

## MINUTES OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

At The Playhouse, The Mall, Montrose, DD10 8NN

### **Present:**

Ross Thomson (Chair), David Paton (Vice-Chair), David Wood, Gail Penman, Jennie May, Pip Hills, Charlotte May, Kirsten Tomlinson and John Tomlinson. Councillors: Kenny Braes, Tommy Stewart and Bill Duff

### **1. Chairman's Welcome**

Ross Thomson (Chair), welcomed the members of the public attending the meeting

### **2. Apologies**

Joan Murray, Dawn McNeal, Roy Gill, Charlotte May

### **3. Junior Community Council update**

Gail updated the meeting that the next JCC meeting was taking place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March and will be reported on at our next meeting

### **4. Minutes of last meeting**

These were taken as read and approved. Ross Thomson proposed, David Paton seconded

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

- a. Angus Council have a new Service Leader, Claire Greenhill. Ross Thomson will make contact with Claire to introduce her to MCC.

### **6. Treasurer's Report**

In his absence, Roy Gill provided a report to all MCC members outlining the current account balance at 12<sup>th</sup> March is £7,343.30. He also outlined the details of the Angus Council Restricted Funds, as well as the balance still outstanding from the 2024 allocation for Seagreen Microgrants is £200.

### **7. Councillors Report**

- a. Cllr Bill Duff confirmed that Angus Council 2025 budget was approved on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. He confirmed that the budget had been arranged to enable the Council to have sufficient financial resources available to be able to borrow £20 million to contribute to required works in Brechin following flood damage and to contribute to the Montrose coastal erosion works required.
- b. Bill Duff also confirmed that additional funds will be made available to Community Councils – amount to be confirmed.
- c. Cllr. Bill Duff – confirmed that the development of the Zero4 site on the outskirts of Montrose is no longer considered a viable option
- d. It was confirmed that Angus Council are looking at improving the road connections between north of Montrose and the Port. A consultation will be conducted in due course
- e. Angus Council are working on development of a pan-Angus tourism strategy, details of which will be shared with MCC in due course
- f. Cllr Kenny Braes provided details on the meeting he attended re Strategy for Tourism Taxation. He confirmed that this is being discussed for Angus but will be a long-term process before any implementation may be agreed

## 8. Questions from the floor

### a. Montrose Bottle Banks

A question was raised as to the location of bottle banks throughout Montrose, as it was difficult for non-internet users to find out where the bottle banks are currently located. Cllr. Bill Duff advised those present as to the current location of various bottle banks in the town, and asked that the community to advise Angus Council, or their local councillor, of any additional locations they would suggest for bottle banks. He indicated that consideration had to be given to locations where the refuse collection vehicles had the necessary access to empty the bins.

Gail Penman advised the meeting that an organisation called Angus Small Repairs Service may be offering to pick up glass for deposit in the bottle banks for the elderly and disable residents in Montrose, but contact should be made direct with them to confirm.

## 9. Agenda items

### a. Montrose Coastal Erosion project

Dave Wood updated the meeting on the Angus Council coastal erosion project.

1. Locate and update signage on beach pathway re sensitivity around the beach area and for people to be made aware of the sensitivity around the beach so that people are made more aware of the potential issues. MCC will assist with this signage locations, etc., where possible. Angus Climate Hub are currently looking for funding for this particular project. Gail Penman suggested that local schools would be very interested in being involved in creating the required signage design etc, and she will set this up with local schools. Dave Wood and David Paton agreed to create a brief for local schools.
2. The 'Flood Bus' is coming to Montrose in April. Further information will be provided to local community as to specific location etc.
3. Promenade Steps – there remains underlying structural issues and this is currently being reviewed for action by Angus Council

### b. Gray Harlings Project Update

As Dawn McNeil was unable to attend the meeting this item was moved to next meeting

### c. Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Project update

Maggie Braid, who attended the awards ceremony held at Montrose Academy on 19<sup>th</sup> February, updated the meeting on the success of the event, and the contributions made by various groups of Academy students on behalf of their respective chosen charities. The winning charity was Scottish Cot Death Trust (Angus).

### d. Seagreen Microgrant Applications

Two applications were confirmed for £500 funding to be provided as soon as we receive 2025 funds from Seagreen – 1. Montrose Pets Lost & Found (for purchase of thermal binoculars), and 2. Santa Claus in Montrose (for provision of plants for the planters adjacent to Town House car park).

### e. ProMo Update

David Paton introduced Cara Gall, ProMo's new Project Development Officer and outlined her role.

He then went on to confirm that part of the recent award of the Seagreen Major Project funding of £125,000 has been used to purchase no. 10 High Street. These premises will be used as ProMo's office and meeting facilities, and will also be offered to other organisations for their use on an agreed basis.

David Paton also advised that ProMo had received funding from Angus Council had used this to purchase 18 High Street, 54 High Street (British Heart Foundation) and 6 Castle Place (old Roadrunners premises)

Cllrs Kenny Braes and Tommy Stewart thanks the ProMo group for all their work to date.

**f. Citizen of the Year**

Ross Thomson confirmed with those attending that this award was to be agreed between Montrose, Hillside and Ferryden. Gail Penman asked that consideration be given to allowing school children to be part of the voting process. Ross Thomson confirmed he will provide a update at the next MCC meeting.

**10. Police Update**

Maggie Braid read out a short report received from the Police pointing out issues that occurred during January and February. There is to be a meeting held at the Borrowfield pop-up flat on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March and Ross Thomson confirmed he will be attending.

**11. Correspondence**

No relevant correspondence for this meeting.

**12. Planning Report**

- a. Proposal for old Rope & Sail in Bents Road – continuing review of objections for this proposal.

**13. AOCB**

- a. Archie raised the issue of bus routes changing and the need for the community to be kept informed of changes. MCC will update social media site wherever possible with relevant access to current information.
- b. Local driving instructors asked if they could be involved in Angus Council's Roads Departments review of roads in Montrose and Cllr Kenny Braes confirmed he would action this request.

**14. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 15 May 2025 @ 6pm following the Junior Community Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm