

Minutes of a Meeting of the City of Brechin and District Community Council held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at Hudson's Bar Brechin.

David Dewar took the chair and welcomed the company

Present

David Dewar, Douglas Murray, Ken Bruce, Garry Robertson and Eric Gray.

Sgt Miller (Police Scotland)

6 members of the Public

Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Telmo Teixeira , Cllrs Beattie, Nicol and Scott (Angus Council) and Sandra Livingston (Communities Worker Angus Council)

Minutes of the Last Meeting.

It was proposed by Garry Robertson seconded by Ken Bruce that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

It was proposed by Ken Bruce seconded by Douglas Murray that the minutes of the AGM held on 3rd October 2023 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

It was proposed by David Dewar seconded by Douglas Murray the the minutes of the special meeting held on 7th November be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising.

The Community Council had adopted the complaints procedure proposed by Angus Council. The suggested modifications had been emailed to Sandra Livingston but no reply had yet been received.

There had been no consultation from the feasibility study about the foot paths in Dramachlie Loan to construction starting.

Treasurers Report.

The treasurer said the bank balance remained unchanged at £1,202.98.

Planning Report.

There had been two planning applications for Brechin since the last meeting neither of which required commenting on.

Police Update.

Sargeant Miller from Police Scotland was in attendance and said there was little crime in the Brechin Area. The Police had been heavily involved in the recent flooding events. Asked from the floor why there had been few police controlling traffic during the incident and some roads closed but no signs out the Sargeant said there was simply not the manpower

available. He said there would be extra patrols in the River Street area with so many unoccupied properties there. The breakdown of crime in Brechin is

Group 1 - Crimes of violence, including murder, rape, extortion, serious assault, robbery – 3

Group 2 - Sexual Crimes – 4

Group 3 - Crimes of Dishonesty - 11

Group 4 – Fire Raising, Vandalism, Malicious Mischief, Reckless Conduct –8

Group 5 – Other Crimes including Breach of Bail, Weapons, Drugs offences – 8

Group 6 – Miscellaneous Crimes including Assaults, Police Assaults, Threatening behaviour, Stalking, - 11

Group 7 – Road Traffic Offences –22

Group 8 – Suspicious incidents – 1

Drug related issues:

There are continuing concerns regarding drug related activity within the Montrose and Brechin areas.

Any information received will assist the Police in carrying out proactive action in relation to this.

Should anyone have information, it is requested they make contact with the Police either at the time,

via Crimestoppers or the Community mailboxes listed.

Please can this be passed onto local residents in your area for any intelligence that can be obtained.

Councillors Update.

There were no Angus Councillors present but Councillor Beattie had sent a report :-

Brechin Bridge was inspected at the end of last week and the findings are that while the central pier has sustained only minor damage to the stonework, the north pier (on Brechin side) has suffered significant damage from water erosion.

To repair this, we will need to reinforce the existing foundation, and this means building a watertight area around the pier (a coffer-dam) while the work is undertaken which will take some time

Obviously, this is going to be a significant challenge while river levels and water volume remain so high, especially as we are still really only just at the start of the winter. Sadly therefore, we are unable to give a clear timeline for when this work will start, or how long it will take to complete at the minute. However, we will share this information with you as soon as we can.

We do recognise that this is a major route within Brechin and its closure is causing significant inconvenience to many people, so this work will be prioritised as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, this bridge must remain closed as it is significantly weakened at present.

Angus Council officers will be meeting with the Scottish Government Task Force this week to discuss support for Brechin and the surrounding

area. I don't have any input into that but I will update when I hear anything.

Residents are not happy with the Maisondieu School Friendly Zone trial so far which is no surprise. All of the complaints raised are identical to those raised by Jill, Gavin and me back before it started. Officers are aware of this but I haven't seen a response yet.

You will have noticed that repairs to the land slip at the junction at Aberlemno Toll are now underway. With every rainfall there is less soil supporting the road so I'm happy to see this repair in process. It has taken considerable time to get this done.

ACOB.

There was a wide ranging and lengthy discussion involving the members of the public about the recent floods and what could be done in the event of a recurrence. Agreed that a local emergency relicense group could be set up. The secretary will contact Angus Council to enquire about the possibility of renting the old fire station on Southesk Street as a store for sandbags, flood barriers and other equipment. The manholes on the track to Skinners Burn have been lifted by the force of water and there is a strong smell of diesel in the area. An appeal for photographs or videos of the flooding will be put on the Facebook page.

It was asked if the office bearers could have Community Council email addresses rather than using their private emails. This will be set up ASAP. It was also mentioned that temporary homes for Ukrainian refugees had been set up in Arbroath for a years duration which was coming to an end. These homes could be moved to Brechin and used for people made homeless by the floods.

Questions from the Floor.

There were no further questions from the floor.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 in Hudson's Bar at 7.00pm

There being no further business David thanked the attendees and closed the meeting at 9.00pm