



Kirriemuir Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of 26 April 2023 7 pm at Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre

Present: Heather Kelly (Chair), Jeanette Reioch (Secretary), Irena Krasinska Lobban (Treasurer), George Aitken, Frances Havenga, Eric Mitchell

In attendance: Jean Henderson (Minute Secretary), Cerys Mitchell, Cllr George Meechan, PUBLIC: Cathy Stephenson, Esme Duncan, Audrey Middleton, Evelyn Wright, Charlie Wright, Nicky Pirie

Heather opened the meeting by reminding everyone that this is a Public Meeting, and respect, in accordance with the Code of Conduct, should be paramount at all times.

	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies: PC Scott Anderson, Officer Judi Young (SFRS), Ron Lobban, Cllr Ronnie Proctor</p> <p>2. Approval of 29 March 2023 Minutes: Correction: AOCB 11.4. Hand driers not hand rails. Otherwise agreed as a true and correct record. Proposed by Irena and seconded by Jeanette.</p> <p>3. Police Report: No report received.</p> <p>4. Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Report: <u>Community Safety:</u> 12 x Home fire safety visits 4 x Operational Intelligence visits Joint initiative carried out with Police Scotland regarding parking issues in and around Knowehead Crescent and town area. SFRS Parking leaflet used. <u>Incidents:</u> 3 x AFA (Automated Fire Alarm) 3 x Fire Alarm/Smoke Detector Operating 1 x Chimney fire 3 x Fire in open 1 x RTC 1 x Inland water rescue – search</p> <p>5. Treasurer's Report: As at 26.4.23 FPP fund £200.00 KCC fund £545.71 Defib fund £595.50 Grant £145.26 VAA fund £300.00 Total £1788.47</p> <p>6. Matters Arising: Co-option on to KCC: Heather welcomed Cerys Mitchell as a new Community Councillor for Kirriemuir Community Council. Cerys, as a pupil at Websters High School, will be an excellent link to Websters. Proposed by Irena and seconded by Frances. <i>Congratulations Cerys!</i></p>	

<p>B25 Development Trust update: This is now constituted and a bank account is being processed. A grant has been received, details of which will be reported later. Heather confirmed The Development Trust is a stand alone.</p>	
<p>B49 Incorrect signage wording/location at Slade Road update: No update.</p>	<p>RP</p>
<p>B55 Free period products distribution: Products have been bought. Not yet distributed.</p>	
<p>B82 Hooks rhones problem/water pouring out/SEPA contact: SEPA advised Heather that if it is not causing any problems, and it is just water, then there is nothing they can do. They suggested KCC contact Angus Council. Suggestion to contact Citizens Advice Bureau regarding taking out legal action against the owner. Taking this action is not within the remit of KCC. Do we have to wait until there is an accident?</p>	
<p>It is understood that kids are going into the back of Hooks. There is a rhone problem at Greens. Heather offered to speak to Greens' Manager. Heather will also contact SFRS, Officer Young, for advice.</p>	<p>HK HK</p>
<p>Cllr Meechan discussed this issue with Angus Council and was advised that Hooks owner had repaired the rhones. Cllr Meechan offered to revisit the problem and also investigate the kids' issue.</p>	<p>GM</p>
<p>B89 Publicity for Hill equipment: Done. Irena offered to investigate a black rubber handle missing from a piece of the exercise equipment. Off Agenda.</p>	
<p>B92 Continuing inappropriate parking outside of Visocchi's/Angus Council: Ongoing. Reports that this issue continues. Cllr Meechan offered to discuss again with Andrew Barnes.</p>	<p>RP GM</p>
<p>B95 Proposed Police speed checks in ton centre/Police response to be passed to Angus Council: Awaiting update regarding traffic calming measures.</p>	<p>RP</p>
<p>B96 Disappearance of a disabled bay/"Keep Clear" sign: Done</p>	
<p>B97 Dropped kerb at Bridges, loose cobbles at Fish Shop: Done</p>	
<p>B98 Glasswell/Checkiefield road, protruding barrier: Ongoing drainage problem. Off Agenda.</p>	
<p>B99 Proposed two verges at Knowehead into car park: Eric will send an email to Cllr Proctor.</p>	<p>EM/RP</p>
<p>7. Planned closures in Kirriemuir:</p>	
<p>a) Recycling Centre: Heather reported a number of emails have gone back and forth over the month regarding the closure of the Recycling Centre.</p>	
<p>Heather reported that KCC had held an extraordinary meeting on Friday, 14 April, to further discuss the Recycling Centre closure. During the meeting it was agreed to organise a Public Meeting on either 22nd May or 29th May, only to discover, since then, that a closure date for the Centre had been agreed for 14 May. KCC had already carried out a Consultation with the town on three occasions, receiving over 200 forms completed. Heather expressed disappointment that</p>	

KCC was not informed of this 14 May date sooner. This was taken up with Cllr Meechan.

Cllr Meechan emailed his response that Angus Councillors were unaware of the 14 May closure date until 18 April, and not earlier. Cllr Meechan's answer at the 29 March KCC meeting that he did not know the date of the closure was correct and, therefore, KCC were not "let down by your Councillors." Cllr Meechan pointed out that Cllr Proctor would also have been advised of the 14 May closure date on 18 April.

In response to KCC's invitation to the Public Meeting, to Margo Williamson, CEO of Angus Council, following is her reply, dated 25 April 2023:

-Quote- Thank you for your email and apologies for my delay in replying. I have been on leave. I will not attend on 29 May as I note the Director of Infrastructure, Mr. Dailly, is planning to come along. I will reiterate, however, that the decision to close Kirriemuir Recycling Centre has been made by our elected members and, as such, as Officers,. Our duty is to implement that decision. I believe Mr. Dailly has given you advanced notice of that timescale.

In closing, I thank you and the Community Council, for all that you do in and for the extended Kirriemuir area. Kind Regards, Margo **-Unquote-**

In response to KCC's invitation to the Public Meeting to Kirsty Hunter, CEO of Angus Alive, Cllr Meechan understands she is unable to attend.

Nicky Pirie (Public) expressed his concern at the closure of the Centre and said it would be more costly to dispose of rubbish by having to travel to Forfar. The Council Tax has increased yet services are reducing. Surely this will encourage fly tipping. Nicky suggested, as an alternative to closure, to opening at weekends only. Nicky was advised he can send in a written question to the Public Meeting if he is unable to attend.

Cllr Meechan reiterated that the budget was agreed on 2 March. Angus Council is required to publicise this in the Press. The Director of Infrastructure Services will respond to this. £50m has to be saved.

Cathy Stephenson (Public) pointed out that KCC is a statutory part of Angus Council and on this issue they have been ignored. Cathy understands there are long queues, in both directions, trying to enter the Forfar Recycling Centre at the moment. How are they going to manage in the future if they have to accommodate Kirriemuir?

Cllr Meechan highlighted again the cost of Brechin Recycling Centre is £90 per tonne, compared with Kirriemuir's £186 per tonne. This was taken into account for the Budget.

Discussion ensued. **Cathy Stephenson (Public)** stated that the problem has been not allowing the community of Kirriemuir to have their say before action was taken. Kirriemuir is a very "volunteer" based community, e.g. Christmas Lights, KRG Camera Obscura, Police Museum, and possibly the Gateway to the Glens Museum soon. Of course, volunteers running the Recycle Centre is out of the question. Surely Kirriemuir community's constant efforts to rescue the above sites in the town is commendable and should be considered in their appeal against the Centre closure. The community are doing their bit.

Cllr Meechan reiterated that he had voted for the closure of the Recycling Centre and offered to send KCC a copy of the Public Document. Closing the Recycling Centre was considered the least disruptive of the other options.

Discussion ensued regarding empty Council properties in Kirriemuir. Cllr Meechan explained that the rent of those tenants, currently housed in private properties, is paid by the Scottish Government. Fines for poor property care still exist. Empty Council properties can lie vacant for some time awaiting repairs/improvements and this appears to be lengthy. George queried why the work on properties can take so long when Angus Council has contractors available - perhaps, Angus Council needs to improve their efficiency. Cllr Meechan responded that that is a question for Angus Council.

It was suggested to invite a representative from Angus Council Housing Department to the KCC meeting. Jeanette will contact. Do other Recycling Centres have footfall? Cllr Meechan will investigate.

Heather will await the responses for the Public Meeting but said KCC had done their best so far. Heather wished it to be Minuted that she feels she has let everyone down in allowing this to happen. The meeting, unanimously, responded that it was certainly not the fault of Heather.

It was suggested that KCC ask Angus Council for a deferment of the 14 May closure date. The basis of this request is that KCC had already carried out three consultations with the community, amassed over 200 completed forms, and spent time organising a Public Meeting for 22nd or 29th May, only to learn, after all of this preparation and at the 11th hour, that the closure date had been set for 14 May. Agreed a good idea. Jeanette will action. Cathy Stephenson offered help with the email. Agreed to go ahead with the Public Meeting on 29 May.

b) Museum: This is ongoing and an Open Meeting will be arranged.

c) Collection of missed postal deliveries at Sorting Office: It is understood this is a temporary measure only and KCC has no further information.

8. **Fuel theft from forestry and agricultural vehicles:** Dealt with by Police.

9. **Code of Conduct:** Code of Conduct leaflet has been circulate to all Community Councillors.

10. Councillors Reports:

Cllr Ronnie Proctor reported:

Have actioned all the points that were against my name (I hope) and I have had a couple of housing items which I have dealt with. I also visited a constituent in Glen Isla which is out with KCC area.

I attended an update on the Tay Cities Deal (on teams) although this does not affect Kirriemuir directly there may be a spin off for jobs in the future.

I attended the Angus Alive Finance Committee meeting of which I am a member and a full Directors' Meeting the following week. I asked the CEO of Angus Alive if there was anything in the information that had been given to me that the Kirriemuir Sports Facility was to be closed. She said that no such plans were in train.

Attended the Communities Meeting virtually and took part in a very interesting and informative meeting regarding Gypsy Travellers and Scottish travelling people.

On Thursday the 20th of April I along with other elected members from Kirriemuir and Forfar

**JR
GM**

JR

I attended a housing meeting in Forfar where several issues were raised such as repairs, allocations, voids, and numerous social housing issues.

I hopefully will attend the ANZAC DAY Commemoration at Arbroath Western Cemetery, prior to driving to Manchester to attend a family funeral.. I should be back to attend the next Community Council on the 26th.

Cllr Julie Bell reports:

Recycling Centre

Councillors received notification from officers last week that, following engagement with staff based at Kirriemuir and Monifieth recycling centres, the dates for the closures and the associated amendment to Carnoustie recycling centre.

Both Monifieth and Kirriemuir recycling centres will permanently close at 4pm on Sunday 14 May 2023.

Royal Mail Collection Point, Kirriemuir

I know I updated via a separate email but felt popping it into my update might also be helpful. Following a query, I chased up Royal Mail and received the following:

The Kirriemuir Customer Service Point (CSP) is temporarily closed. It is being reviewed on a daily basis and the manager is confident it will reopen again shortly.

If anyone cannot or does not wish to attend Forfar CSP, which has been temporarily enabled to store undelivered packages for Kirriemuir, they can arrange a redelivery on another date free of charge, on a day convenient to them, including a Saturday. This can be to the same address or another address in the same postcode area,

This can be arranged by calling the number of the 'Something for you' card or by visiting www.royalmail.com/redelivery.

In the meantime, the Royal Mail staff will attempt to redeliver any item the following working day, should a recipient not be in when they attempt to deliver.

I will update when Kirrie reopens.

Kinnordy Path

Nothing further to report other than an ongoing frustration with the delay.

Activity Summary:

With Cllr Lynn Devine, I was invited to Rossie Trust, Montrose, to see a special performance – The National Theatre of Scotland had been working with the young people for a week as a residency – it was incredible. Along with Graeme Day MSP, Cllr Linda Clark, Maggie Chapman MSP and Cllr Lynne Short, I attended a Red Plaque event courtesy of the Fire Brigade Union, hosted at the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service's Tayside HQ in Dundee, to commemorate two firefighters killed in the line of duty, John Jamieson Buist and William Carnegie – very moving.

As an NHS Tayside Board Member and Chair of the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership, I visited the NHS Tayside Children's Hospital and Theatre on 6 April. I visited the Carseview Centre, Dundee, on 19 April to discuss patient and staff safety. I volunteered for the Carry the Gene Team Scotland (BBVS charity event) event, as a marshall on the Kirriemuir to Forfar stretch on 23 April. What an amazing community effort to support a local girl, Caitlin Wilkie, and her family. Congratulations to all who took part and to the organisers.

Boards/Committees

While it was the Council recess for the first two weeks of April, NHS meetings continued so it has been busy.

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

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/>

NHS Tayside – Special Board – March 30

NHS Tayside Care Governance Committee – April 6

PHS Staff Governance Committee – April 12

Scrutiny and Audit Committee – April 25

In addition, I have attended various half-day and all-day board development sessions with NHS Tayside & Public Health Scotland.

Path at Kinnordy has re-opened on 26 April.

Cllr George Meechan reports:

It has been a relatively quiet period however here is a taste of my recent activity

I have attended the following meetings (not exhaustive): -

2. Angus Licensing Board and Civic Licencing Committee
3. Corporate Equalities Group
4. Communities Committee
5. Angus Educational Trust
6. Children and Learning Committee
7. Kirriemuir Development Trust
8. Condensation and Damp Follow-up meeting
9. Kirriemuir Community Council
10. Glamis Community Council
11. Opened the new Art Studio/Gallery in Cumberland Close
12. Full Council
13. Tayside Contract Joint Committee
14. Children and Learning Committee
15. Gender Equalities Training

My case load continues to be a mixed bag e.g.

Housing issues (allocations and repairs)

Street Lighting

Neighbour disputes

Licensing enquiries

Utilities

Welfare Benefits

I have visited 15 constituents in their own homes over the past period to discuss their issues and dealt with numerous telephone calls and emails from constituents.

11. Correspondence: Letter received from Mr. Angus Carnegie, Braehead House, Tannage Brae highlighting the speeding motorists on Tannage Brae. Mr. Carnegie is asking KCC, on behalf of the 20+ residents of Tannage Brae, to make representation to Angus Council for a double sided electronic speed reduction sign in the 20mph zoned area. Mr. Carnegie is also asking for assistance for the re-instatement of the removed salt grit bins at the top of Tannage Brae. Also,

the re-painting of the “Slow” carriageway signage. Cllr Meechan offered to investigate the points raised in Mr. Carnegie's letter.

GM

12. **Planning:** Minor planning applications reported.

13. AOCB

13.1. Bonfest Visitors: KCC has received an invitation from the organisers of the AC-DC event this coming weekend. Meeting the Australian visitors in the Bonfest Field on Sunday, 30 April, at 1.30 pm. Heather, George and Eric will attend.

13.2. **Evelyn Wright (Public)** has had five cars damaged in her street, Duthie Street, due to careless drivers. Two of the cars were a write-off. It is a very narrow street but Evelyn said this does not slow down motorists. It is a serious problem in the narrow streets of Kirrie and Duthie Street urgently needs a reduction in the speed limit. Cars have to mount the pavement to exit the street, as well as parking on the pavement, which is illegal. Evelyn doubted if the emergency services would be able to access the street. Cllr Meechan offered to investigate.

GM

13.3. **Frances** highlighted the suggestion to change the name of Cumberland Close. It was decided this would be discussed in the future, if necessary.

13.4. **George** highlighted the hedges in Forfar Road are still an issue. Also hedges on Bellies Brae are causing problems. Jeanette will email Angus Council.

JR

13.5. **Eric** suggested investing in a pop-up cardboard Policeman for the town.

13.6. **Esme Duncan (Public)** circulated photos of a property in Milnes Land, the Roods, showing the terrible condition of a Council property. This is causing the occupant of the property undue distress. Esme stated that this has been an ongoing issue with Angus Council for a very long time. At the **KCC 25 January 2023 meeting** this issue was highlighted, (page 8, 10.7) discussed and Minuted as follows: **-quote-** Heather has been approached by a member of the public who is having problems with a downpipe and other social matters. She emailed Angus Council on 16 December 2022 and to date has not received a reply. Cllr Meechan reported that he knew of this lady's problem, had visited her with regard to the downpipe and sent her an email. Can Cllr Meechan please send Heather a copy of this email. Heather said that this particular approach involved another Angus Councillor who had not replied to the lady, not Cllr Meechan. Cllr Meechan offered to meet with the lady again regarding her problems. **-Unquote-**

Esme expressed concern that to date no one has been in contact with her and the problem continues. Cllr Meechan responded that he has reported this problem three times. Initially, it was claimed, incorrectly, by Angus Council that this was not a council property. Cllr Meechan reported that he had been assured it had been repaired. Cllr Meechan offered to take this up again. Heather thanked Esme for bringing this to the Community Council's attention and hoped to have some answers for her very soon.

GM

13.7. **Heather** highlighted the council property facing the junction at Autosales, coming in from Westmuir. Three windows are boarded up with plywood. Not exactly a nice welcome into Kirriemuir. Cllr Meechan will investigate.

GM

13.8. **Audrey Middleton** reported that the large Kirriemuir Christmas light has fused. Jeanette said she had a contact and will email them. Library and Town Hall have

JR

lights up all year. Jeanette suggested Audrey contact Lisa Chiles if she wanted them removed. Heather asked Cllr Meechan to ask Lisa Chiles to walk around the town with the Lights Committee. Audrey said the lights need repairing and their funds are low. The cherry picker is expensive. Irena confirmed there are four people on the Christmas Lights Group and another group within KRG who help out.

GM

13.9 **Cathy Stephenson** gave her bus report. There are a lot of disgruntled people. Still replacing drivers. The buses are not the best but they cannot replace with new buses because they are all electric. Supposed to be getting second-hand buses from Dunfermline. Not now happening. New Engineering Manager at Stagecoach. One bus didn't run, the second bus broke down at Stracathro and the other bus was 30 mins late. Cathy is ongoing addressing these issues. A lot of people are complaining but Cathy suggests they are not looking at the big picture and need to be more reasonable. Cathy is planning to assess how many buses come in and out of Kirriemuir each day and will submit this to Stagecoach. If the results are broken down then this could impact on everything else. Heather thanked Cathy for her work on the bus situation and said a lot of people are grateful for her efforts on their behalf.

14. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 31 May, 7 pm in Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre.

28.4.23