



Kirriemuir Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of 31 January 2024 7 pm in Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre

Present: Heather Kelly (Chair), Jeanette Reioch (Secretary), 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, SFRS Officer Judi Young (part time), PC Nick McKendrick (part time).

Heather opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the January meeting.

Heather and Jeanette recently attended a meeting with Angus Council. The purpose of the meeting was to seek guidance on recent issues in certain areas of KCC and attempting to improve the smooth running of the meetings. Heather and Jeanette reported a very good meeting wherein some very positive guidelines from Angus Council were suggested. One of the guidelines was the suggestion to revert back to the original format of a “top table” for Community Councillors only, in an attempt to formalise the meetings. Those “In attendance” will sit alongside the table. This format was implemented at this meeting and it is planned to introduce some of the other changes in the near future.

	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies: Cllr George Meechan</p> <p>2. Approval of 29 November 2023 Minutes: Agreed as a true and correct record. Proposed by Irena and seconded by Frances</p> <p>3. Police Report: Received and circulated. PC McKendrick introduced himself as the PC from Brechin. Unfortunately, PC McKendrick was unaware of the items outstanding on the Agenda from the November 2023 meeting requesting Police Action, therefore, he was unable to give an update. He will pass this on to the Community Officers for their attention.</p> <p>Jeanette has been approached by a member of the public regarding excess speeding on Shielhill Road. Also, a member of the public reported this speeding to Cllr Bell a year ago but no response to date. PC McKendrick took a note of this and said he would pass it to the Road Policing Unit. He reported that a new Community Officer has just started this week, taking the numbers up to two staff for the Kirrie area. It is hoped the extra staff will allow such issues to be addressed more quickly.</p> <p>PC McKendrick left the meeting.</p> <p>4. Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Report: January 2024 <u>Community Safety:</u> 9 x Home Fire Safety visits</p>	<p>Police</p> <p>Police</p>

2 x Operational Intelligence visits
1 x Brew with Crew – Police – Bike Safety Marking

Incidents:

5 x AFA (Automated Fire Alarm)
4 x Smoke Detector Operating
2 x Special Service Calls – Water rescue inland
2 x Special Service Call – Flooding
2 x Fire – building
4 x Special Service – assist other agencies
2 x Road Traffic collision

“Make the Call – Help Save a life – 0800 0731 999.” Book a free Home Fire Safety Visit.

Officer Young reported that their new Response Unit is live and up and running. This unit is the only one in this area, stretching from St. Monans to the Highlands. It is a very high tech piece of equipment. Officer Young confirmed that the Station has enough staff to man the new Response Unit whilst safely manning the Kirriemuir Station.

A Coffee Brew is planned for Friday, 2 February, at the Station. A representative from Angus Housing will be in attendance. There have been parking issues outside of the Fire Station, parking on double yellow lines. The Police has been notified. Officer Young reiterated the invitation to KCC to hold their meetings at the Fire Station.

5. Treasurer's Report:

As at 31 December 2023: FPP fund £92.20, KCC fund £547.71, Defib fund £595.50, Grant £68.08, VAA fund £300.00, Santa fund £43.04 **Total £1646.53**

As at 31 January 2024: FPP fund £92.20, KCC funds £547.71, Defib fund £595.50, Grant £18.08, VAA fund £300.00, Santa fund £17.06 **Total £1570.55**

The Grant balance has been absorbed.

6. Matters Arising:

B25 Development Trust update:

Heather reported that the App is moving forward and it is hoped it will go live on 20 April. Local businesses have been asked for their details. The App will be an asset for the town. Now six months in existence, a Report has been requested. An AGM will take place on 18 March and everyone is invited. A meeting with DTAS was postponed due to the weather conditions. This is due to take place w/c 5 February.

B82 Hooks problem/vandalism: No update from Police. PC McKendrick to investigate.

B99 Proposed double yellow lines at Know head: Cllr Proctor does not have an update. Angus Council departments are concentrating on the issues relating to Storm Babet.

A3 Hedge issues update: Jeanette reported that her investigations with Angus Council have been met with the same answer – “Angus Council departments are concentrating on the issues relating to Storm Babet.” Do we continue with this item? The general consensus of the meeting was that KCC is wasting their time highlighting these issues, of which there are still many, if nothing is being done. Cllr Proctor has personally investigated this issue, with no success, and the new CEO is aware of the problem.. He suggested KCC make direct contact with Angus Council. Unanimously agreed by the meeting, this was not their job to undertake.

A18 Speed cameras request for Glamis Road: Off the Agenda.

Police

RP

<p>A22 Empty caravan at Maryton – wall compliance: In the absence of Cllr Meechan, Cathy gave a report. The area has been inspected. The wall has been dismantled. Cathy has enquired about the licensing and this is ongoing.</p>	<p>GM</p>
<p>A23 Unlicensed scrambler motorcycles in town centre: PC McKendrick will investigate.</p>	<p>Police</p>
<p>A25 Suggested speed bumps at Hill Rise: No further update on the speed bumps. Heather reported that the pot holes “have returned” at Hill Rise. Cllr Proctor offered to contact Roads Department. Further pot hole issues were raised, with photographs, in particular Muir Road. Unfortunately, Muir Road is an unadopted road.</p>	<p>RP</p>
<p>A26 Lack of Police presence at KCC meetings: PC McKendrick's presence was welcome at this meeting. Regarding the new member of staff just recruited, Heather hoped to welcome them to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>A27 Phone boxes: Clearing books which have fallen down the back: Heather suggested removing the top shelf in the phone box which will avoid books being put there. Jeanette pointed out the door hinge needs inspection, too. Eric will address this asap.</p>	<p>EM</p>
<p>A29 Donations to Santa's letters postage: Some donations from Community Councillors towards the Santa's letters postage have been received and some still outstanding. This event was a huge success and will continue next Christmas. <i>Thanks to Jeanette and Heather!</i></p>	
<p>A30 Angus Council's planned GDPR Forum: No update. Update received from Cllr Proctor after the meeting: <i>Lynn Hally, Strategic Policy & Planning Assistant, Vibrant Communities, Angus Council advises: Please refer to the Data Protection Module on the Tarus site https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/ “Happy to help support the Members gaining access to this training.”</i></p>	
<p>A31 Absorbing remaining Grant money: Done</p>	
<p>A32 Recommencement of work on Health Centre path: Temporary steps. Ongoing but work is slow due to a “water pond” issue and also work on Storm Babet issues.</p>	<p>RP</p>
<p>A33 Road linking Glamis Road to Forfar Road, re 35 houses at Beechwood: Heather has written to Alan Hunter, Angus Council. No acknowledgement of letter or reply received to date. Heather has also submitted a letter on behalf of KCC to Planning asking when the road will be completed. An acknowledgement has been received from Planning.. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate.</p>	<p>RP</p>
<p>George added that if you look at the Planning Application online, Roads Department has been consulted. They have stated that as long as there is a side link so they must have agreed a road before the houses are built. George feels the Planning Department suggests our elected members should be investigating this urgently.</p>	
<p>7. Kirriemuir Recycling Centre update: Unfortunately, this is being removed from the Agenda.</p>	

IJB

IJB Audit Committee

I have resigned from the Angus Council Communities Committee and joined the Policy and Resources Committee.

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

Attended Police Scotland Drop-in Session

Attended Special Licensing Meeting

Attended the Angus Licensing Board pre-agenda meeting via Teams

Attended Welfare Rights/ Revenues and Benefits Service catch-up meeting

My case load continues to be a mixed bag e.g.

Housing issues (allocations and repairs)

Street Lighting

Licensing enquiries

Utilities

Welfare Benefits

Assistance with charity applications

I have visited constituents in their own homes over the past period to discuss their issues and dealt with numerous telephone calls and emails from constituents.

Cllr Julie Bell reports:

All the best for 2024 everyone. I hope it brings you peace, joy and abundance in the chaos of the World. Storm Babet recovery continues to take up Council time and the weather has been relentless ever since. Please be aware that the reason for the abundance of road works across Angus is that the work needs to be carried out within a tight schedule. This is to meet the criteria for Government funding through the Bellwin Scheme. It is not down to Council preference, although I am sure residents, who have raised issues around potholes and other road damage, will understand it is impossible to make an omelette without cracking eggs.

Officers have advised all Councillors to use an emergency centre email address for all infrastructure/housing queries as they are absolutely overwhelmed and ask us to be patient. It is a real challenge and we need to do our best to protect the health and well-being of our employees, too. The email is emergencycentre@angus.gov.uk

I flagged up the inclusive play equipment at Kirrie Hill, last time, delivered in partnership between Kirriemuir Regeneration Group, Angus Council Parks Team and funding from Angus Health & Social Care Partnership. We were joined by young Darren and his Mum, Moira McColgan, who asked for the equipment in the first place. This helping disabled children and their families in Kirrie, wider Angus and much further afield. Special thanks to Irena Krasinska Lobban for working with us on this. I attended the Kirrie Christmas Lights switch-on. I did my usual, relaxed performance at the Christmas panto, organising the donations of fruit and bottled water via the Co-op Pioneer, Tracey Inglis. Always a fantastic event. I attended the sublime schools' performance at the Reid Hall, when our incredible young people, from all of the schools in Angus, performed a varied repertoire.

This year got off to a great start when I was invited to join a constituent at her UK citizenship ceremony at the Canmore Room, Forfar on 10 January. Having signed her paperwork, this was a real honour, despite the monarchist blurb. I cannot wait until we have our own Scottish version.

As Chair of Angus Health & Social Partnership, I visited the Saorsa Suite, Kingsway Care Centre

in Dundee, on 12 January, along with Beth Hamilton, another of my NHS Tayside non-executive Director colleagues. The Saorsa Suite provides forensic services to people, mostly women, across Tayside who have been raped or sexually assaulted. The Suite is much more appropriate than the Police HQ in Bell Street. The premises offers a safe, friendly and supportive environment with caring, compassionate staff to help at very traumatic times.

I visited the Stracathro Regional Treatment Centre last week with one of my NHS colleagues, Sam Riddell. We were given a thorough tour of the facilities, describing the partnership working across Tayside, Grampian, Highland and Islands, AHSCP, theatre space, consulting rooms. We met staff in various disciplines, including charge nurses, AHP's, anaesthetists and surgeons. It is a privilege to be able to visit the services we provide.

Miscellaneous:

I attended the COSLA Health & Social Care Police Board on 19 January.

Various Public Health Scotland committees in December.

Attended the 16 days of Action vigil in Arbroath against gender-based violence. Domestic abuse issues affect a considerable and disturbing number of issues arriving in my inbox.

Angus Council, 14 December. I proposed and Cllr Lloyd Melville seconded a motion around HIV/Aids treatment and awareness via the Fast Track Cities Paris Agreement, which was passed unanimously. The Scottish Government has just published a new action plan and this will give us the mechanism to help deliver services more locally for people with HIV in Angus.

Boards/Committees

Angus Council. Committees UI have attended this month. All Council papers here:

<https://www.angus.gov.uk/council> and [democracy/committees/agenda](https://www.angus.gov.uk/council) reports and minutes

IJB: I chaired the Angus Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 13 December.

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

Flooding and housing remain top themes at the moment. I had a great result for a constituent relating to housing which involved the Police. Housing responded quickly and helpfully.

Cllr Julie Bell: Email: CllrBell@anguis.gov.uk Mob: 07988599742

Cllr Ronnie Proctor reports:

General.

December and January have been busy months despite the Christmas Break. Housing, roads, and other issues have continued to take up my time through the ward of Kirriemuir and Dean. Much of the Council's workforce in many departments are still continuing to work on the aftermath of Storm Babet which happened **three months ago** and this is still causing a backlog in housing repairs, roads maintenance and other areas. Despite the severe flooding on the 27th of December which badly affected the Cottages at Castleton where I have spent a considerable amount of time assisting the residents work on long term planned maintenance of roads is beginning to catch up. Manage to help Irena gain information regarding potential Museum takeover by KRG.

Visited shopkeepers in the town regarding Bank Street and have passed on their concerns to Council Officers and have been given assurances that communication with Bank Street business and residents along with getting the job done will be a priority.

Meetings.

I have attended the following meetings over the past two months:-

Discussed with the incoming CEO concerns with regards to matters with which I have been involved.

Family, Education and Justice Committee of which I am a member (Children and Learning in old Money).

Communities Committee where issues such as housing, roads, flooding (in local area such as Knowehead across from Ewart's display and storage area) etc are all discussed.

Caledonian Brechin Railway.

Angus Alive Directors meeting and Angus Alive financial sub committee meeting as a Council Appointed Director of the Board.

Scrutiny and Audit Committee (where I again noted that CCs would like a presence at meetings whenever possible).

Equality Impact Meeting, which was very interesting as I learned that being disabled through profound hearing loss made part of a minority and Disadvantaged group! This in itself makes me more aware of other with disabilities both physical and mental.

Meeting regarding the Rights of The Child and the United Nations Rights of the Child Charter.

Meeting with RAF Veterans' Champion where areas of concern regarding RAF Veterans were in Angus. None reported in Kirriemuir and Dean. However, if any veteran irrespective of service or cap badge come to CC Members notice please let me know soonest. This includes families.

Attended a Flooding Advice Surgery, where I received some good advice on how to access help for those who have unfortunately been flooded in addition to the knowledge that already have.

I attended Glamis Lights

Switch On and Presented Prizes to Sea Cadets, sadly there were no members of the company from Kirriemuir.

Irena thanked Cllr Proctor for his help over the last month.

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Discussion ensued regarding the format of Councillors' reports. Because some of the Community Councillors do not have the technology skills to open attachments, in future can elected members please incorporate their Reports in an email format, as per Cllr Proctor's reports format. This would be a great help. **Also, please no photographs in Reports.**

The format and content of Councillors' Reports was also discussed. This request was raised in July 2023. **See KCC Minutes of Meeting, dated 26 July 2023. -quote- Can Councillors' reports be more structured and more specific in their monthly Councillors' Reports. In particular, reporting more information/details of the various meetings they attend only when it is of relevance and importance to the Kirriemuir community. -unquote-**

It was, therefore, suggested it would be helpful for the elected members if KCC put together a "format guide" for them to show exactly what KCC would be looking to learn from their monthly reports. Elected members would not have to report every meeting or visit during the month but only when it involved Kirriemuir, thus reducing their reporting. This format will be circulated soon.

11. Correspondence: Circulated over the month.

Heather read out a letter from Audrey Michie, Service Leader, Vibrant Communities, Angus

Council, dated 11 January 2024, enclosing two posters, asking KCC to display the posters to the public. Audrey Michie stated that the posters show how an increase of £10 in Council Tax would be spent. She continued to state that, *“this would help the members of the public to understand the complexities and challenges faced by Angus council as it struggles to meet needs and provide services for residents, businesses and communities.”*

The meeting unanimously agreed it was a very poor communication and the money spent on producing such a poster could have been better spent on a more deserving case.

12. AOCB:

12.1. Jeanette highlighted Barbers Close, discussed at the November 2023 meeting. No response from Cllr Proctor's investigation. George reported that there has been a site visit and the rubbish is now in black bags but it is still on site. *Update: 3 February, Cllr Proctor reports that the SWAT team will be clearing the rubbish that day, 3 February.*

RP

12.2. Jeanette highlighted the bins behind the Attic on the High street. She has reported this to Angus Council and been advised that the SWAT team is still working on Storm Babet.

12.3. Jeanette referred to the public consultation regarding Cumberland Close. Will KCC be advised of the findings? Cllr Proctor replied that this was due to go to Full Council and he has heard nothing further. Jeanette will email Graeme Daly, Head of Communities.

JR

12.4. Jeanette reported that 112 Santa letters were delivered, plus one to a dog! *Well done!*

12.5. Over the Christmas period, KCC held a joint event with the Homeless. It was stated on social media that the Community Council was represented. In future, can the Community Councillors be made aware when KCC is planning to be represented at such public events. This is so that the Community Councillors have an opportunity to distance themselves from these events when it conflicts with the nature of their work place.

12.6. **Audrey** asked about Council housing availability and the bidding situation. Discussion ensued. SFRS is hosting Angus Council Housing Department at the Fire Station on 2 February.

12.7. **Frances** highlighted the numerous black bags of rubbish near the Airlie Arms. An invitation to vermin. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate.

RP

12.8. **Irena** updated AOCB 10.1. from November 2023 Minutes, regarding a wheelchair accessibility bridge in the Den and KCC's agreeing to allow KRG to use their Planning discount. Angus Council will email invoice to KCC and KRG will transfer the money into KCC's account.

12.9. **George** reported that driving recently in the Glengate, he not only had to dodge the numerous pot holes but also scaffolding which had been left dangerously on the road. Cllr Proctor offered to investigate.

RP

12.10. **Heather** referred to the document Jeanette had circulated regarding a Joint Forum for Community Councillors. All agreed that KCC should be represented and attend the meeting. Heather will reply.

HK

12.11. **Venue:** Moving venue was discussed, further to the SFRS offer to accommodate KCC meetings. All agreed to the move. Jeanette will explore with Judi.

13. Planning: Minor Planning applications reported.

14. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 28 February, 7 pm at Kirriemuir Fire Station.

Please note new venue

6.2.24

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