Check that your tyres, brakes, windscreens, wiper blades and windows are free from defects and clean
- Drive to the road conditions. Road conditions can change without warning, stopping distances will be affected by the weather
- Make sure your windows are clean and aren't misted up
- Make sure there is no snow and ice on your windows before you drive
- When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in a high gear
- Accelerate and brake very gently

Driving distracted (for example, using a Sat Nav) can cause additional stress. It is dangerous to yourself, passengers and other road users.

### **Recent crimes/issues in the area:**

Assessment period 06/10/2022 to 05/12/2022

There have been 53 calls to the Police for incidents in your area during this assessment period.

There has been 7 crime reports recorded in your area.

Group 1 – Crimes of violence – 0

Group 2 – Crimes of sexual nature – 0

Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty. 1 recorded crime.

Group 4 – Crimes involving property damage – 1 recorded crime.

Group 5 & 6 – Miscellaneous/ other crimes including Threatening & Abusive Behaviour, Assaults and other offences against emergency workers – 1 recorded crime.

Group 7 – Motoring offences – 4 recorded crimes.

### **Further information.**

Constables Brennan and Irvine along with partners from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Coastguard, Hillcrest futures, TCA and Trading Standards recently completed a 2 day event at Monifieth High School where various topics were presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> year pupils, this was well received by pupils, partners and parents and we hope to run this event on an annual basis.

Local Community Officers continue to patrol the area and have recently carried out speed checks in Wellbank and Kellas. We are aware of concerns of residents around speeding in the villages and will continue to carry out enforcement of limits when possible.

High Visibility patrols have also been carried out around Mattocks Primary School where there have been reports of inconsiderate parking during school drop offs and picks up along with excessive speeding.

Constables Brennan and Irvine have recently carried out Coffee with a Cop events in Monifieth and Birkhill. The Birkhill event was a success and we are looking to organise further events in rural communities in the coming months.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Headline:**

- The crematorium appeal has yet to be determined by the Development Management Review Committee (DMRC) and there is currently no publicly communicated date when it will be.

### **Update:**

- The DMRC did however have their 2<sup>nd</sup> review of this appeal on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and whilst the meeting materials did include the 112 erroneously previously omitted letters of further objection (making a total of 372 such letters), unfortunately several of the submissions made by the transportation consultant employed by local residents were completely illegible and the meeting papers also contained procedural correspondence between the meeting clerk and myself which should not have been included and which had also been sent on in error to the appellant.
- I raised these matters with the meeting clerk and given the lack of an immediate response and the very short timescale between the release of the papers and the DMRC's meeting I was again forced to escalate the matter to all 4 Monifieth & Sidlaw ward councillors, the DMRC's convenor, the council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services and its' Chief Executive Officer. Thank you to Cllr Whiteside who quickly picked this matter up and thankfully the meeting materials were corrected in time to allow the meeting to proceed as originally scheduled. However, this is now the second time that incorrect meeting materials have been presented to the DMRC when considering this matter, and it is in my opinion unacceptable that members of the public should have to expend their own personal time and effort checking that council processes have produced correct and accurate outputs.
- At their 8<sup>th</sup> November meeting the DMRC decided, as they are fully entitled to do, that they wished to have an unaccompanied site visit with the relevant council officers and I was subsequently informed by the meeting clerk that the committee would next publicly reconvene on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 post the site visit to determine this appeal.
- Unfortunately the 8<sup>th</sup> December DMRC meeting has been 'postponed due to circumstances outwith [the] officers' control' with no further information/explanation nor a new date for the DMRC to determine this appeal being provided to date.
- All of the above has been extensively reported in the local media alongside the fact that this is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> delay in the DMRC determining this appeal and I know that many local residents (including myself) are very disappointed at the protracted time it is taking Angus Council to bring this matter to a conclusion. The original planning application was lodged 2 years ago in December 2020 with the subsequent appeal being lodged in February 2022, and it now looks like local residents will now have to wait until 2023 before this matter is finally brought to a conclusion.



### **APPENDIX 3**

#### **Councillor Lloyd Melville Report to MWCC:**

Over the last few weeks I've been busy alongside my colleagues bringing forward our support for families during this cost-of-living crisis, which is affecting us all.

Our relentless focus as an Administration has been allocating whatever resource we can to support families and households on the lowest incomes.

Our £1 million cost-of-living fund is rolling out support to families through a variety of means, including one-off payments, fuel vouchers, and boosting our discretionary payments.

We've also recently become the first Council area in Scotland to make bus travel free for those on the lowest incomes, supported by all the bus service providers in Angus.

The next full meeting of Angus Council will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> December, where there will be important policy discussions to be had, which will affect all of us across Angus.

On a personal note, I've been really busy helping folk with a variety of issues; the bulk of which are transport, housing and energy-related.

I've also started a programme of surgeries in the ward – including at Murroes Community Hall, and Wellbank Hall, and I'm aiming to get around the whole ward in the New Year.

As ever, I'm on-hand to assist with any local issues that I can, so please feel free to get in touch.