



# Kirriemuir Community Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING of 28 June 2023

7 pm at Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre

**Present:** George Aitken (Acting Chair), Jeanette Reioch (Secretary), Irena Krasinska Lobban (Treasurer), Eric Mitchell, Cerys Mitchell, Cathy Stephenson

**In attendance:** Jean Henderson (Minute Secretary), Cllr George Meechan, **PUBLIC:** Audrey Middleton, Janice Cameron, John Cameron, Fran Giblin.

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1. Apologies:</b> Heather Kelly, Frances Havenga, Ron Lobban, Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Cllr Julie Bell</p> <p><b>2. Approval of 31 May 2023 Minutes: Correction:</b> A6: Lisa Chiles advises the Christmas Lights at the Town Hall are Kirrie Christmas Lights responsibility, not Angus Council's. Otherwise a true and correct record. Proposed by Jeanette and seconded by Irena.  <b>Any corrections to the Minutes, in the first instance, should be submitted to the Secretary, Jeanette Reioch.</b></p> <p><b>3. Police Report:</b> Received and circulated.</p> <p><b>4. Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Services Report: June 2023</b>            Community Safety:            6 x Home Fire Safety visits            2 x Operational Intelligence visits            1 x Junior Fire Inspector visit to Primary School            Joint Service Drop-in (Coffee with Crew and Coffee with Cop)            Incidents:            4 x AFA (Automated Fire Alarm)            1 x Fire Alarm/Smoke Detector Operating            3 x Fire Dwelling            1 x Secondary Fire            2 x Special Service Call</p> <p><b>5. Treasurer's Report:</b> KPP fund £92.20, KCC fund £547.71, Defib fund £595.50, Grant £695.26, VAA fund £300.00 Total £2230.67 (Grant of £680.00 received in June)</p> <p><b>6. Matters Arising:</b>  <b>B25 Development Trust update:</b> Irena reported the Trust is awaiting the town centre funding. Application for this has been submitted. Resilience funding is ongoing.  <b>B82 Hooks Rhones issue:</b> Jeanette has received photos from Eric following Officer Judi Young's report that the kids were accessing Hooks. Eric's photos are being looked at but this may take some time.</p>	

<p><b>B92 Continuing inappropriate parking around Visocchi's:</b> Angus Council's response to the suggestion of moving the bollards is that this is not possible and to remove one bollard would be “economically unviable.” All agreed, unfortunately, there is not much more KCC can do with regard to this problem. Off the Agenda.</p>	
<p><b>B95 Proposed Police speed checks/Police Report update:</b> This will be raised with Police Scotland at the next meeting with Angus Council.</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p>
<p><b>B99 Proposed double yellow lines at Knowehead:</b> No update.</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p>
<p><b>A1 Request for speed reduction signs on Tannage Brae:</b> Jeanette reported that this went out on 21 June. Data is still being collected.</p>	
<p><b>A3 Hedge issues at Forfar Road and Bellies Brae:</b> Still a number of issues which have not yet been addressed. The Prosen Road issue, reported by Eric, has been forwarded to Pete Morton, Roads Dept. Jeanette reported Pete Morton will, hopefully, attend the August KCC meeting to discuss some of the recent issues.. Eric will identify who owns the property in Prosen Road.</p>	<p><b>EM</b></p>
<p><b>A4 Council House issues at Milnes Land:</b> Cllr Meechan reported that he has been assured by the Housing Manager that this has been repaired. Off the Agenda.</p>	
<p><b>A5 Boarded up windows at property near Autosales:</b> Jeanette reported that this issue is in hand and measures being put in place. Off Agenda.</p>	
<p><b>A7 Reinstating Housing Department's visit to KCC:</b> Will attend KCC meeting in either August or September.</p>	
<p><b>A8 Overflowing bins near Airlie Arms:</b> This is an ongoing issue. William Gilfillan, Angus Council, is trying to locate the landlords of the bin owners.</p>	
<p><b>A9 Inappropriate public approach by Roads Department re hedge complaints:</b> Done. Off Agenda.</p>	
<p><b>A10 Inappropriate, late night parking in Marywell Brae by J.D. Wilkie employees:</b> Jeanette sent a letter to J.D. Wilkie – no response. Eric was able to give a more detailed account of the background to this complaint. This resulted in KCC deciding the Community Council could do no more to assist. Off the Agenda.</p>	
<p><b>A11 Glamis Road speeding issue:</b> Speed equipment has been used at Glamis Road.</p>	
<p><b>A12 Mid Road issue, re grass verges:</b> Cllr Proctor received a complaint from a member of the public regarding “interference with grass verges” on Mid Road. He passed this complaint to KCC. Members of the Public, Janice Cameron, John Cameron and Fran Giblin, who live near the area in question, attended the meeting and gave an account of the complaint. Following a discussion, George suggested this was a neighbourhood dispute and, unfortunately, KCC could not be of assistance on this occasion. The members of the Public accepted this and left the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>A13 Sustainable Kirrie Planning request to KCC:</b> KCC had agreed at the May meeting that they could not be of assistance on this occasion and advised Jennifer Anderson. Jennifer Anderson appealed KCC's decision. Further discussion ensued. If this is to go ahead then KCC want the funds sent to them first before the invoice is issued. Jeanette has sent this request to Sustainable Kirrie. George suggested KCC take advice on this one. Cllr Meechan pointed out that</p>	

if you apply for Planning permission and it is turned down by Angus Council then the fee is non-refundable. Jeanette understands that Sustainable Kirrie is very confident this application will be granted.

Jeanette will write to Jennifer Anderson to determine whether this new information is correct regarding KCC's involvement.

JR

## 7. Planned Closures:

**a) Recycling Centre:** KCC organised a Public Consultation Meeting with regard to the closure of the Kirrie Recycling Centre, on Monday, 29 May, in the Church Hall. Three Angus Councillors, Cllr Mark McDonald, Cllr Kenneth Braes and Cllr Bill Duff, arrived unannounced. KCC had not been advised by the elected members that they would be attending. The three Angus Councillors expected to sit at the top table and Chair the meeting. KCC felt totally intimidated, as volunteers, by their attitude and were forced to have an uncomfortable conversation with them, to point out that this was a KCC Public meeting, organised by KCC for the community, not an organised Angus Council Meeting.

The KCC , therefore, unanimously agreed that a letter of complaint regarding this incident should be sent to Angus Council. **The Chair, Heather Kelly, wrote a letter of complaint to Cllr Beth Whiteside, Angus Council, on 4 June 2023.**

**On 5 June 2023, Cllr Beth Whiteside responded as follows:**

**-Quote-**

Good Morning Heather

Thanks for your email. I am sorry that you felt “ambushed” by the attendance of the Depute Leaders and the Convenor of Communities at your meeting. This certainly wasn't the intention and your point about better communication in future will be taken on board.

However, the reason for the attendance of the additional Councillors was for accountability and was taken with the best of intentions. The local Councillors were not solely responsible for this very difficult decision, which was taken collectively following Officer advice and consideration of the financial situation at the Council. The Convenor and Depute leaders felt they had a duty to listen to the concerns of the Community Council and be available to answer questions and be accountable.

Kind regards

Beth

**-Unquote-**

There was no further comment on the matter from the elected Councillor present.

Discussion ensued regarding the Forfar Recycling Centre. There are currently long queues in the mornings. Several problematic issues reported when trying to deposit general waste, especially with a trailer.

This issue is ongoing and a KCC response to Angus Council is planned to be sent soon.

**b) Museum closure:** Irena gave an update from a recent meeting. A feasibility study is being carried out with regard to running costs. Funding is available.

## 8. Wee Childcare Company: Heather sent a letter and received a response.

**-Quote-** Following is an insert from letter to Clubs: I would like to reassure you all that no decisions have been made on the removal of the let subsidy. There are currently no charged to Out

of School Clubs using school premises. The revised arrangements, including any amendment to charges, will be subject to elected member consideration following consultation within this financial year. There will be no change to any arrangements for charging for 2023/24. The Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate will bring forward a report to the Children and Learning Committee in June seeking permission to begin consultation on the existing arrangements for letting educational premises. If approved then this review will consider the letting requirements of all stakeholders and seek feedback on streamlining the current approach to charging. All Out of School Clubs, and other groups currently using our premises, will be invited to participate in this exercise. **-Unquote-**

9. **Potholes repairs update:** Jeanette has been advised that temporary repairs have been carried out recently, including the potholes highlighted by Eric in his photographs. Substantial repairs will be carried out in July and August. Pete Morton has suggested a site visit, re Eric's photographs, could take place after the substantial repairs have been carried out. Off Agenda.

### **10. Councillors' Reports:**

#### **Cllr Julie Bell reports:**

Over the past month, I was involved with the re-launch of Kirriemuir Food Hub/Kirriemuir Clothing Hub in the new premises in Bank Street; took part in the launch of Carers' Week at the Angus Carers Centre in Arbroath, at the invitation of Maciej Alexander, the chief executive; attended the Sustainable Kirriemuir AGM; visited 4 Angus Breast Buddies Groups (in Carnoustie, Monifieth, Brechin and Forfar) which support Mums on their breast-feeding journey; Websters High School Award ceremony; Angus Climate Action Conversation for the Forfar/Kirriemuir area in Forfar, discussing the creation of an Angus Climate Action Hub facilitated by Kate Munro; The joint Tayside Symphony Orchestra/Angus Youth Symphony Orchestra concert in the Reid Hall, Forfar; visited Lilybank Resource Centre in Forfar which is one of three resource centres supporting adults with learning disabilities across Angus.

I also attended the NHS event in Glasgow. A one day conference launching the Chief Medical Officer's annual report and celebrating 75 years of the NHS, with NHS colleagues from around Scotland.

The Scottish Fire & Rescue Services held a briefing around some changes and temporary reductions in appliances in Dundee and Perth. No reductions in Angus.

I attended a briefing by SSEN regarding their consultation process for the Fiddes to Tealing upgrade/development. They acknowledged it had been poor to date and announced they will extend the period until the end of July.

Upcoming: This Friday, 30 June, there is an Over 50's event hosted by Dave Doogan MP at Kirriemuir Bowling Cub with various organisations contributing information and support. I will be there along with Cllr Meechan, whilst also staffing the Kirriemuir Food Hub stand. Please do pop along.

Boards/Committees  
Angus Councillors

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)

Children and Learning – June 1

Scrutiny and Audit – June 15

Full Council – June 22 – I spoke to a motion proposed by Cllr Cowdy about banning disposable vapes as the impact on children and young people, and the environment, is becoming increasingly apparent; I seconded a motion by Cllr Melville supporting Pride Month.

### **IJB**

I chaired the Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB) on June 21 – information here: <https://www.angushscp.scot/angus-integration-joint-board/>

### **NHS Tayside**

Care Governance Committee – June 1

Public Health Committee – June 6

NHS Health Fund Board of Trustees – June 15

Informal meeting with the Chair – June 15

Board – June 29

NHS Tayside papers here:

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

Public Health Scotland Staff Governance Committee – June 8

Population Health, Well being and Clinical Governance Committee – June 14

PHS board – June 29 **Public Health Scotland papers here:**

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-organisation/our-board/>

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

It has been a particularly busy month with a lot of meetings and constituent issues dealt with.

Meetings attended have included the following:

Full Council

IJB Liaison Meeting

IJB Audit Committee Meeting

IJB Meeting

Children and Learning Committee

Capital Project Management Group

Angus Licensing Board

Angus Civic Licensing Committee

Tayside Valuation Joint Board

Tayside Contracts Joint Committee

### **In addition, I have attended the following meetings/presentations:**

Websters High School Presentations

Attended Police Scotland Drop-in Session

Attended Special Licensing Meeting

Attended the Angus Licensing Board pre-agenda meeting via Teams

Attended Glamis Community Council Meeting

Attended Welfare Rights Service catch-up meeting

Attended SSEN Information Session

### **Updates.**

I gave my apologies from the last meeting therefore did not take on any actions from the meeting.

### **Duthie Street traffic (Update)**

The most relevant points of note being the average daytime speed (7am – 7pm) was 15mph and the speed at which 85% of vehicles were travelling at or below was 19mph.

### **Issues from constituents included the following:**

Street lighting  
Roads  
Speeding  
Housing issues, repairs, dampness etc  
Fuel company issues  
Electricity pylons

**Angus Council has now entered its recess period, Angus Council committees are not scheduled during this period.**

**Cllr Ronnie Proctor reports:**

As you know I am pretty house bound, so it has been pretty difficult for me to get out on the ground and look at reported problems first-hand. I am grateful to you and other members of the CC for keeping me in the loop to enable me to fulfil my role as a Councillor. It should also be noted that I have had house calls asking for my assistance and advice on different issues. My attendance at all Council Meetings and Business has been virtual, however, I have been able to speak and raise points regarding issues which may affect Kirriemuir and Dean.

I have attended the following meetings:-

1. Children and Learning where the OOS was discussed.
2. Policy and Resources where I put forward a motion Asking the Chief Executive to write to SSEN, MPs and MSPs to extend the
3. Consultation time of the proposed Over Head Power Line project. This was agreed by all Council members.
4. Angus Alive Finance Committee Meeting.
5. Show Case of Work presentation. ( Voluntary Sector).
6. Arbroath Places for Everyone Presentation. New walking cycling and traffic management in Arbroath.
7. Scrutiny and Audit Meeting. Raised concerns regarding reduction of Fire Cover in Tayside and how it would affect Kirriemuir and Dean. Raised concerns regarding wildfires in certain areas and asked that continued joint working of Fire and Rescue and Police Scotland would be ongoing. All answers were very positive.
8. Attended the Closing Service Cortachy Church.
9. Attended information Meeting with SFRS and again raised concerns that the reduction of appliances in Perth and Dundee could have potential affects for Angus particularly with large and perhaps rural ground fires. I was assured that all had been factored in and that we would continue to have support as normal as and when needed.
10. Attended SSEN to Elected Members on 22nd July and raised numerous questions including potential health concerns of those living in close proximity to the power lines. The need for sound and clear communication to the public, which did not happen. SSEN intimated that there was no know health issues regarding the overhead power lines and also apologised for their communications failure.
11. Seconded a motion at Full Council that asked that SSEN be tasked to provide a Gold Standard Communications Plan during the extended period of 5 weeks and that all members of the public to be informed.  
Any member of the public or Community Group who wish to raise any concern with the Overhead Power Line Project should contact SSEN direct and not their Local Councillor or Angus Council officers.
12. Attended Angus Alive directors meeting
13. I have continued to deal with various housing issues, roads matters and a number of welfare issues. As I intimated above I have received members of the public at my home as

I currently cannot visit them.

As a returning Community Councillor, Cathy thought the Councillors' Reports could be more structured. Cathy suggested that when the content of any of these meetings specifically affect Kirriemuir, could the details be reported in their future Reports. This would be very helpful.

#### **11. Correspondence:**

- Email from Angus Alive asking KCC to collect the Coat of Arms banner. Irena will collect.
- Invitation from Kirriemuir Heritage Trust to the Centenary of the Kirriemuir War Memorial on Sunday, 22 August, at 2 p.m, at the Cemetery. Can KHT have names of attendees.

12. **Planning:** No report.

#### **13. AOCB:**

##### **13.1. Cathy reports:**

##### **BUS SERVICES**

We have seen increased breakdowns and therefore cancellations this past week which is related to the vehicles in the fleet and the hot weather – we typically have a few weeks where buses breakdown more frequently in the early part of the summer following a weather change.

There has also been publicity around bus fires – whilst these are horrifying to see happen as far as I can find out there are no more bus fires in East Scotland than in other parts of the UK. We do not currently have electric vehicles and those are of considerable concern should they catch fire because of the gases from the batteries.

There is a person (I believe a Community Councillor in Forfar) who has funding from Creative Dundee for climate change initiatives. She started meetings in Forfar under a brand “Community Voices/stories” including holding a meeting about bus services. She has now arranged a meeting in Kirriemuir today at Three Bellies offering refreshments and children’s activities to attendees as well as funds for travel. She is on Facebook as a “Non Profit Organisation” but is not an organisation at all and has changed the name from the original to “ Forfar and Kirriemuir Bus Forum” and then to “Angus Bus Forum”.

Aside from the facts that she is aiming to

- represent Kirriemuir to the Council, Operators (but she focuses on Stagecoach) and MPs;
- has no consultation process but is gathering anecdotal information; and
- has little if any knowledge of the bus industry

A bus forum is an organisation set up for an area to allow all operators, authorities and community representatives to discuss bus issues – Angus has not had a Bus Forum for as long as I have lived here.

I have felt obliged to distance the Kirriemuir Bus Info group from this activity – my mission was always to provide information about services and the bus sector and not to campaign. I also will not collect anecdotal information from maybe passengers to berate the operators of our largely commercially delivered services

**Agenda  
item**

13.2. **Bonfest Meeting:** Irena and George both attended the meeting. Irena reported that it appears Bonfest has financial problems. Businesses in the town benefit hugely from Bonfest and it was suggested at the meeting that the businesses could give some of their “takings” back to support Bonfest. It was pointed out that Kirrie businesses would not survive if it was not for Bonfest – they badly need this income. The Bonfest meeting proposed trying to keep the visitors on the field to generate more income. Eric suggested if there was more to do at the field then they would stay there. Cathy suggested each of the businesses could take a stand around the field. This would bring in the crowds and at the same time promote their businesses. Bonfest is unsure if they will have the funds to cover next year's Bonfest. They are looking to recruit a professional events organiser.

13.3. **Audrey Middleton** enquired if the Lights Committee purchased new lights could they remove the old lights. Jeanette will email Cllr Proctor.

**JR/RP**

13.4. **Irena** proposed to co-opt Audrey Middleton on to the Kirriemuir Community Council. All agreed. Proposed by Irena and seconded by Eric. *Welcome to Audrey.*

13.5. **Eric** has enquired about a disabled space outside of McLarens. Currently, there is a disabled space on the opposite side of the road which isn't always practical for some disabled drivers. Jeanette will contact Roads Department.

**JR**

13.6. **George** is requesting bins along Beechwood Place. The school children are dropping litter en route back to school after visiting Viv's Kitchen. Jeanette will contact Cllr Proctor.

**JR/RP**

**14. Date of next Meeting: Wednesday, 26 July 2023, 7 pm at Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre.**

*Thanks to the Chair!*

3.7.23

