



# Kirriemuir Community Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING of 22 February 2023 7 pm at Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre:

**Present:** Heather Kelly (Chair), Jeanette Reioch (Secretary), Frances Havenga, Eric Mitchell, Jim Stewart  
**In attendance:** Jean Henderson (Minute Secretary), Cllr George Meechan, Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Pete Morton and Scott Brydon, Roads Department, Angus Council (part time), **PUBLIC:** Cathy Stephenson, Dorothy McIntosh, Jean Balfour, Audrey Middleton

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p>1. <b>Apologies:</b> Ron Lobban, Irena Krasinska Lobban, George Aitken, Cllr Julie Bell</p> <p>2. <b>Approval of 25 January 2023 Minutes:</b> Agreed as a true and correct record. Proposed by Frances and seconded by Jim.</p> <p>3. <b>Police Report:</b> Circulated.</p> <p>4. <b>Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Services Report:</b>  <u>Community Safety:</u>            9 x Home Fire Safety visits            2 x Operational Intelligence visits  <u>Incidents:</u>            7 x AFA (Automated Fire Alarm)            2 x Fire Alarm/Smoke Detector Operating            3 x Special Service (Lockfast, CVO alarm)            1 x Fire dwelling – persons reported            1 x Fire building</p> <p>Spring TAP (Thermatic Action Plan) 27 February 2023 to 17 April 2023.            Key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce fire related anti-social behaviour and the number of deliberate primary and secondary fires.</li> <li>2. a) Reduce the number of outdoor fires involving grass/heatherland and/or forested areas. b) Reduce the number of wild fires.</li> <li>3. Reduce the number of fires in derelict/unoccupied buildings.</li> <li>4. Reduce the number of fires involving refuse/rubbish.</li> <li>5. Increased safety of commercial and public premises/UFAS</li> <li>6. Increased Staycation awareness a) Promote fire safety within seasonal sleeping risks – caravan/camping sites. b) Promote fire safety within seasonal sleeping risks – hotels, guest houses/boarding houses, holiday centres and AirBnB type accommodation (Holiday Lets).</li> <li>7. Promote water safety.</li> <li>8. Promote road safety.</li> </ol> <p>Jim asked how SFRS plan to reduce the number of fires. Jeanette will contact Judi Young for an</p>	

<p>explanation.</p>	<p><b>JR</b></p>
<p><b>5. Treasurer's Report:</b> FPP Fund £200.00, KCC Funds £581.91, Defib Fund £595.50, Grant £295.26, VAA Fund £300.00 <b>Total: £1972.67</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Matters Arising:</b>  <b>B25 Development Trust update:</b> Heather reported a meeting is scheduled for 1 March, 7 pm in Kirrie Connections and asked for as many people as possible to attend. There will be a short Presentation. Heather asked for ideas for quick, easy and inexpensive projects that can be done for the community. This would get the Development Trust's name out there. A vote will be taken at this meeting to decide whether the Development Trust is independent or the auspices of another group. Heather reiterated that “we need as many people there as possible.”</p>	
<p><b>B49 Incorrect wording/signage at Slade Road update:</b> The sign on the pole has been turned around, facing in the wrong direction. Cllr Proctor thought it had been satisfactorily completed. He will investigate and report back.</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p>
<p><b>B55 Free period products promotion:</b> Heather agreed this item is long overdue but reported still no response from DD8. Heather proposed that she would buy period products with the grant money and distribute them around the town, together with some promotional material. All agreed.</p>	<p><b>HK</b></p>
<p><b>B64 Promoting Community Council – video update:</b> Jeanette understood Lynn Hally and Shelley would get in touch. Jeanette and Heather have not yet seen the video. Jeanette will email Shelley. <b>Off Agenda.</b></p>	
<p><b>B68 Overgrown hedges/plants hazard update:</b> Delson has dealt with their issue. Forfar Road is still to be dealt with. <b>Off Agenda.</b></p>	
<p><b>B74 Lines in Tannage Brae car park, re Karyn Dillon's investigation. Roads Dept.</b> Cllr Proctor reported that this comes under Parks Department but there are no funds available. Frances reported that during recent re-surfacing of Reform Street car park, one of the two disabled parking bays has been inadvertently tarmacked over, as well as the “Keep Clear” sign near Manse Close. <b>Off Agenda.</b></p>	
<p>Heather questioned again, “What about the yellow lines?” Cllr Meechan said that, unfortunately, if there is no money available then the work cannot be done but some repair work is being done. Heather pointed out that the Community Council is acting on behalf of the community. The Community Council is there to act as a link between the community and Angus Council and other agencies, when appropriate. Unfortunately, the public's confidence in the Community Council's existence is quickly deteriorating. The volunteers on the Kirriemuir Community Council try their level best to resolve issues but of late this is becoming more and more difficult without the necessary support.</p>	
<p><b>B82 Hooks rhones still causing problems, dangerous walking conditions:</b> Cllr Meechan is still working on this issue. Cllr Proctor is meeting with Roads Department. Frances reported that she couldn't see anything wrong with the pavement. Cllr Proctor stated that Angus Council is still in dispute with the owner of Hooks. Heather pointed out that an accident on a pavement is Angus Council's responsibility.</p>	<p><b>GM RP</b></p>
<p><b>B84 “Authorised cars only” sign for the Den:</b> Cllr Meechan reported that Parks Department advise that they cannot lock the gates totally. There is a sign at the entry to the Den, albeit,</p>	

<p>difficult to see. Jim cleaned the sign (<i>thanks, Jim</i>) but reports the sign was facing the wrong way.</p>	
<p><b>B86 Support for Community Councils – Gordon Grewar's attendance at meetings:</b> Jeanette is advised that Gordon Grewar only works until 12 noon. However, she understands someone from Angus Council still visits Brechin Community Council in a support capacity. Gordon Grewar is aware that KCC is looking for support. Cllr Meechan will investigate and determine if there is someone available who can visit KCC.</p>	GM
<p><b>B87 Paper boys ' lack of lights on their bikes:</b> Jeanette has emailed PC Barrie Taylor with the details. <b>Off Agenda</b></p>	
<p><b>B88 Light out at Comminty: <i>Update from meeting:</i></b> Bellies Brae lights fixed but Comminty light still off. Eric highlighted the report in the media that Angus Council is spending £170,000 to rectify the out of sync speed flashing lights at schools around Angus. The lights have been out of sync for a long time with the result drivers no longer heed the “flashing warning lights” around the schools, endangering school children's safety. Cllr Proctor reported the were supplied by an Austrian company. In that case, Eric wondered why it is Angus Council footing the bill?</p>	GM
<p><b>B89 Publicity for the Hill Gym equipment:</b> Heather has had no response from The Courier. Therefore, she proposes getting some people to use the equipment, taking photographs and writing an editorial and sending it to The Courier. All agreed.</p>	HK
<p><b>B90 Possible re-introduction of car parking charges in Angus:</b> Cllr Meechan reported there will be no answer until end of March.</p>	Agenda item
<p><b>B91 Accessing the Common Good Fund (Irena):</b> Cllr Meechan is trying to arrange a meeting with Ian Lorimer. Cllr Proctor proposed a bid is submitted for the amount required. Cllr Meechan, Cllr Bell and Cllr Proctor will the submit the bid.</p>	GM
<p><b>B92 Continuing inappropriate parking around Visocchi's:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported that the presence of parking attendants has been increased.</li> <li>• Cathy Stephenson reported that the culprits just move their vehicles, briefly, to other “inappropriate” spaces and then return their vehicles to Visocchi's.</li> <li>• Cllr Meechan has spoken to the Steeple, Take-away, etc. about the problem and they have said they will talk to the drivers.</li> <li>• Cathy reported that enforcement officers are coming to the town. Report of a lorry blocking the bus stop was recently posted on Facebook.</li> <li>• Eric reported that he understands parking tickets were issued last Friday, 17 February.</li> <li>• As was discussed at the January meeting, Cllr Proctor suggested moving the bollards forward. Cllr Proctor and Cllr Meechan will carry out a site visit and report back.</li> <li>• Eric pointed out that moving the bollards forward would narrow the road. There is a pedestrian crossing at that area with a dropped kerb at both sides.</li> <li>• Cathy reported that when she was a Community Councillor she was involved with the implementation of this crossing. An official crossing was not allowed at that time.</li> <li>• Heather expressed concern that this is an accident waiting to happen. This problem has been on the Agenda for over a year. Heather reported that the community is well aware of the Community Council's efforts to rectify this issue.</li> <li>• Cllr Proctor suggested that the Community Council put together an editorial/pictures and send it to Graham Brown at The Courier to highlight the seriousness of the problem. Jeanette didn't think taking the problem to the Press was the job of the Community Council but that of Angus Council.</li> </ul>	RP/GM

**B93 Manhole issue at Morrison Street/Forfar Road:** This is fast deteriorating. Scottish Water is involved.

## 7. Councillors' Reports:

**Cllr Julie Bell reports:**

### Play equipment

First of all, I am delighted to let you know that, in conjunction with Kirriemuir Regeneration Group, we have been awarded the second tranche of funding for accessible play equipment at Kirrie Hill. This second allocation allows us to purchase and install the inclusive roundabout to join the wheelchair-accessible swing. We are hugely grateful to the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership's locality improvement groups for their generous funding.

In addition, I was invited to talk to a P2 class at Southmuir PS who are making posters about this project to help with the Co-op fundraising to add a wheelchair-accessible picnic table to the site – the pupils are covering Article 23 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child:

*Article 23: a child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part the community. Governments must do all they can provide support to disabled children and their families.*



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As I have undertaken this initiative as both a member of KRG and as a Corporate Parent, I was delighted to visit and have also been invited to their whole-school assembly in March to see their work.

### Video

I had updated the CC on the video made by Angus Council in my last report so copy my update here:

Kim Ritchie and Lynn Hally are going to be meeting all the Community Councils as part of an exercise to identify opportunities/challenges and Shelley Hague is hoping this will then lead to a campaign around community engagement where the video would be used.

<https://vimeo.com/755124488>

The only further update I have to this is that I spoke to Shelley earlier this month and she remains keen to do a round of all CCs.

### Kinnordy Path

You will be aware the path remains closed – this awaits the completion of remedial work by Tayside Contracts following the bridge collapse. As soon as I receive more from council officers overseeing this work, I'll update via email.

## Cost of Living Roadshows



There have 2 Cost of Living Roadshows in Kirriemuir and Dean – in Newtyle on Feb 1 and Kirriemuir on Feb 7. I bumped into council leader, Cllr Beth Whiteside at the Newtyle one, great networking for organisations and tons of info



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and support available for anyone who visited.

### **Telephone Box Art Gallery**

I attended the opening of the latest exhibition at the telephone Box Gallery on Feb 5 – I hope people are enjoying the creativity there, fantastic initiative.

### **Boards/Committees**

Committees

Committees I have attended this month, all council papers here:



[https://www.angus.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/committees/agendas\\_reports\\_and\\_minutes](https://www.angus.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/committees/agendas_reports_and_minutes)

NHS Tayside papers here:

<https://www.nhstayside.scot.nhs.uk/YourHealthBoard/TheBoardanditsCommittees/TaysideNHSBoard/ArchivePapers/ViewPapers/index.htm>

Public Health Scotland papers here: <https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-organisation/our-board/>

AC Scrutiny and Audit – Jan 31

NHS Tayside's Care Governance Committee on Feb 2

Public Health Scotland's Board meeting – Feb 8

Angus Council – Feb 9

NHS Tayside's Public Health Committee – Feb 14

AC's Children and Learning – Feb 14

Angus Community Planning Partnership Board – Feb 15

Public Health Scotland's Staff Governance Committee – Feb 15

This week, I chair the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership Integrated Joint Board on Wed Feb 22; NHS Tayside Board meeting on Thursday Feb 23.

### **Cllr Ronnie Proctor reports:**

I have attended the following meetings which have all been held remotely with the exception of the full Angus Council, Dampness Seminar and Angus Alive Board and Directors Meetings:-

Tay Cities deal where we were updated on how things were progressing, there is no direct involvement for Kirriemuir but there could be a spin off from the projects such as projects which are proposed for Montrose.

1. Policy and Resources
2. Children and Learning
3. Full Angus Council
4. Seminar on mould and dampness in privately owned and Council owned properties
5. Council Budget briefing
6. Angus alive Finance Committee Meeting
7. Angus alive Board and Directors' meetings
8. Communities Meeting
9. Angus Council Species Champions Meeting

### **Cllr George Meechan reports:**

It has been a busy month with meetings and constituent issues. I have attended the following Committee Meetings:

Civic Licensing

Licensing  
Tayside Joint Valuation Board  
Full Council  
Communities Committee  
Children and Learning Committee

I have attended the following meetings/presentations:

Kirriemuir Development Trust steering group. Good progress is being made in moving forward and developing the trust.

Further meeting with Angus Council Housing and Vibrant Communities to look at how we could work with residents of Prosen Road and Clova Road, Kirriemuir to help improve the area.

A Council Budget Briefing via Teams

I visited the Council Welfare Rights Service in Forfar to see how the cost-of-living crises is impacting on their workload.

I attended a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector event at Voluntary Action Angus in Forfar which was very informative, with presentation from various voluntary organisation.

I attended the Angus Licensing Board pre-agenda meeting via Teams.

I attended the Cost of Living Shows in both Newtyle and Kirriemuir. These were well attended, particularly Kirriemuir, which had a good show from the local community.

Attended IJB Audit Committee Development Session.

Attended a Damp and mould workshop in Angus House, Forfar.

#### **Updates.**

9. I discussed in detail issues regarding street lighting with Angus Council Roads.
10. I met with the local Housing Manager regarding housing issues in Kirriemuir
11. Carried out home visits to help deal with constituent's issues

Issues from constituents included the following:

5. Street lighting
6. Roads
7. Gritting, salt, and salt bin issues
8. Housing issues, repairs, dampness etc
  
8. **Correspondence:** Letter from Jennifer Anderson, Angus Council, regarding a Teams Meeting on 23 February, on Resilience. Heather asked anyone available to please attend.
  
9. **Planning:** Minor planning application reported.

#### **10. AOCB:**

- 10.1. **Heather reported** that a meeting is scheduled for 1 March which coincides with the Development Trust meeting. This meeting will be of interest to the Development Trust. Implementing a travel track suitable for walking and cycling. This is a Teams meeting, 5.30 to 7 pm.

10.2. **Jeanette** raised the plaque for the bench. *Update since meeting:* Eric has fitted the plaque.

10.3. **Cllr Proctor** highlighted a complaint he had received regarding the sub-station at Westhill Bank. Work is being carried out to make this secure.

10.4. **Cllr Proctor** reported that work on a pathway down to the Health Centre will start in May and finish in July. KCC has pursued the need for a pathway at the Health Centre for some time so this is good news.

10.5. **Cllr Meechan** is part of a Group currently assessing Clova Road and Prosen Road. This is progressing. The assessment is looking good and Housing is saying the right things. A newsletter will be issued soon to all residents in the area. Cllr Meechan will keep KCC posted.

**10.6. Heather** reported an issue with the “Book Swap Telephone Box.” Jennifer Anderson advised that there was a trail of burnt books leading from the Box down to the Den. Fortunately, the actual Box was not damaged. Heather reported this to PC Barrie Taylor who suggested that any future such incidents should be reported via 111.

*10.7 **Cathy Stephenson (member of the public)** gave her report on the bus situation. The position for Forfar Depot remains reasonably stable. Most sickness absences have been covered and although a few drivers have left, there is ongoing recruitment and training. Arbroath based drivers are getting trained on Forfar routes which helps. 977 members now in the Facebook Group. Cathy is now looking ahead at issues around vehicle reliability and long term zero emissions aims and gave a brief report on this at the meeting. Thanks again to Cathy for her diligent work with the bus companies on behalf of the community.*

*10.8 **Dorothy McIntosh (Public)** asked for confirmation of the speed limit in the town. Cllr Proctor confirmed 20 mph. Dorothy expressed concern that she had nearly been knocked down in Reform Street due to a speeding car, which was driving more than 20 m,ph. Heather offered to inform PC Barrie Taylor of the incident and request speed checks in the town centre. Cathy reported similar speeding through Maryton.*

*10.9 **Audrey Middleton (Public)** asked if it is possible to advertise a poster on the large pole in the middle of the Square. This pole was erected some years ago for the Christmas lights. No one had any further information on the pole.*

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 27 March, 7 pm in Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre.**

Heather welcomed **Pete Morton and Scott Bryden, Roads Department, Angus Council.**

- Pete thanked KCC for their kind invitation and apologised for his absence at the November meeting.
- Pete explained that both he and Scott are relatively new to the Roads Department and currently finding their feet.
- Roads Department covers roads and transportation, traffic transportation, crossings, signs and yellow lines, public transport and school transport.
- Roads Department covers 1800 km carriageways, 1500 km roadways, 800 structures, etc.

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<p>etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are certain issues, due to lack of funding, that Roads Department is unable to pursue.</li> <li>• Roads Department has a Service Policy which Pete and Scott were not involved in compiling, however, this policy is currently being reviewed.</li> <li>• Weather Services across two depots, involving local farmers and tractors. Budget for this winter is £2.3m. 10,000 tons of salt used this winter. However, salt usage has doubled this year compared to last year.</li> <li>• Potholes are undertaken by two contractors. £1.2m spend on potholes. <b>Heather</b> highlighted the very bad road surface in the small Glengate. This road was only surfaced a few years ago but urgently needs attention. Pete said he will get supervisors to inspect the road.</li> <li>• <b>Cathy</b> reported that someone has erected an advertising sign on the grass verge just opposite to the entrance of the Business Park which could start a precedent. This went up on Sunday. Pete will investigate.</li> <li>• <b>Cllr Proctor</b> highlighted the lights out at Pathhead to the Community. Can Roads investigate. <i>Update: Community is only one still out.</i></li> <li>• <b>Cllr Proctor</b> highlighted the out of sync flashing lights outside of Angus Schools. Drivers are now aware they are out of sync, therefore, the safety element/caution around schools has disappeared. Pete offered to investigate.</li> <li>• <b>Cllr Proctor</b> highlighted the parking area across from Visocchi's which is constantly being abused by inappropriate parking. As discussed earlier in this Business Meeting, can Pete investigate removing the lay-by. Pete offered to investigate with Traffic. Heather suggested that the Community Council should be involved in this investigation. Jeanette and Cllr Proctor will meet with the Traffic Manager on Friday, 3 March, at 3 pm.</li> <li>• <b>Jeanette</b> reported that the Community Council is no longer receiving Road Closure notices for this area. Scott will investigate.</li> <li>• <b>Jeanette</b> highlighted the overgrown hedges on Forfar Road. Pete will investigate.</li> <li>• <b>Jeanette</b>, as Secretary of Kirriemuir Community Council, asked if she can have a direct email contact address for Roads Department. Recently, when trying to contact Roads Department she was asked to contact them via the ACCESS line. Jeanette has successful contact email addresses for other Angus Council Departments. Pete will organise this for the foreseeable future but it may take a little time to set up.</li> <li>• <b>Eric</b> highlighted that one of the two disabled bays in Reform Street car park has been inadvertently tarmacked over during recent resurfacing work, as well as the “Keep Clear” sign.” Scott offered to inform Traffic.</li> <li>• <b>Heather</b> reported that about a month ago an “Angus Council” contractors vehicle was observed parked outside of Bertrams in Bank Street for at least two hours. The contractors were observed sitting in the vehicle for the whole two hours. Similar observations were also reported. Pete will investigate and report back.</li> </ul>	<p>PM</p> <p>PM</p> <p>PM</p> <p>PM</p> <p>PM</p> <p>SB</p> <p>PM</p> <p>SB</p> <p>PM</p>
<p>Heather thanked Pete and Scott for taking the time to come along to the Community Council meeting and looked forward to hearing from them regarding the above points.</p>	



