

# MINUTES OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
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, Joan Murray, Gail Penman, Jenny May, Kirsten Tomlinson, John Tomlinson. Councillors Bill Duff, Kenny Braes and Ian Gall.

## **1. Chairman's welcome**

Ross Thomson, (Chair), welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced representatives from Borrowfield School and Montrose Academy.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from William Nicoll, Charlotte May, and Councillor Tommy Stewart

## **3. Minutes from last meeting for Approval**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November were taken as read and approved.

## **4. Presentation from Borrowfield School**

An excellent presentation was made by a young pupil from Borrowfield School, supported by school teaching representatives, Cherry-Lynne Shepherd and Lesley Malloy. The pupil explained the various things she and the other school pupils are learning and participating in in relation to the impact of litter etc., and what this is doing to the planet. She went on to explain what the children at Borrowfield School are continuing to do, and advised us on what we can all do to make the planet a better place by small actions on the part of everyone in Montrose is to pick up litter, look after insects and animals, and plant trees.

Councillor Bill Duff confirmed that he would ask the appropriate Angus Council department to provide the school with more substantial litter picking devices to support the children in their efforts.

### **4.1. Junior Montrose Community Council**

Discussion took place on the concept of developing a junior section of the Montrose Community Council, with representatives from primary and secondary schools in the area. It was suggested that we arrange a Junior Montrose Community Council take part in the MCC meetings from 5pm to 6pm

Gail Penman volunteered to be a conduit for schools in the area to gain their views on what we could all do in Montrose and potential contributors from various schools in the Junior Montrose Community Council, to take part in the first meeting at 5-6pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Roy Gill provided the meeting with a copy of the details of the income and expenditure of the MCC accounts to 15 January 2024, and advised the meeting that the existing accounts had a balance of £14,212.04 which included an amount of £6,264 ring-fenced for High Street regeneration project, and contained a balance of £109.66 from our current operating budget from Angus Council.

## **6. Councillors Report**

Councillor Bill Duff advised that Angus Council has been using considerable funds repairing potholes in the roads in the area. He also explained that the Northwater Bridge repair is a joint venture between Angus and Aberdeenshire Councils. The temporary repairs have been completed at the SeaFront area. The Bridge of Dun and Brechin bridges have not been repaired to date. He confirmed that considerable amounts were being spent in repairs following the recent flooding and asked the community to be patient as repairs will be completed as soon as possible.

Councillor Duff also advised the meeting that budgets were very difficult this year and Angus Council were holding a budget meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February and MCC will receive a further update on the budget position at our March meeting. He confirmed that Angus Council will be receiving some funding from Scottish Government to support the repairs following the storm and flood damage – further details to follow.

Aberdeenshire Council is potentially commencing repairs on the Marykirk bridge but there are no further details at this time.

Dave Wood asked if access to the Montrose beach (stairs etc.,) was included in the repairs but Councillor Duff could not comment on this at this time.

Councillor Kenny Braes commented that there requires to be a more collaborative arrangement with Aberdeenshire Council as there requires to be regional strategic plans in place as South Kincardineshire residents rely on access to Montrose.

### **6.1. Common Good Fund**

Discussion took place on the existing process applied by Angus Council regarding the Common Good Fund. Councillor Kenny Braes explained that local councillors make the decisions at this time, though he agreed that the process should include discussion/consultation with MCC. Councillor Bill Duff made the point that this approach would have to be applied across all community councils in Angus.

## **7. Police Update**

Maggie Braid provided the meeting with the latest Police report which outlined the issues in the community. There is to be a community consultation being held between the Police and Montrose Community Council being held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. MCC members Ross Thomson and Maggie Braid taking part.

## **8. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

### **8.1. Butterfly Park update**

Councillor Bill Duff advised the meeting that repairs are going to be completed within the next month.

### **8.2 Recycling Bins**

A public consultation has taken place and Angus Council are going ahead with the new policy.

Discussion took place regarding the community public consultation process used by Angus Council and MCC commented that there did not appear to be any value in the existing process. Councillor Kenny Braes agreed to take this comment forward to Angus Council for review.

## 9. Agenda Items

### 9.1 Seagreen Large Project selection process

David Paton updated the meeting on the selection process and it was agreed that we would suggest to Seagreen that the funding of £250,000 be shared across maximum of two projects. Closing date for submission of Notes of Interest from Montrose community organisations is 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024. For information the entire application process already circulated is:

1. **Invitations Close – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**  
Invitations sent to MCC and Seagreen for selection of the projects meeting the required Seagreen requirements and confirm that the organisations are within the MCC Burgh Map. This selection process will allocate the projects to be presented to the Montrose community for final approval.
2. **Full Applications Launched - March 2024**  
Full applications with all required submissions will be sent out to invited projects to complete.
3. **Full Applications Close - May 2024**  
Full applications to be submitted by end May 2024.
4. **Public Consultation Begins – June 2024**  
Submission of final application presentations early June in pdf and A1 formats to be displayed online and in public consultation exhibition (further instructions will be provided in due course)
5. **Online consultation / voting to run for 4 weeks minimum**  
Premises on High Street Montrose will be leased for one week min to enable each project to conduct do in person consultations / votes.
6. **Award Event – July 2024 – Date TBC**

### 9.2 Common Good issues with Angus Council update

Ross Thomson advised the meeting on what is currently happening in relation to our ongoing issue with Angus Council re consultation with MCC, i.e. Angus Council have advised that they are currently investigating our complaint as part of their Stage 2 Complaint process. We are still awaiting clarification from Angus Council.

### 9.3 Young Members of MCC

Representatives from Montrose Academy – Dylan Robertson and Murray Ruckbie, explained the school pupils desire to enhance their links with the local community. They advised the meeting that Montrose Academy has a Pupil Parliament and this has representatives from each school house between ages of 12 – 18 years of age. One of the things the Pupil Parliament wishes to develop for the Academy is a Community Board, so that the pupils could be more aware of what is happening in Montrose.

Ross Thomson asked if Dylan and Murray would be interested in encouraging some Montrose Academy pupils to become part of the Junior Community Council. Both Dylan and Murray agreed to be part of the inaugural meeting of the Junior Community Council being held at 5pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March and would reach out to other Academy pupils to gauge their interest.

Ross Thomson also requested them to ask pupils from Montrose Academy to volunteer to take part in the High Street and surrounding areas clean-up to be arranged for the spring.

Ross Thomson explained the concept of younger members of the MCC and asked if both Dyland and Murray would be interested in taking part. Both agreed that they would be interested and will attend the next MCC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

#### **9.4 Police Scotland presentation re social media/online risks final arrangements**

Gail Penman confirmed that the presentation will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at The Playhouse, and will be delivered by herself and Mark Garnes. Gail will provide information to be circulated via social media regarding the event and inviting members of the public to attend.

#### **9.5 ProMo update**

David Paton and Pip Hills gave an update on the setting up of ProMo and progress to date. ProMo is a community interest company set up to support redevelopment of various areas within Montrose. David Paton asked the young members from Montrose Academy for their views on the redevelopment of the Montrose High Street and other associated projects, and invited them to find out if there were any young people who would be interested in becoming part of the ProMo team. Gail Penman also agreed to raise this invitation when working with the local primary schools.

#### **9.6 High Street spring cleanup**

Ross Thomson confirmed with the meeting that we should plan to do this towards end of April, suggesting 21<sup>st</sup> April. Date and arrangements to be confirmed. It was agreed that we will require litter pickers, HSE assessment etc., and it was agreed that we would make contact with Suzanne Austin, Angus Council for further support and guidance. It was suggested that we approach Montrose Bay Community Group to carry out a joint venture. This will be followed up.

### **10. Questions from the Floor**

Member of the public asked if we had any communication from Angus Council department dealing with risk resilience relating to the coastal erosion issues we are having. It was confirmed that arrangements would be made for relevant Angus Council representatives to be invited to the next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Councillor Bill Duff confirmed that sufficient funds were available for initial stages of damage repair this year and additional funding has been requested from Scottish Government for future protection.

### **11. Correspondence**

Maggie Braid advised the meeting that a request had been received from a local organisation, MYPlay Babies to reallocate a Seagreen microgrant fund from use with babies, to using their remaining funds (£300) to their toddlers group. This was agreed as a continuing good use of the allocated funds.

### **12. Planning Report**

David Paton confirmed that there were no planning applications which were required to be discussed at the meeting.

## **13. AOCB**

### **13.1 Meeting with Ferryden CC**

Ross Thomson advised the meeting that we had had an excellent meeting with Ferryden Community Council during which we discussed the joint issues we were having with Angus Council regarding the Common Good Fund. We agreed that we would arrange regular meetings with Ferryden CC and Hillside CC to discuss mutual issues/arrangements etc.

### **13.2 Citizen of the Year Award**

Ross Thomson confirmed that Ferryden and Hillside Community Councils are willing to collaborate with MCC to select a recipient for the Citizen of the Year award. Ross has agreed to be the contact for MCC.

### **13.3 Brave Lassies Blether**

Ross Thomson explained the group rationale is to discuss issues relating to peer pressure and sexual pressures on young people. Representatives from the group are to be invited to attend our MCC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 21st March 2024