



Royal Burgh of Arbroath Community Council

Draft Minutes of the public meeting on Tuesday 6th December 2022
Abbott Street Lounge, 16 Barbers Croft, Arbroath, DD11 1HB



Welcome and apologies

Present: **Members:** Julia Smith, Peter Anelli, Alex Smith, Fiona Doran, Steve Charlton, Martin Chisholm, Jacqui Douglas, Arthur Grant, Debbie Milne
Councillors: Serena Cowdy, Martin Shepherd, Lois Speed, Brenda Durno,
Communities Officer/Police Liaison/Other: Mhairi Dickson
Number of Members of public: 16

Apologies: **Members:** Lauren Simpson, Colin Stewart, Rogan Frith, Tracy Manson, Morag Smith, Jamie Mackay
Councillors:
Communities Officer/Police Liaison/Other:

Resignations: Marc Ritchie, Ross Findlay, Kurtis Harvey

Co-opt new Community Council Members: Youth member Emily Petrie

Minutes of previous meeting: Proposed by Julia Smith and seconded by Arthur Grant

Matters arising from previous meeting:

Accessline review: Cllr Martin Shepherd: Should see improvements from March onwards. Confirmed there is 1 Manager & 16 FTE with a budget of £347000
Cllr Serena Cowdy: Wants to find out more about what 'slicker' means

Plaque for rail accident in 1906: Cllr Serena Cowdy: Network rail currently developing a program of repair and replacement. If Elliot bridge is due for any work this could be incorporated. Updating through Community Council rather than direct with Duncan who raised the request.

Bike lights: Jacqui Douglas in Rogan Frith's absence: Working group established with a view to doing something September/October 2023 with Rogan taking the lead.

Replacement bins for High Street: Suzanne Austin from Angus Council Waste Services: Explained litter bins have been examined and all bar 1 have significant issues including lock replacements and failing door hinges. 4 bins have already been removed due to the door falling off. Health and safety concerns if door was to fall off in situ. Explained significant ongoing costs to repair bins. Addressed concerns of sustainability explaining bins have reached the end of their useful life. Recommended plastic bins for durability: Heritage bin.

Community Council decided on the Derby E with seagull flaps in the burgundy/maroon colour and with the Community Council logo. Fiona Doran mentioned an alternative logo to be discussed. Julia queried accessibility for wheelchairs and Suzanne confirmed 1m

Horse manure: Cllr Lois Speed made enquiries and confirmed that horse manure different from dog mess and not criminal. Best practice from British Horse Society to remove mess. Letters sent to equestrian centre's but needs to be weighed and balanced. Hazards to riders dismounting during a ride with no prop to get back on also discussed.

Ethie Woods Tree Felling: Martin Chisholm reviewed the documents and reaching out to Paul Clark for updates on progress because it's a popularly used area.

Community Council roles: Funding – Julia; Seagreen – Jamie; Youth liaison – Rogan; Photo's – Jamie; Newsletter – Morag; Refreshments – Tracy; Consultations – Peter Anelli

Warm spaces: Cllr Serena Cowdy re-named Community spaces and detailed on Angus Council website with a visual interactive map. Details of any Community space not currently on the list can be passed to Mhairi Dickson to be added.

Cllr Lois Speed mentioned information available at library as well as online

Debbie has been making blankets: given to Val for residents at Andy Stewart Court.

East Muirlands Road parking issue: Cllr Martin Shepherd and Tracy met with Alfie Dickson (resident) to discuss additional cut away parking as it's a safety concern. Tayside contracts fund opens 3rd January 2023. Community Council could put a bid in with support from Craig Hudson to draw up plans. Mhairi Dickson has also offered support with the bid.

Val raised the issue of 2 vans parked inappropriately at junction with Rosewell Place. Double yellow lines may be needed. Jacqui Douglas agreed to look into this further and take it up with Community Police to have an informal word about inappropriate parking too close to junctions.

Andy Stewart Court: Cllr Lois Speed reviewing sheltered housing in her role as older people's champion. Specifically for Andy Stewart Court, Lois provided a summary over the whole year from that Jan 2022: all communal and property repairs total £29461 with communal works accounting for £10065; 94 out of 101 repairs completed within target timescales; and there are currently only 2 outstanding repairs. Upgrades in progress such as heating and PV panels. Fire alarm switch over is underway – postal strikes has caused delay with communication. Information day for sheltered housing tenants is being arranged. Agreed going forward for communication to be direct between Val and Cllr Speed to resolve the discrepancy between expectations.

Fallen trees at Edzell and Crombie etc: Cllr Cowdy discussed with Councillor Chris Beattie from the Brechin and Edzell ward. Land is owned by Dalhousie Estate, not the council, clearing is in progress but this has been hampered by availability of equipment and challenges accessing the land impacted

Replacement trees at St Vigeans Nature Trail: Cllr Martin Shepherd confirmed that in recent bad weather the prevention works, worked well and protected homes and businesses. Final stages and landscaping to be completed in spring. Trees removed have been replaced elsewhere in the town because planting anything more than grass/wild flowers on embankment is likely to cause damage to the embankment as roots grow. It is thought that the area is going to be left to re-grow naturally similar to the works at Elliot: Cllr Cowdy going to check on this

Treasurer's report:

- Seagreen transfers to Rugby Rhino's, Keptie Friends and Royal Observer Corps
- Last month's balance £16954.17
- £1328.40 spent this month: £1250 seagreen; £75 hall rent and milk for meetings
- New balance £15616.77
- Books last audited 2021

Planning: Debbie hasn't received any updates from Planning: Fiona going to follow up on this

Correspondence

VAA Volunteering event 12th January 2023: Colleen locality worker from Voluntary Action Angus supports volunteers and groups within Angus. Mentioned social prescribers as a service they provide as well as breast buddies for breast feeding support and collaborative work with various third-party sector organisations. Colleen is based in Arbroath and meets people in various settings by arrangement. Shared details of the locality locator on their website as a database for all organisations throughout Angus. Fiona & Julia attending volunteering event.

Angus Council Kerbside recycling survey *see attached:* Suzanne Austin from Waste Management looking for feedback on recycling survey and explained the deposit return scheme. Deposit return scheme will reduce recycling providing an opportunity to review waste collection services. Hoping individuals will separate recycling making it easier to manage and more cost effective.

New Items for discussion

Setting up a Community Council network: Jacqui Douglas may reach out to other community councils off the back of bi-annual which was more about Angus Council information.

Training for Community Councillors *see attached:* Modules available mentioned in the What's on distribution to be picked up with Mhairi Dickson directly.

SSE Communities Fund

Tara from Hillcrest: Applied for funding to pay for outdoor improvements and garden furniture for residents to improve social interaction. Happy to provide future updates and welcome us to come along for a visit.

Mo Douglas and John McVeigh from Arbroath Ski Club: Local voluntary club usually based at RM Condor. Introducing roller skiing as a unique way to bring exercise to you women who fall out of sport. Alternative and fun way to get around in community. Also welcome us to come along.

Councillor updates

Cllr Serena Cowdy introduced Cllr Louise Nicol for Arbroath West and Friockheim who will give an update next month.

Cllr Lois Speed talked about constituent case load including housing, health education, transport and dog bins. Various site visits with local community groups: Skilz astroturf at Sports Centre and Angus carers centre. Other time spent on reading reports and retail park has been back on the agenda: jobs, employment and sustainable development, consideration for High Street, Changing places: an accessible toilet unique to the area making Arbroath more inclusive.

Cllr Brenda Durno talked about planning committee reviewing rejections and doing site visits. Also now on procurement and liaising with other councils: which includes everything that the council buys, can't get prefab housing as far north as Angus so being looked into. Trying to get funding for Arbroath and the harbour.

Cllr Serena Cowdy: Similar to previous councillor updates about planning and community visits. Hospitalfield house reaching out to the community for increased engagement. Anonymous letter inciting hatred: homophobic and transphobic, has been randomly sent to multiple households – reported to Police and being looked into so any further examples should be reported.

Cllr Martin Shepherd community visit commando connect to keep morale up and include them as part of the ward. Attended Angus Independent Advocacy. Abbey theatre need more people attending – use it or lose it. Attended harbour meeting and keen to get more involved in securing funding for the harbour which is in need. Surgeries in place throughout the ward for people to speak to the Councillors and going well.

Police Report Not read due to lack of time - to be put in library.

AOCB

Issue about bus service raised by Val – no new timetables about the changes. 43 not always running. Cllr Cowdy responded: National shortage of drivers is an ongoing issue and also issue around out of date timetables displayed at bus stops – chasing with Ian Leith to update/remove timetables. Cllr Lois Speed going to follow up on this.

Next meeting Tuesday 7th February 2023 from 6.30pm (for 7pm start) at Abbott Street Lounge, 16 Barbers Croft, Arbroath, DD11 1HB