

MINUTES OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
held on Thursday 19th October 2023 via Online Zoom Meeting

Present:

Ross Thomson (Chair), David Paton (Vice-Chair), Maggie Braid (Secretary), Roy Gill, (Treasurer), Pip Hills, Dave Wood, William Nicoll, Joan Murray, Gail Penman, Jenny May, Councillors Bill Duff and Tommy Stewart

1. Chairman's welcome

As this meeting followed directly after the AGM the Chairman's welcome was taken as having been given

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Charlotte May, Kirsten Tomlinson and John Tomlinson

3. Minutes of last meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September were taken as read and approved

4. Police Report

Discussion took place regarding the fact that a Police representative had not been available for quite some time to attend any MCC meetings. Councillor Bill Duff advised that this would normally be the responsibility of the Police Community Officer but lack of resources means that regular attendance would not be possible. It was agreed, therefore, that MCC would continue to advise on the Police written report unless circumstances changed regarding Police Community Officer's availability in 2024.

5. Councillors Report

a. Continuing Damage to Butterfly Park

Councillor Bill Duff advised the meeting that he had spoken with the Parks Manager and is advised that they are aware of the damage and vandalism and there is pressure to get repairs carried out. He did make the point that the areas cordoned off did not appear to be detracting from children's enjoyment of the park facilities though continuing pressure will be put to ensure repairs will be carried out as soon as possible, though financial restrictions may be causing delays. Ross Thomson raised the issue that when it was seen that certain parts of the park were not in a good condition this encouraged further vandalism, etc. Councillor Bill Duff agreed to continue to get progress updates from the Parks Manager and report to the MCC.

b. New Recycling Regime

Councillor Bill Duff advised that he had wished to advise MCC of further details of the new Recycling Regime but the Angus Council meeting to discuss this had been postponed due to the bad weather, though he did advise that Government funding is being made available to Montrose to purchase additional recycling machinery, provide residents with an additional recycling bin for glass and there will be glass recycling points made available at various points in Montrose, e.g. supermarket car parks, etc., as the plan is that glass will no longer be allowed to be placed in household recycling bins.

Joan Murray raised the question regarding what would people do who did not have transport to take glass to community recycling bins. Councillor Bill Duff agreed that this is an issue but he advised that if people will be advised that if they are having issues they will be advised to contact the Angus Council waste team directly and arrangements will be made to have a collection made. Full details will be advised to the community in due course.

Joan Murray also asked for further explanation on why Angus Council were no longer collecting glass in the regular collection process and was advised that there is an issue with the existing company handling the mixed recycling.

He also indicated that regulation is changing regarding recycling and Angus Council will not be complying with the new regulations by continuing to use the existing process. Councillor Bill Duff also advised that Angus Council will be receiving £2.8 million to facilitate the required changes if Angus Council complies with the changes required. This change will also enable Angus Council to make savings on the existing funds spent on handling recycled materials.

Joan Murray made the point that an additional large bin for each household will further deteriorate the appearance of the town where properties have no option but to store the recycling bins on the main pavements etc. Councillor Bill Duff responded that Angus Council are looking into the possibility of flats etc., having communal bins to alleviate this issue. He advised that further discussion will be taking place with residents etc., over the next 12 months to try to find an amicable solution to this issue.

c. Re-Imagining Montrose Project

Councillor Bill Duff advised that this is a significant project and he had had initial discussions with MCC member, Pip Hills. He advised that, although MCC were not aware of this project, he made the point that if you have the right scheme there is Government funding available.

6. Treasurer's Report

Ross Thomson advised the meeting that the regular Treasurer's report will be reported at the next MCC meeting on 16th November.

7. Agenda Items

a. MoRevival Update

David Paton advised that there is a new project plan being developed following on from the work prepared by the original MoRevival group, in conjunction with the development of interest in the William Lamb Studio contents, and a number of different community projects, to encourage people to come back to the High Street and upgrade the buildings, environment, etc. This will be part of a much larger project where we are looking to develop a Montrose Community Development Trust organisation, which will be called ProMO - Montrose Development and Improvement Trust Limited.

There is a small group working on making all the necessary legal arrangements, etc., for the creation of the new community development trust. Further communication will be held with the existing MoRevival members to encourage their ongoing support to help drive this new development trust forward. Currently the group consists of David Paton, Pip Hills, Dave Wood, Ross Thomson, Maggie Braid and Ian Gall, though a few additional members will also be required to join the new development trust.

David Paton advised that the new group have had substantial positive support from Angus Council etc., to support this project and to assist in attracting funding for this project from various other sources. Further meetings are being held in the next few weeks to further progress support and funding applications.

David Paton advised that the ProMO group will meet separately and report to the MCC at each meeting with further project updates.

Pip Hills advised the meeting that this project seemed to be happening at the right time and he had already received considerable enthusiastic interest and support from various organisations, particularly as this is a community led trust project, which could attract funding that would not otherwise be available.

Maggie Braid also advised the meeting that she and Pip Hills will be meeting with another well established community trust and will report back to the next meeting with their findings.

b. High Street clean-up event

It was agreed to move this item to the next MCC meeting as this will not take place until early 2024.

c. Open Day for Seagreen Microgrant funding recipients

It was agreed that the existing Seagreen sub-group would make the specific arrangements and report back to the MCC at next meeting.

d. Seagreen Large project meeting – 26 November

It was agreed that the existing Seagreen sub-group would make the specific arrangements and report back to the MCC at next meeting.

e. Young members for MCC

Ross Thomson advised the meeting that he is continuing to make arrangements via Montrose Academy and it was confirmed that young members are required to live in the Montrose Community Council area.

Gail Penman confirmed that she is communicating with local schools regarding their involvement in the MCC projects etc.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence was required for discussion at this meeting

9. Questions from the floor

No questions were raised at the meeting

10. Planning report

No planning reports were required for discussion

11. AOCB

No further additional business was raised for discussion

Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th November