



# Royal Burgh of Arbroath Community Council

Draft Minutes of the public meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Abbott Street Lounge, 16 Barbers Croft, Arbroath, DD11 1HB



## Welcome and apologies

**Present:** **Members:** Fiona Doran (Chair), Rogan Frith, Steve Charlton, Martin Chisholm, Tracy Manson, Jacqui Douglas, Arthur Grant  
**Councillors:** Serena Cowdy, Martin Shepherd, Lois Speed  
**Communities Officer/Police Liaison/Other:** Mhairi Dickson  
**Number of Members of public:** 16

**Apologies:** **Members:** Peter, Debbie, Alex, Morag  
**Councillors:** Brenda Durno  
**Communities Officer/Police Liaison/Other:**

**Co-opt new Community Council Members:** Rogan Frith, Steve Charlton, Morag Smith voted in unanimously. Youth member raised by Arthur Grant but needs further exploration due to safeguarding concerns and processes raised.

**Official Documents to be adopted:** Code of Conduct; Scheme of establishment; Constitution: AGM to be held in May and short section about planning meeting added to Angus Council template; and Standing Orders all adopted unanimously.

Reminder for a positive and respectful meeting as a community

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Proposed by Jacqui Douglas and seconded by Tracy Manson

## Matters arising from previous meeting:

Accessline review: update from Cllr Martin Shepherd. Feedback is about lack of human interaction; acknowledgement of financial constraints. Review is ongoing with more to come.

Rail accident plaque: discussion between Cllr Serena Cowdy and member of Public who raised at previous meeting. Had tried to make contact but was an issue with email address. Cllr Cowdy agreed to follow up before December meeting.

Minutes: Distribution list and copy to be placed in library as well as asking for suggestions if there is anywhere else they would like to be able to access copies of these.

Bike lights: Missed the window for this year but will look into this more for next year and expand on this.

Merchandise: Paper cups to be replaced with travel mugs to foster group identity. £6.50 per cup. Voted on to proceed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Balance currently held including Seagreen money £16945.17. Signatories confirmed as Tracy Manson, Fiona Doran and Jacqui Douglas. Discussion around auditing last completed 2019. No need to get audited until end of financial year confirmed by Mhairi Dickson. Member of public suggested VAA have an accountant that can be used as independent auditor.

**Speaker from Angus Toy Appeal:** Lynn Richards and Sharon sharing background, helping 1700 children last year, and aims for this year. Expecting over 2000 referrals this year which can be made through schools and nurseries or other agencies. Donation boxes throughout Angus in shops, schools etc (listed on Facebook) and also have an Amazon wishlist.

**Planning:** Notified of development at Crudie Farm for advertising signs; and, change of use at Lunan Bothies from disused stables to tourist accommodation.

### **Correspondence**

Replacement bins in the High Street including recommendations from Angus Council. Rogan Frith has explored the state of the bins and sought feedback from the community who would prefer for the bins to be repaired rather than replaced. Jacqui shared reply from Angus Council re points raised by Rogan: repeated replacement of damaged locks and sharp edges recommending the bins need to be replaced. Rogan agreed to correspond further with Suzanne from Angus Council to explore this.

Jim Dunbar raised concerns about horse manure on the road at Kirkton. Not happy with response from Angus Council suggesting horse waste is not the same as dog waste. Referring to it as littering and believes the law needs to be changed. Cllr Speed said good practice for horse riders to pick up but no requirement for them to do this. Council can liaise with local riders. Cllr Speed also mentioned the complaint process and also the reporting process for littering. Jacqui queried with Cllr Speed if good practices could be re-shared and whether signage might help but no enforcement action would be taken as beyond their remit. Cllr Speed agreed to look into this further.

Felling at Ethie Woods. Fewer trees being replaced than removed and query re impact on the community while the work is being completed and whether they will still be able to use the area. Mhairi Dickson highlighted Paul Black as countryside services if we need more information or specialist knowledge. Martin Chisholm agreed to take this on.

### **New Items for discussion**

Newsletter and distribution lists will be getting created and people can be added by emailing the Community Council email address.

Roles for Community Council members: Seagreen contact point – Peter suggested by Rogan; Funding – Julia; Newsletter, Consultations, Refreshments, Photo's all left unallocated until we have a better idea who might be the best person.

### **SSE Communities Fund**

Cheryl Stewart from Royal Observer Corps Museum shared background and a very interesting talk about the museum and the work of the ROC during wartime. Funding will be used to install wind and solar power at the facility.

Scott Shortridge from Keptie Friends told us that funding will be used to replace tools with lighter, battery powered tools which can be used by more people. Also mentioned the island lights and fundraising for this and asked for thoughts on whether fundraising, at this time, is a good idea with cost-of-living crisis being experienced by many.

Neil Rodwell and Jamie Watson from Arbroath Rugby Rhino's told us about the growth of the club and relocation to accommodate more players and playing at Seaton Park and recently held first rugby tournament in 5 years with players also travelling to play elsewhere. Money will be used to buy equipment now that they have suitable grounds to play.

### **Councillor updates**

Cllr Serena Cowdy discussed concerns about housing issues and energy costs associated with the cost of living crisis. Warm space initiatives with activities to minimise stigma being discussed by the Council.

Cllr Martin Shepherd talking about the Cost of living event and the social supermarket at Ladyloan Primary School which is for everyone to access. Arbroath Golf Links looking to install electric chargers for cars. Pot-holes have been filled. Asked for support with constituent case relating to parking issues at East Muirlands Road and highlighted that the council don't have funding for additional cut away parking and asked if the Community Council could help secure funding as a constituted group. Tracy agreed to work with Martin on this. Jacqui asked an additional question about whether the developers for the new build would fund the additional parking.

Cllr Lois Speed congratulated the Community Council for the increased turn out and highlighted the broad range of issues that they deal with as Councillors and the committees that Councillors sit on. Pavement infrastructure and lack of dropped kerbs has been recently highlighted by constituents. Also has been working with constituents about recent flooding at East Grimsby, ensuring action has been taken and providing reassurance. Mentioned the review of the accessline and also the permanent relocation of the Access office. Consultation will take place around the future use of the old office within the Steeple.

**Police Report** Jacqui summarised the Police report in the absence of community Police Officers highlighting a survey about local policing that is underway. Reduction in number of crimes. Reminder about security on dark nights and looking out for and reporting any concerns.

### **AOCB**

Tracy highlighted the new dementia open days at the Carers Centre for anyone to drop in.

Concerns about the "Black hole in council funding" reported in the press.

Also raised issues at Andy Stewart Court again. Cllr Speed is trying to arrange a meeting – Tracy is going to follow up as Cllr Speed needed to leave before this discussion.

Wanted to know why "Bite n blether" hadn't received any funding and it was suggested that they could apply for the Seagreen funding.

Queried replacement of bins on High Street and how this has come about.

Seconded issue with horse manure.

Issues still remain with fallen trees from the storms last year at Edzell and Crombie. Cllr Cowdy agreed to follow up on this.

Seconded parking issues at East Muirlands Road and Cllr Shepherd agreed to look into this along with the previous issues raised.

Sandie Beedie gave an update on the progress for the Christmas Lights and invited the Community Council, who funded the majority of the tree, to switch the lights on this year.

Query re replacing trees at the St Vigeans Nature Traill following the completion of the flood prevention. Cllr Shepherd to update on this.

**Next meeting** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6.30pm Abbott Street Lounge, 16 Barbers Croft, Arbroath, DD11 1HB