



ROYAL BURGH OF ARBROATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft : Monthly public meeting Tuesday 06 September 2022, Barbers Croft Lounge, Barbers Croft, Arbroath.

Present :

Members: Sandy Beedie, Maureen Beedie, Stevie Bell, Fiona Doran, Jacqui Douglas, Tracy Manson, Marc Ritchie

Councillors: Serena Cowdy, Brenda Durno, Lois Speed & Martin Shepherd

Members of the Public: 4 in attendance

Meeting

1. **Welcome and apologies:** Marc Ritchie welcomed all attendees to the monthly meeting.

Apologies:

Community Councillors: Julia Smith

Councillors: Martin Shepherd, Derek Wann

Communities Officer: Mhiari Dickson

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes were approved by Maureen Beedie and seconded by Tracy Manson
3. **Matters Arising from previous meeting:** There was no matters arising.
4. **Correspondence:** No correspondence received.
5. **Treasurer Report ;** Total - £17,014.17. This included the recent £9,000 from SSE for the next 23 micro grant rounds of funding.

A question was asked about the £600 raised initially for the Police Bikes pre pandemic that could unfortunately not be used and what the plans were to utilise these funds based on the initial decision by the public of 'promoting the community council'. Discussions were taking place on the purchasing stationary items to provide to members of the public along with leaflets about the community council. However it was recognised that additional ways would be required to maximise the profile and reach of the community council moving forward, with the public being consulted at each stage of any future discussions.

6. Councillor Updates;

Serena Cowdy – (Arbroath West & Letham)

A number of complex housing cases in Arbroath area being dealt with at the moment and additional issues such as speeding, land disputes in the more rural areas within the ward. As a board member of Angus Alive, has been pushing for an increase and regular opening hours of the Access Office and will be raised at this week's meeting of the council.

Brenda Durno (Arbroath East & Lunan)

A number of constituent enquiries relating to matters such as housing issues, evictions, housing repairs that are being dealt with. Concerns with regards to the future location of the access office e.g., remaining within the library building or relocating back to Kirk Square. Increasing the opening hours is being investigated and an update on both matters will be provided at the next public meeting.

A question was raised if the Access Office is not relocated back to Kirk Square what will the building be used for. This is also to be discussed with a number of additional matters at the meeting later this week.

Lois Speed (Arbroath East & Lunan)

Increasing number of constituent cases over a wider range and often complex issues covering mental health issues, vandalism. Supporting a number of community groups with funding applications for all size of projects; including Skilz Academy for the Astro-Turf pitch at Arbroath High School and the Courthouse Group in Arbroath.

7. **Police Report:** Constable Sarah Watt attended the meeting and had just joined the communities team a few weeks prior. She said she was looking forward to working with the community and the community council moving forward.

Report received and a copy has been sent to the community's team to upload to Community Councils portal on receipt of this and a copy placed in the library. This can be viewed online at; <https://anguscommunitycouncils.wordpress.com/community-council-minutes/royal-burgh-of-arbroath>.

8. SSE Communities Fund

The deadline for the latest round of the micro grants had closed on 2nd September. The sub-group will review all 32 applications received and the successful groups will be informed, and a press release conducted as well. Next round of funding will be open around October/November and information will be posted in the library, online and in the noticeboards around the town. .

9. AOCB

A meeting had taken place between with residents, Arbroath Community Trust as well as the Community Council and local councillors about the noise levels at Seaton Park when the football training was taking place.

The previous issue regarding the noise levels at Seaton Park has been resolved as a result of a meeting between multiple parties, including the community council. A planning application is being launched in regards to changing the layout of the site and increasing the number and size of pitches for both football and rugby use. The community council will make sure this is discussed at future meetings when more detail is known about this potential project.

Access Line

A review is underway about the accessibility of the access line, access office and online access. Each of them is managed by separate teams within each of the three areas and the communication between each area is being investigated to improve the current situation. The current issues are creating barriers for all individuals including those with physical and mental issues which is not adhering to the basic principle of the services being accessible to everyone.

There was a unanimous agreement the inter-communication between the services needs to be established at the earliest opportunity and break down this 'silo' mentality within the current structure of the access services. The website is not user friendly especially for individuals that have mental/physical impairments or where English is not the first language and that this is not providing the assistance for such individuals in any shape or form.

There was also a discussion had about the beggars on the High Street and if anything could be done about them. It was explained that the Police are aware of the matter and have spoken to the individuals concerned however the individuals cannot make a move to 'grab' a person or be aggressive towards them.

A question was asked about a plaque being installed at the Elliot Bridge for the railway accident that took place during 1906 and how this would highlight the historical significance of the accident as well as the families of the victims of the crash. Councillor Speed said this request would require to be sent to Network Rail to look into this and she could provide the details for the member of the public to send this to.

It was noted that some notices and minutes had not been updated in the library for a few meetings. The chair apologised for this, as this had been handed in however this would be rectified as soon as possible. Copies would try to be placed in the noticeboards also.

10. Planning

No planning applications have been reported.

11. **Date of Next Meetings 2022** – Tuesday 11 October, Webster Theatre, 7:00pm. This is for all community councillors to be sworn in and for the election of office bearers as well as any AOCB. The next full monthly public meeting will take place on Tuesday 01 November, Barbers Croft, 7pm.