

MINUTES OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

held on Thursday 16th November 2023
at The Playhouse, The Mall, Montrose, DD10 8NN

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, Kenny Braes and Tommy Stewart

1. Chairman's welcome

Ross Thomson, (Chair), welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Angus Council, Capital Projects representatives – Eleanor Doyle and Graeme Dailly.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Roy Gill, Charlotte May, Kirsten Tomlinson, John Tomlinson and Councillor Ian Gall

3. Angus Council Capital Projects Presentation

Eleanor Doyle, Capital Projects Team Leader, provided a detailed update to the meeting on the current actions being taken by Angus Council to repair the damage at the promenade area on Traill Drive etc. Discussions took place on the temporary repairs being undertaken to ensure the area was made safe for the community and to enable access to be provided for the various amenities in the affected area. The meeting was advised that permanent repairs were being undertaken at the area near the Coastguard Station, which would enable access to be re-opened on the northern access road and the car park.

Eleanor Doyle and Graeme Dailly provided the meeting with information on how Angus Council were looking to get the required funding for the permanent repairs and defences necessary for future flood controls in the promenade and beach areas in Montrose.

Questions from the Floor

Given the importance of the presentation from Angus Council, the Chairman asked for questions from the floor at this stage in the meeting.

- a. A comment was made from the floor about the current issue of the damage to the promenade etc., and Councillor Bill Duff responded that Angus Council had been looking at the entire coastal erosion issue along with Montrose coastline for the past 10-12 years and that consultation had been made with various organisations to come to a conclusion as to how best to deal with the coastal erosion, flood risks, etc.

The report delivered by the consultants involved in the Dynamic Coast project, funded by the Scottish Government etc., have described the suggested best form of coastal defence for many areas of the Scottish coastline. The approach outlined in the report is considered by Angus Council to be the best long-term plan to defend Montrose against further coastal erosion and flooding. Graeme Dailly from Angus Council commented that this is an extremely expensive and ongoing process and a commitment to provide ongoing funding is being sought from Scottish Government at this time.

- b. Further clarification questions were asked at the meeting by David Wood for further details regarding the current short- and long-term coastal erosion defences project planning. The response from Eleanor Doyle regarding a question on quantities of sand that Angus Council are looking to source for Phase 1 of the project. Eleanor Doyle replied that previous quantities were 50,000 m³ for Phase 1 and 100,000 to 120,000m³ for phase 2. However, this will need to be increased by approx. 20% due to further loss.
- c. When asked about the make-up of Stakeholder Group, Eleanor Doyle confirmed members as Marine Directorate, Dynamic Coast, Nature Scot, Montrose Port Authority and SEPA.
- d. There was a question from the floor (from Alex Coull) about why Dynamic Coast did not include the impact of Montrose Port dredging as a major cause of Montrose Bay Coastal erosion. Councillor Bill Duff replied that Dynamic Coast were asked to research and identify the major causes of erosion and that dredging was not considered by them to be a major cause of coastal erosion at Montrose Bay.

It was agreed that further representation from Angus Council would be invited to attend the MCC meeting early in 2024 with a further update for the community.

- e. Individuals representing the owners of caravans and mobile homes in the South Links Caravan Park asked for any updates available on what is happening, in the short term, to protect the Caravan Park from flooding, erosion of the dunes, etc. David Paton also asked if areas of floor corridors have been identified, which would incorporate the area near the South Links Caravan Park. Angus Council representatives confirmed that, as far as they were aware, areas of floor corridors had been identified but they were unaware of what plans were in place.

It was agreed that MCC would invite Sue Tayloe from the South Links Caravan Park owners group, along to the next MCC meeting to discuss their concerns with Jacqui Semple, Angus Council Resilience and Emergency Planning Officer if arrangements can be made for her to attend.

4. Minutes of last meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th October were taken as read and approved.

5. Councillors Report

a. Common Good Fund process relating to the Inch Pavilion

In-depth discussions took place with the relevant councillors attending the meeting, regarding how Angus Council manage the existing Common Good Fund and associated properties. Graeme Dailly, Angus Council, advised the meeting on the current process used by Angus Council to select the most appropriate applicant, when any Common Good property was offered for sale. He indicated that the most appropriate measure is that of 'best value' for the community. The existing community consultation process for the proposed sale of the Inch Pavilion was discussed, and it was agreed that, as MCC had already submitted a letter to the Chief Executive of Angus Council requesting an explanation as to why Angus Council were not complying with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, MCC should wait until a response has been received before making any further decisions.

6. Treasurer's Report

Details of current account were issued to MCC members by Ross Thomson in the absence of Roy Gill, Treasurer. Current balance as at 09 November 2023 is £15,021.07 of which £6,264 is ringfenced for ProMo (grant received for High Street regeneration project). The Angus Council Restricted Fund has current balance of £239.66 with a proposed balance at year end of £140. It will have to be agreed at next meeting how this balance is to be used.

7. Police Report

No further Police report was available at the time of the meeting.

8. Matters Arising from previous meeting

a. Butterfly Park damage

Councillor Bill Duff advised the meeting that he had again raised the issue of the non-repair of the equipment at the Butterfly Park and hoped to be able to report some progress with repairs as soon as possible.

b. Recycling Bins

Councillor Bill Duff confirmed the process Angus Council would be applying in 2024 regarding the issuing of additional recycling bins, recycling points and requirement to dispose of certain items at central recycling points in Montrose. This had been discussed during a previous meeting and no changes to the new recycling process to be launched.

9. Agenda Items

a. High Street clean-up event date and arrangements

It was agreed that this event would take place in April 2024 and further arrangements would be discussed further during January 2024 meeting.

b. Open Day for Seagreen Microgrant funding recipients

Final arrangements were agreed for the event taking place on Sunday 26th November. Maggie Braid advised meeting that currently 14 recipients have confirmed their attendance. A photographer has also been arranged to provide photos etc., for newspaper and social media coverage.

c. Seagreen Large Projects meeting 26th November arrangements

David Paton explained the arrangements for the event and confirmed that Craig Mullen from Seagreen will be attending to explain the large projects application and selection process to all attendees.

It was also confirmed that Montrose Community Council members will agree the final Seagreen large project selection process at the January 2024 meeting.

d. ProMo Update

David Paton and Pip Hills updated on the meeting on the arrangements currently being undertaken to create the new Community Interest Company – ProMo Montrose Development and Improvement CIC. Application has been submitted to Companies House – awaiting decision.

e. Young Members for MCC

It was agreed to invite a representative from the 'Brave Lassies Blether' group to a future meeting to update MCC on what they are doing for the community and if MCC can assist them in any way.

10. Correspondence

No correspondence was required for discussion at this meeting

11. Questions from the floor

See notes in Section 3 above

12. Planning report

Only relevant information related to the number of applications for new licences for AirBnB premises.

13. AOCB

- An update was provided by Councillor Tommy Stewart on the progress of the installation of the Montrose Christmas lights.
- Ross Thomson advised the meeting that Montrose Rotary Club would cease at year end. He has been asked if the Montrose Citizen of the Year award could be taken over by MCC. Ross suggested a joint approach with other Montrose area community associations and this was supported by the MCC members.

Dates of next meetings:

18th January

21st March

16th May

18th July

19th September

17th October (AGM)

21st November