



Kirriemuir Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of 29 November 2023 7 pm in Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre

Present: Heather Kelly (Chair), Irena Krasinska-Lobban (Treasurer), George Aitken, Frances Havenga, Ron Lobban, Audrey Middleton, Eric Mitchell, Cerys Mitchell, Cathy Stephenson

In attendance: Jean Henderson (Minute Secretary), Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Cllr George Meechan, Officer Judi Young, SFRS (part time), Police Inspector Paul Hague (part time). **PUBLIC:** Rod Paterson

Heather welcomed **Elizabeth Langlands, Head Teacher of Northmuir Primary School, and two of her pupils, Ahil and Harris**, who had come along to talk about the “Healthiest School in Scotland.”

Ms Langlands explained that a school in Aberfeldy has started a project stating they are the “Healthiest School in Scotland.” One of the Northmuir Primary School parents hails from Aberfeldy and she has suggested Northmuir Primary could take up the challenge to be the Healthiest School in Scotland, doing a variety of healthy living projects. Websters High School is supporting the project. The pupils are doing exercise sessions, healthy eating, etc. etc. and Primary 7 are doing a lot with the younger pupils.

The theme for December is “Kindness.” Walking is being encouraged and Antony Gifford, Kinnordy Estate, is giving his support on nature walks.

Cycling at the bike track on the Hill is another option. The track was in poor condition, however, Ms Langlands has organised help from Angus Council and it is now improved and ready for use. Cllr Meechan reported that Angus Council will be monitoring the use of the cycle path. Ms Langlands said that several of the pupils have volunteered to help clean up the cycle path. CPR sessions are taking place with Scottish Fire & Rescue Services and the pupils are also learning about how the emergency services look after the community. So there is a lot going on at Northmuir School to become “Healthiest School in Scotland.”

Various Kirrie organisations are keen to get involved, including Care Homes. Ms Langlands asked if Kirriemuir Community Council would be interested to come on board.

Heather thanked Ms Langlands and Ahil and Harris for coming to talk to KCC and, on behalf of the Community Councillors, said that the Community Council will be happy to support the school's project. Heather highlighted the current situation at the Leisure Centre. Ms Langlands is in talks with Angus Alive to hopefully improve access to the Leisure Centre, albeit, she said she understood the current financial constraints at the moment.

Good Luck Northmuir Primary School to become “Healthiest School in Scotland!”

Ms Langlands and the pupils left the meeting.

ACTION

1. **Apologies:** Jeanette Reioch, Cllr Julie Bell

2. **Approval of 25 October Minutes:** Agreed a true and correct record. Proposed by Cathy and seconded by Irena. **Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes:** Agreed a true and correct record. Proposed by Irena and seconded by Cathy.

3. Police Report: Received and circulated. Heather welcomed Inspector Hague from Forfar Police. Heather thanked Inspector Hague for taking the time to attend the KCC meeting given the current staffing problems.

- Inspector Hague said the force was extremely busy, however, they are trying to attend every Angus Community Council meeting in the future, when possible.
- Please continue to report any issues to the Police.
- Inspector Hague referred to PC Anderson's update email to KCC, dated 14 November. PC Anderson reported that there were no further reports of off road bikes in Kirriemuir. Eric updated Inspector Hague regarding this issue. Speed checks have been carried out and no issues reported.
- PC Anderson reported no further calls regarding the Hooks Hotel issue. Discussion ensued. Issues continue at Hooks Hotel. Officer Young confirmed that SFRS has checked the property and it is not secure. The public are frustrated that their complaints about Hooks Hotel are going unanswered. An interview with the owner of Hooks, John Cape, appeared in The Courier on 30 November. Mr. Cape claims vandalism has always been promptly dealt with at Hooks and he has not received reports of vermin. Inspector Hague said he would investigate and report back.
- Ron raised concerns about the increase in vandalism at the Hill and in the Den. Den toilets have been damaged again. The Pavillion at the Hill has CCTV but it does not extend to the outer area of the Hill.

**Police
Inspector
Hague**

Heather thanked Inspector Hague for attending the KCC meeting.

**4. Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Report:
Kirriemuir On-call Fire Station – November 2023**

Community Safety:

- 6 x Home Fire Safety visits
- 2 x Operational Intelligence visits
- 1 x Fire Safety in Home talk
- 1 x Brew with Crew

Incidents:

- 6 x Fire Alarm/Smoke Detector Operating
- 2 x Fire
- 2 x Secondary fire
- 2 x Special Service Call

Winter Tap (Thematic Action Plan)

4 December to 8 January 2024

Objectives:

1. Reduce accidental dwelling fires:

- (a) Minimise the impact of accidental fire in the home over the peak winter / festive period.*
- (b) Reduce the overall number and severity of accidental fires in the home, accidental fire casualties and fatalities.*

- (c) Minimise the number of accidental fires and fire casualties in the home involving persons over 60 years of age.
- (d) Provide relevant public information and advice relating to winter safety and cost of living / fuel poverty, including highlighting the increased risk from fire and accidents over the festive period due to alcohol consumption.
- 2. Target Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) at high-risk households.
- 3. Increased safety of commercial and public premises.
 - 4. Promote benefits of carbon monoxide detection within the home.
 - 5. Promote chimney safety including flues, solid fuel stoves, log burners and wood burning stoves.

“Santa Drive Thru” 19 December 2023, 6.30 – 8 pm Kirrie Fire Station
In aid of The Firefighters Charity.

Officer Young reviewed the SFRS report and advised that the Kirrie Fire Station is due to receive a new, sophisticated Appliance soon. The Kirrie Station is planning a road-show once the Appliance has been received.

5. Treasurer's Report: November 2023

FPP Fund £92.20 KCC Funds £547.71 Defib Fund £595.50 Grant £378.08
VAA Fund £300 **Total £1913.49**

Irena highlighted the Grant of £378.08 and reported that this sum will be standing at £228.00 next year when the new Grant is due to be issued. Therefore, this sum will need to be absorbed before the new Grant is allocated. Heather will investigate.

HK

6. Matters Arising:

B25 Development Trust: Heather reported that progress is being made. The local businesses have been consulted for their information to be included on the App. Colour and logo has been agreed for the App. It is hoped the App will be up and running by Spring 2024. Other funding will be explored. Now that the App has started, Heather asked KCC to let her know of any ideas they have which would help the community. Everything will be on the App/Facebook. A diary exists in the Library.

B82 Hooks issues: See 3. Police Report above. Cllr Proctor reported that he had written to the Police regarding various issues which had been raised at the last KCC meeting, including Hooks.

B95 Proposed Police speed checks: See 3. Police Report above.

B99 Proposed double yellow lines at Knowehead: No further update.

RP

A3 Hedge issues update: Jeanette emailed an update. She has chased Peter Morton but no response to date.

A22 Empty caravan at Maryton – wall issue: Cllr Meechan reported that Angus Council is not sure whether there is planning permission at this property. Some of the pillars on the wall are currently unsafe. Due to the emergency situation after Storm Babet, Cllr Meechan has not yet received an update. Cllr Proctor confirmed that some of the Angus Council services are still catching up after the Storm emergency. Cathy stated that flooding was coming out of this wall and this was a matter of serious concern.

GM

A23 Unlicensed scrambler bikes in town centre: See 3. Police Report above.

<p>A25 Suggested speed bumps at Hill Rise: No further update.</p> <p>A26 Lack of Police presence at KCC meetings: Cllr Proctor has been in contact with the Police regarding this matter. KCC is pleased to welcome Inspector Hague to the November meeting. Jeanette sent an update email regarding a suggestion that the Police hold an Open Evening before the November meeting. Sgt Crichton responded that this had been tried in the past but it didn't work.</p> <p>Cathy reported that it had been suggested holding the KCC meeting at the Kirrie Fire Station on the Wednesday when it co-incided with the Police and SFRS presence. Cathy suggested that KCC's presence at such a meeting would reinforce their commitment to the Kirrie community that they are prepared to take action on their behalf. It would also add another dimension of support to the forum. Could Inspector Hague look into this, please?</p> <p>Inspector Hague reiterated the huge cuts and staffing problems facing the Police Force and he didn't want to make definite promises he couldn't fulfil. However, he offered to look into this and do his best. <i>Many thanks.</i> Discussion ensued with Inspector Hague explaining a lot of the reasons for the stretched Police situation at the moment. Today, the Police Force finds itself involved in areas that were never part of their remit in the past, e.g. the serious mental health situation at the moment.</p> <p>Inspector Hague and Officer Young left the meeting.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>Inspector Hague</p>
<p>A27 Phone Boxes: Clearing books which have fallen down the back: Eric apologised he hadn't cleared the books and will do so soon. Jeanette emailed an update: She has tidied the phone box but it is overflowing again. Other volunteers have reduced their tidying up. Request that other KCC members give a hand to control the books situation, please.</p> <p>A28 Morrison Street litter issue: Area identified as Barbers Close – between Morrison Street and Glamis Road. Jeanette emailed an update: Ian Kennedy is looking into this but no response to date and no update from Cllr Proctor. Cllr Proctor reported that someone had looked at Barber's Close and suggested if litter appears again to inform Ian Kennedy.</p> <p>A29 Donations to Santa's letters postage: Community Councillors agreed to pay £10 each towards the postage. Many thanks to Cathy for her very generous donation to the postage. This is very much appreciated. <i>(Also, thanks to Cathy for bringing us all some tasty Christmas treats to the meeting!)</i></p> <p>A30 GDPR feedback: Heather reported that, unfortunately, Jeanette has been experiencing a lot of “abuse” levelled against her in her position as Secretary of KCC. This is completely unacceptable. Jeanette is acting on behalf of KCC and, like other organisations, is strictly governed by GDPR, which she always adheres to. GDPR is a sensitive issue and personal information discussed during KCC meetings must never be divulged by Community Councillors outwith that meeting. Unfortunately, there have been occasions when this has happened which has resulted in Jeanette being the target of some malicious behaviour. This must never happen again. Heather reminded the meeting that Angus Council was planning to hold a GDPR Forum but this has not materialised. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate.</p>	<p>EM</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>RP</p>
<p>7. Planned closure of Recycling Centre: Proposed letter to Angus Council: Heather reported that a letter was written and sent to Angus Council. The response was that the letter had arrived after the deadline date. Heather reported that, unfortunately, there was</p>	

no acknowledgement from Angus Council on any of the points KCC had listed in the letter. Heather had attended the bi-annual Meeting but expressed concern that there were very few answers to questions. Lack of consultation is becoming a serious problem for the community when decisions are made to close down services which affect them. The community need to be heard. It was reported that the old Kirrie Recycling Centre is being used to house the road salt. It has been moved from Angle Road.

8. Councillors' Reports:

Cllr George Meechan reports:

Over the past month I have attended the following meetings:

- Full Council
- Capital Project Monitoring Group
- Communities Committee
- Angus Licensing Board
- Angus Civic Licensing Committee
- Children and Learning Committee
- Project Budget Strategy Group

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

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

- AHSCP workshops x 2.
- E-casework demonstration.
- Briefing on Climate Change and Biodiversity activity.
- Site visit on winter treatment.
- Holiday Food and Fund presentation.
- Interviewed for new Chief Officer for AHSCP.
- Tayside Joint Valuation Board.
- Tayside Contracts Joint Committee.
- Glamis Community Council.
- Newtyle School Friendly Meeting.
- Police Scotland Drop-in session.

Updates:

I have no updates for the meeting.

Issues from constituents included the following:

- Roads
- Housing repairs
- Welfare benefit issues
- Flooding

Cllr Ronnie Proctor reports:

I have been on several items since the last meeting many of which include housing and roads are

ongoing and have been for some time. I have also been involved in helping getting damage to roads and property in the Kirriemuir and Dean area activated by the relevant Council Officers. Although my mobility is improving greatly, I am still suffering from the effect of Shingles which is quite debilitating and painful. I have passed on correspondence from Council Officers to the Secretary of KCC as and when received.

I have attended the following meetings virtually and wrote as promised to Police Scotland regarding Police Reports and attendance at CC Meetings from which I have had a positive reply:-

Briefing Session for Climate Change.

Full Angus Council

Veterans meetings regarding medical facilities for veterans and their families including some from the local area. Housing and other matters for those leaving the services was also discussed.

Place holder meeting.

Remembrance weekend

I attended the Remembrance Service at the Kirriemuir War Memorial on Friday the 10th of November with the pupils from Southmuir Primary and Northmuir Primary Schools.

The Wreath Laying at the Cross, Forfar on Saturday the 11th of November.

Conducted the Outdoor Remembrance Service at Cortachy War Memorial, laid a wreath at Powrie Brae Memorial and Organised and attended the Wreath Laying at Kirriemuir War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

I attended a meeting with an officer from Northeast Sensory Services (NESS) regarding Visually and Hearing-impaired people. Someone could visit and present to the CC if required.

Communities meeting, where I highlighted concerns of some residents who are affected and concerned regarding the redirection of traffic in response to the no parking on pavements legislation.

Briefing sessions on voluntary organisations who help young people some of whom are disabled to gain employment.

Angus Alive strategic development.

I attended the Scrutiny Audit on 28 November. The possibility of a Tourist Tax was discussed. It appears the decision whether to implement such a tax is left to the individual local authorities. I think this tax could severely affect local businesses.

Cllr Julie Bell reports:

Storm Babet has taken up a huge amount of resources, as you can imagine. Whilst Brechin was clearly the worst town affected, Finavon, Glen Esk and Tannadice (half in Kirriemuir and Dean) and Newtyle, Eassie, Charleston and Glamis all had significant issues. Huge thanks to the Local Resilience Partnership for pulling out all the stops to help – tragically, 3 lives were lost and such is the increasing scale of severe weather

events, I hope you can understand why rescue and recovery missions need to focus on preventing loss of life.

As chair of the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership, I was receiving situation reports from the senior team as part of the response, as well as sit-reps from the council CEO which went to all councillors.

We have all been instructed to triage our own caseload at the moment to minimise impact on council officers, who are focussed on assessing the extent of the damage and what is required. The Scottish Government has set up a task force to assist all storm-damaged areas.

Residents affect by the storm have been advised to email

emergencycentre@angus.gov.uk

I include photos and links to papers/recordings of meetings as I'm aware the distribution of these reports includes the local library for public use.

The new sign has now been sited at the accessible play equipment at Kirrie Hill, and I was invited to the Co-op Funeral Care on Friday last week to accept a cheque with Irena Krasinska-Lobban, as KRG, for funds to buy and install accessible picnic benches to complement the play equipment. This will allow families and groups including people in wheelchairs to sit more comfortably together. We're planning a wee photocall with the McColgan family.

A massive well done to KRG and Co-op customers in Kirriemuir and Forfar. They raised a massive £4113 for their plans to put disabled access benches on Kirrie Hill. Thanks to the customers who use their membership cards while shopping for this becoming possible. Photo: Cindy Morris, Caz Guesford Johnston, Irena Krasinska-Lobban, Nicki Wilson, Jools Bell, Maria Dryburgh.

Angus Health and Social Care Partnership said goodbye to our Chief Officer, Gail Smith, who retired after 42 years' public service across the NHS and the HSCP. George Meechan and I are both involved in the recruitment process for her successor. I know many Kirriemuir and Dean residents will know Gail from her dedication and commitment to the people of Angus, whether they are patients or colleagues. What a well-respected and well-loved colleague and friend – she will be sorely missed but we are delighted that she has an exciting 'retirement' ahead!

Miscellaneous

I attended a national IJB Chairs and Vice Chairs Network event in Glasgow io Sept 20
Appointed Vice Chair of the IJB Chairs and Vice Chairs Remote, Rural and Islands Sub-Group

A visit to the Scottish Parliament for a reception for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland – which provides support to residents across Angus for their rehabilitation journey

Bonfire Night at Kirrie Hill, serving hot dogs and soup – well done to KRG and the Rotary Club of The Angus Glens for another amazing night.

Boards/Committees

Angus Council

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

https://www.angus.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/committees/agendas_reports_and_minutes

IJB

I chaired the Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB) on Nov 15 – information here: <https://www.angushscp.scot/angus-integration-joint-board/>

NHS Tayside

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

Public Health Scotland

Public Health Scotland papers here: <https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-organisation/our-board/>

Caseload

I am dealing with some severely challenging cases just now, which remain a priority despite officer capacity.

Cllr Julie Bell

Email: CllrBell@angus.gov.uk M: 07988599742

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

10. AOCB

10.1. Irena reported that KRG has plans for a wheelchair accessibility bridge in the Den for the community. KRG has to apply for planning permission. Would KCC be willing to let KRG use their Planning discount for this application, please? All agreed to go ahead.

10.2. Eric reported lights out at Bellies Brae. Cllr Proctor stated this has been reported.

10.3. Cathy reported that she had the support of Cllr Proctor when the community was left with no bus service due to the recent road closures. The only person who replied to Cathy was the Angus Council Transport Manager. The Angus Council contractors were changing time scales and Cathy expressed disappointment that Angus Council was not more informed about the disruption to bus services this had caused. .

10.4. Heather asked for an update for the path leading to the Health Centre from Croft Terrace. Cllr Meechan reported that the contractors found a mains supply issue when working on the path. The contractors had stated to Angus Council that this extra work was not included in their initial price for the work, thus the delay. This has now been resolved and work will re-commence soon. Cllr Proctor said he would also investigate.

10.5. Jeanette reports that the KCC Facebook page has been sent a picture by a member of the public showing the unacceptable state of the High Street bins again. Jeanette has forwarded this on and Gillie will keep us updated.

10.6. Heather advised that KCC will be delivering Santa's letters on 20 December. Anyone available to help will be welcome.

11. **Planning:** Heather explained why Planning is now near the end of the Agenda. This will allow those elected members, who may have reason not to be present when a certain Planning item is discussed, to leave the meeting.

Planning application for 35 houses at Beechwood.

Heather reminded the meeting that the street road was intended to link the Glamis Road to the Forfar Road and asked why this has not yet been completed. Cllr Proctor reported that this has to do with the owner of the land and it is up to him regarding the road. Cllr Proctor suggested that Heather contacts Alan Hunter, Planning Officer.

RP

HK

12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 31 January 2024, 7 pm in Kirrie Connections meeting room.

Heather closed the meeting by wishing everyone a “Merry Christmas” and a “Happy and Healthy New Year.”

2.12.23