



# Kirriemuir Community Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING of 27 September 2023 7 pm in Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre

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

**In attendance:** Jean Henderson (Minute Secretary), Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Cllr George Meechan, Officer Judi Young, Michelle Harrison of Angus Council (part time). **PUBLIC:** Audrey Ireland, Danny Ireland, Rod Paterson

George welcomed **Michelle Harrison, Angus Council Housing Department**, who had come along to address housing issues.

- Regarding the empty council houses in Kirriemuir and the delay in re-allocation, Michelle stated this was due to issues with repairs. Some properties are empty for six months awaiting repairs. However, even when the repairs are completed, the properties cannot be re-let until there has been an electricity check. Therefore, Angus Council is unable to re-let the property.
- In some cases there are obstacles with the outgoing tenant's energy contracts. Angus Council getting information from the particular energy supplier can take weeks. For example, if an outgoing tenant takes the key for their Pay-as-you-go meter, it is a very lengthy process to get another key from the energy supplier.
- The boarded up council house opposite AutoSales, was highlighted. Michelle isn't familiar with this particular property but said she would drive past on her way home and then discuss it with Ian Kennedy.
- During Covid termination keys were handed in to the ACCESS office. There is then an inspection of the property and to determine the energy supplier. Angus Council, however, is unable to provide any information on the tenant due to GDPR.
- Cllr Proctor highlighted "terms of let." He is aware of a council house tenant who has 4 dogs and a rabbit living at the property and the garden is not maintained. Is there not a system in place whereby when a tenant takes a council house they must adhere to the "terms of let?" Michelle responded that one pet per household is allowed. If there are no complaints about a tenant's pet then they may apply for a second pet.
- Tenants are aware they must maintain their garden. If no response to a warning letter after 28 days, a second letter is sent. Then Parks Department move in and tidy up the garden and the tenant is charged for the work.
- Michelle reported that in the past year they have been working with a 50% reduction in staff. The Housing Department is now up to full capacity so it is now in a better position moving forward.
- The possibility of eviction was highlighted. Michelle stated that eviction would have to go to the Sheriff.
- It was proposed that Angus Council stipulate new tenants must take a pre-paid contract and then later in the tenancy they could then have the option to select another contract. Michelle reiterated Housing Department's frustration when dealing with energy companies. Angus Council has now lodged a complaint with the Ombudsman. The problem when dealing with energy companies is across the board – Angus, Dundee, Perth & Kinross, etc. are all experiencing the same problems. Michelle suggested the recent spate of energy companies going into administration hasn't helped.

- Cathy highlighted the problems the general public are experiencing with pre-paid meters. Due to the economic downturn, they are not getting any help from the Government. There has to be urgent conversations about this situation.

George thanked Michelle for coming along to the meeting and Michelle left.

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1. Apologies:</b> Heather Kelly, Cllr Julie Bell, Ron Lobban</p> <p><b>2. Approval of 30 August Minutes:</b> Amendments made, £48.40 donated by KRG for glass, Police did not agree to cameras in toilets, otherwise a true and correct record. Proposed by Frances and seconded by Irena.</p> <p>Jeanette reiterated Heather's recent email to Community Councillors regarding divulging email addresses. Also in Heather's email was <i>another</i> reminder that corrections to Approved Minutes must be submitted directly to the Secretary, only.</p> <p><b>3. Police Report:</b> No report received.</p> <p><b>4. Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Services Report:</b>  <u>Community Safety:</u>            12 x Home fire safety visits            2 x Operational Intelligence visits            Kirrie Cluster 7 x Planning started for school bonfire talks            2 x ** PDIR – Post Domestic Incident Response            Angus Young Careers visit to Fire Station            Kirrie Cubs (Monday) visit to Station            Visit to Newtyle Nursery for People Who Help Us  <u>Incidents:</u>            3 x Fire Alarm/Smoke Detector Operating            2 x Fire            2 x Fire in open            2 x Special call            1 x RTC            ** PDIR            The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attends a wide range of dwelling house incidents, e.g. special services, good intent calls, unwanted fire alarm signals and fires involving fatalities and/or casualties. Depending on the circumstances of the incident, the period immediately following all domestic incidents should be used to initiate effective and meaningful community engagement.            The purpose of Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) is that, following the operational phase of each incident and before appliance withdrawal, every opportunity is taken to examine the cause and identify any remedial actions required to prevent a re-occurrence and reduce future risk. The main elements of PDIR are to give public reassurance, advice and offer a Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV). This provides an opportunity, post incident, to engage with the occupier, neighbouring households and the wider community, offering HFSVs and providing Community Safety Engagement (CSE) advice, education and guidance. This shall be done directly and at a time that will maximise the benefit to those interacted with post-incident.</p> <p><b>5. Treasurer's Report:</b> As at 27.9.23: FPP fund £92.20, KCC fund £545.71, Defib fund £595.50, Grant £565.28, VAA fund £300.00 Total £2,100.69</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>

<p><b>6. Matters Arising:</b>  <b>B25 Development Trust update:</b> No update.</p>	<p><b>HK</b></p>
<p><b>B82 Hooks problem:</b> Cllr Proctor has passed on details of the issues at Hooks, including the vandalism and rodent problem. Ongoing.</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p>
<p><b>B95 Proposed Police speed check update:</b> Cllr Proctor reported this will be discussed at the forthcoming Road Safety Committee meeting.</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p>
<p><b>B99 Proposed double yellow lines at Knowehead:</b> Ongoing.</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p>
<p><b>A3 Hedge issues:</b> George highlighted an issue at Loch Mill House. Hedge has been cut but there is still no access for wheelchairs and prams on the pavement. Jeanette will take a photo. Frances highlighted hedge issue at the Dykies. Cllr Proctor reported that Angus Council is aware of the Dykies issue. George said it was frustrating that action is only being taken when KCC is reporting a hedge issue – why can't Angus Council take the initiative and inspect hedge issues in the town themselves? Cllr Proctor offered to investigate.</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p>
<p><b>A15 Disabled space at McLarens:</b> Cllr Proctor reported work will commence on the disabled space, not at McLarens but nearer the Ogilvy.</p>	
<p><b>A16 Location details for Beechwood Place bins:</b> Bins have been moved. Although this was supposed to be temporary, Jeanette reported the bins are full and well used so they are needed. The implementing of bins has reduced the litter and dog poo problem in Beechwood Place.</p>	
<p><b>A18 Speed cameras at Glamis Road:</b> Ongoing.</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p>
<p><b>A19 Rules applying to disabled spaces outside of private property:</b> Cllr Proctor confirmed that anyone with a disabled badge can park on any dedicated disabled space.</p>	
<p><b>A20 Police reassurance regarding recent spate of vandalism:</b> No update received from the Police. Further incidents of vandalism in the town were highlighted. Concern was expressed that KCC urgently need a Police presence at their meetings. All agreed.</p>	<p><b>POLICE</b></p>
<p><b>A21 Reports of vermin in Hooks building:</b> See B82 above.</p>	
<p><b>A22 Empty caravan at Maryton:</b> Cllr Meechan confirmed this is a caravan site and it has a licence and he also confirmed the licence is forever. Cathy queried, therefore, if that is the case then why was a license applied for in 2019? Cllr Meechan offered to investigate. Jeanette highlighted the wall around the caravan site is incomplete. The wall area used to be a fence but the owner at the time was given planning permission with conditions and to date these conditions have not been complied with. Jeanette and Cathy asked Cllr Meechan to investigate further.</p>	<p><b>GM</b> <b>GM</b></p>
<p><b>A23 Unlicensed scrambler motorcycles in town centre:</b> No response from Police. All agreed that urgent discussion with Police is required.</p>	<p><b>POLICE</b></p>
<p><b>A24 Protruding rock on Auchindorie Hill Road:</b> Eric will send photo and location details to Cllr Proctor.</p>	<p><b>EM/RP</b></p>
<p><b>A25 Suggested speed bumps at Hill Rise:</b> Ongoing</p>	<p><b>RP</b></p>

<p>7. <b>Recycle Centre closure update:</b> Proposed letter to Angus Council is with Heather for her approval before sending.</p>	<p><b>HK</b></p>
<p>8. <b>Angus Council's CC Complaints Procedure document:</b> Jeanette is awaiting a response from Community Planning.</p>	<p><b>JR</b></p>
<p><b>9. Councillors' Reports:</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Julie Bell reports:</b>  Something slightly different to start this month. As chair of the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board (IJB), I was invited to discuss our newly launched Strategic Plan and what it means for the future in a brand new podcast. Health and well-being touches all our lives so there is probably something for everyone. You can access our podcast here: <a href="https://soundcloud.com/angushscp">https://soundcloud.com/angushscp</a> You can find the plan itself here: <a href="https://www.angushscp.scot/strategic-commissioning-plan/">https://www.angushscp.scot/strategic-commissioning-plan/</a></p> <p>I continue to work with Irena Krasinska-Lobban on completing the work around the accessible play equipment and Kirrie Hill – we await the installation of signage and we will organise a wee photocall event with KRG, funders and the family whose idea it was.</p> <p>The Scottish Youth Parliament elections take place in November and I am actively encouraging young people aged between 14 and 25 to get engaged in the campaigns and vote – the constituency that covers Kirriemuir is Angus South and we have 5 candidates - Marcus Flucker ; Reuben Whamond; Callum Stewart; Gareth Stubbs; and Ella Quinn. I hope the community council can reiterate the importance of engaging young people in making sure their voice is heard and encouraging them to vote. On Sept 7, I attended full Angus Council, at which I proposed a motion about these elections, which passed unanimously:  <a href="https://www.angus.gov.uk/committees/angus_council/angus_council_7_september_2023">https://www.angus.gov.uk/committees/angus_council/angus_council_7_september_2023</a></p> <p>We have launched Angus Nature Prescribing in partnership with Angus Health and Social Care and the RSPB -  <a href="https://www.angus.gov.uk/news/nature_on_prescription_in_angus">https://www.angus.gov.uk/news/nature_on_prescription_in_angus</a> Available in pdf format here:  <a href="https://www.angushscp.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NHS-nature-calendar_FINAL-A5.pdf">https://www.angushscp.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NHS-nature-calendar_FINAL-A5.pdf</a></p> <p>I attended an NHS Tayside Partnership (staff side) conference on September 19; a meeting of the IJB Chairs and Vice Chairs in Glasgow on September 20; COSLA Health and Social Care Policy Board on September 22. These are excellent opportunities to make sure Angus issues are represented, areas of good practice are highlighted and contribute to policy development. I have also attended a development session by Angus Alcohol and Drugs Partnership; a leadership summit on kindness.</p> <p><b>Caseload issues seem particularly focussed around speeding, inconsiderate parking and driver behaviour at the moment, along with specific care package and financial support cases.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Ronnie Proctor reports:</b>  No sooner had I got rid of the Moonboot then I tested positive for Covid. I am testing clear but still am a bit tired in the late afternoon and early evening. Sciatica has returned!!  I have passed on the responses that I have received from Council Officers regarding items against my name however I forgot to mention the protruding rock on the Auchindorie Hill Road. I have transited the road quite a few times since the last meeting and could not see it. I would therefore be grateful for an exact description of the location of the rock. Eric can phone or email me, and I will get on to it.</p>	

I have again contacted Jill Paterson Regarding Hooks Rones, rats and ingress of young people and I am still awaiting a reply from her or a member of her team. I was advised by Gavin Balfour that the problem with Scottish Water regarding the path at the Health Centre had now been resolved and work would commence on the 9th of October. I certainly hope so!!

I have attended the following meetings:-

1. Housing Update I commented on the time for repairs to effected, number of voids in the town and in Angus as a whole where there are some people classed as homeless, the state of some of the Social Housing properties and also, I spoke privately with the Housing Officer regarding housing problems in Kirriemuir with which I am dealing and also elsewhere with Veterans who are encountering Housing problems.

2. The protection of vulnerable people in Angus.

3. Levelling up, in Communities which dealt mainly with the Brechin Caledonian Railway and Crombie Park, but I have asked if future funds could be used for projects in Kirriemuir. I am still awaiting an answer.

4. Vibrant Communities Assessment review.

5. Angus Council Meeting .

6. Meeting and Seminar on Participatory Budgeting where I suggested that Community Councils and other Community Groups should be involved e, g. Kirriemuir Regeneration Group, Heritage Group etc.

7. I am a member of the selection panel to appoint the new CEO for Angus Council and have attended the first meeting of the panel.

8. Young peoples rights seminar which was very interesting and informative.

9. Communities Committee on Tuesday 26th of Sept where I will speak on cerat6in topics.

10. I will attend a Directors meeting of Angus Alive on Friday the 29th of September. As a member of the Finance Committee of Angus Alive I attended a meeting last week.

11. I continue to report road issues , flooding etc when they are brought to my notice and deal with housing issues as they are brought to my notice.

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

Council Committee meetings have been steady and constituent issues dealt with. Meetings attended have included the following:

- Full Council
- IJB Audit Committee Meeting
- IJB Meeting
- Policy and Resources Committee
- Communities Committee
- Angus Licensing Board
- Angus Civic Licensing Committee
- Tayside Valuation Joint Board
- Tayside Contracts Joint Committee
- Angus Integrated Joint Board
- Angus Integrated Joint Board Audit Committee

Should Community Council members wish more detail on the issues discussed at the above meetings they can watch recordings of the meetings on Angus Councils YouTube channel, where they can watch all the discussion that took place and how I voted on items. Minutes of these meeting can also be found on the Angus Council website: [www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk)

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

Housing updates (Teams)

Vibrant Communities service review

Engagement on Participatory Budgeting (Teams)

Levelling Up Fund update (Teams)

### Updates

I have provided an update on the issue recorded against my name from the previous meeting.

### Issues from constituents included the following:

- Roads
- Speeding
- Housing issues, repairs, dampness etc
- Conducted numerous home visits to help deal with constituent's issues.
- Unsafe tree
- Welfare benefit issues
- Council tax issues

Cathy asked Cllr Meechan to explain why two IJB meetings are listed in his Report. Cllr Meechan acknowledged that the IJB Audit meeting and the IJB meeting listed in his Report are both the same meeting.

10. **Correspondence:** Circulated during the month.

11. **Planning:** Minor planning applications reported. Rod Paterson, member of the Public, highlighted a planning application from Platten, Brechin Road, to convert an annexe into a short term let. Rod has made his objections to Angus Council and asked if KCC will support him with his objections. In order for KCC to support this objection, Rod was asked to submit, in writing to KCC, full details of the application and his objection.

### 12. AOCB:

12.1. **Cathy** highlighted continued problems with Royal Mail parcel deliveries. She understood that the collection time at the Sorting Office is between 8 am and 10 am. It was confirmed the collection time is between 7 am and 8 am. Discussion ensued on mail delivery problems and parcel delivery problems. On behalf of Kirriemuir community, Graeme Dey MSP has taken this up with Royal Mail Headquarters, London, who have responded by claiming there is “no problem in the Kirriemuir Delivery Office with mail or parcel deliveries.”

12.2. **Cathy** raised the recent news that Angus Council is changing its system with regard to recycling glass. Glass will have to be taken to a Recycling Centre. Discussion ensued at length, with the general consensus expressing concern at this costly proposal. Cllr Proctor confirmed that the public has voiced their concerns, thus the decision to defer this decision until further discussions have taken place. Cllr Proctor asked that everyone await the outcome of these meetings.

12.3. **Cllr Proctor** reported that the lights out in Lindsey Street were fixed the same day.

12.4. **Audrey** raised the vandalism issue in the town. On Sunday she approached a large crowd of youths who were “terrorising” the town. Unfortunately, there were no Police around for support. Cllr Proctor has reported the lack of Police presence in Kirriemuir to a recent Police Meeting he attended. Officer Young reported that SFRS and the Police hold a monthly meeting in the Fire Station, primarily to invite members of the public who may wish to discuss issues with the

Emergency Services.

**12.5. Eric** confirmed that, eventually, work is complete on the Hill Rise pot holes.

**12.6. Jeanette** reported on behalf of Heather. Heather has received a message regarding Mail vans parking on Brechin Road. Cllr Proctor confirmed that Mail vans are allowed to park on Brechin Road.

12.7. **Rod Paterson (Public)** wished to thank the people who are litter picking in the town. Rod also highlighted a dog poo problem in the town.

**12.8. AGM** October Business meeting is also the AGM. Cllr Proctor will act as Interim Chair for the AGM.

**13. Date of next Meeting: AGM and Business Meeting on Wednesday, 25 October, 7 pm in Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre.**

29.9.23

*Thanks to the Chair.....*

**RP**

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