MINUTE of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May 2017, at the VAA Guthrie Port

Present:

Members: Marc Ritchie, Morag Lindsay, Helen Wallace, Ian Cameron, Jim Shaw and Max Wallace

Angus Council Rep: Mhairi Dickson

Communities: Tracy Morgan

Local Councillors: Cllr Brenda Durno, Cllr David Fairweather, Cllr Donald Morrison and Cllr Sheena Welsh

Police Officer: David Voigt

Youth Council: Scott Spalding and Ashley Pannell

In attendance: 3 members of the public

Meeting:

1. Apologies: Cllr Alex King and Community Councillors Maureen Beedie, Sandy Beedie and Diane Parry.

2. The Chair’s Welcome – Marc Ritchie welcomed everyone to the May meeting of the Community Council, read out the statement concerning the use of the Dictaphone to record the minutes and asked for approval of the April 2017 minutes page by page, Max Wallace proposed and Helen Wallace seconded.

3. Matters Arising – Self Directed Support, Helen told us the Forum, Dr Greg Cox and the Locality Planning Group are happy to be involved in an open day in September for people to find out about SDS.

The Chair said more details would be mentioned in item no. 6 about the recent meeting with SYSTRA

4. Correspondence – The Chair said a letter had been received from a member of the public in respect of minute procedures and approval of such minutes. The CC sought clarification with Rachel Green who confirmed correct procedure had been followed and that the concern of the member of the public was satisfactorily noted.

A further letter was received concerning a property south of the Inverkeilor railway bridge. Cllr Donald Morrison said a few cars had gone off straight into a garden and the owner had put up his own barrier as the Roads Dept. did not agree to provide a barrier. Roads are now asking the owner to remove his barrier as it doesn’t meet safety standards. Cllr Morrison asked the Police Constable attending to look into the matter. The Chair said the CC had a planning meeting on Friday and we would reply soon. Action – contact the correspondent.

5. The Accessibility Report - The SYSTRA Site Audit Summary map was tabled and the public were invited to study it. The Chair explained that the CC had obtained funding for an Accessibility Study in the town centre and that SYSTRA’s final report was now with us and identified areas with Accessibility issues as well as areas in need of better signage to bring visitors into the Centre. The CC has identified one zone we would like to start off with, the area around Commerce Street and the 3 banks on Brothock Bridge round to Market Place. The CC agreed with Roads to provide an email list of our desired actions over the next week. The other zones are the Abbey, the Harbour and Burnside Drive which will be tackled in due course. We are to look for the public’s views on the matter. There will be more dropped kerbs and new crossings to make the centre more accessible. MD said some of this would tie in with the Active Travel Audit. The Study was carried out following the Charrette but goes into more detail. MD suggested making a presentation to provide the key points of the report to the next meeting. The Chair opened the floor for questions. Ian Cameron asked if the study had anything to do with the report about Aspire Arbroath in the newspapers. MD said Aspire Arbroath had formed following the Charrette and had reps from various council departments as well as business and community reps. Ian said he would like to know more about Arbroath Community Connectors. The Chair said there would be a press release on the back of the Accessibility Study which would include information about the relationship between the CC, Aspire Arbroath and Arbroath Community Connectors, (they are currently entirely separate groups). MD asked IC to make a list of improvements needed in the town. IC said the Abbey is not promoted enough by Historic Scotland or Angus Council. Ian added he would like to talk to parks about how time and money is spent. A member of the public said there are not
enough toilets. **Actions** – email Roads, obtain the public’s views and targeted feedback, prepare a presentation, prepare a press release and contact Parks to attend June meeting.

6. **Christmas Lights** – The Chair gave the update provided in writing by Sandy Beedie who had given apologies. The first meeting for the Christmas Lights was on 24th April. The switch on will be on the 1st December and a bigger and better event is being planned. Details will be confirmed as they are set and everything is looking very positive. More fundraising is needed this year to cover the cost of putting the lights up and down. The costing has been estimated at £11,000.

7. **Police Report** – Community Officer David Voigt told us that it is soon to be unlawful for the Police to carry out consensual stop/searches on the street. He went on to say that there have been 179 crimes reported in Arbroath in the last month including 25 road traffic offences, 44 assaults, 23 thefts, 14 vandalisms and 57 other offences including drug offences, breach of the peace, bail offences and telecommunications offences. There’s been an increase in break-ins, 16 in total with units targeted at Elliot Industrial Estate self-storage area. Sheds and garages have also been targeted, particularly for power-washers. Residents and visitors are reminded to be vigilant by closing windows and locking doors. Youths continued to cause problems over the recent weekend. The Police are reminding parents that they could be breaching their tenancies. There are walking patrols in the areas around the supermarkets. A number of fixed penalty notices have been issued in respect of bad parking on the High Street. The Council are due to take over the responsibility for issuing parking notices from 1st May. The Police will maintain responsibility for schools, zigzag lines as well as over dangerous parking. An operation Frankie is to take place on the 13th May at a local nightspot targeting drug misuse. A Safer Communities Team is also to come in on the same date targeting disorder and other community issues. Cllr Durno suggested activities targeted at Young People to keep them off the street. Scott Spalding of the Youth Council said that a recent survey carried out locally found that ‘nothing to do’ was one of the most noted issues for this age group. Marc Ritchie asked if a report had been sent to the Traffic Coordination Group regarding the van driving through the Pend which we heard had gone to the Inspector. Cllr Donald Morrison said the matter had been discussed with Ian Cochrane at the recent Christmas Lights meeting. **Action - follow up needed.**

10. **Treasurer’s Report** – The Treasurer, Helen Wallace, referred us to the copy handed out of the annual accounts and reported that at the end of the financial year the Community Council had £1746.88 and the Christmas Lights had £1110.99 in the shared bank account. The Community Council received a grant from the Scottish Government of £11,068.80 for the Accessibility Study which has been paid to SYSTRA. We have also made payment of our annual insurance premium of £96.48, leaving the CC with a balance of £1650.40 currently in the bank account. The Christmas Lights balance remains unchanged.

11. **AOCB** – Morag Lindsay said that the main Arbroath Community Connectors group met recently having formed following the Charrette/Arbroath Talks in 2016 with a remit to rejuvenate the Town Centre and that meetings with the lower High Street retailers had also taken place from which it had been decided to hold on the High Street this summer a Farmers Market and Craft Fayre similar to those held in Forfar and Montrose.

The Chair welcomed the Youth Council representatives saying we want to have more involvement with the Youth Council and possibly welcome some Youth Councillors as members of the CC. Scott told us that following the recent AGM they now have an official council and that a lot of feedback had come in from recent surveys which said litter, drugs, alcohol, anti-social behaviour and ‘nothing to do’ were the biggest concerns for young people. Cllr Fairweather suggested looking at the Pride in Place initiative at Arbroath High School targeting litter. Tracy Morgan said there would be a litter charter at the Academy later this year. Seagulls were also said to be a problem according to the surveys and should not be fed. **Action - The Chair asked the Youth Council to do a presentation at the June meeting.**

The Chair thanked those attending and reminded them of the details of the next meeting, 7 pm on Tuesday, 6th June 2017 at VAA, Guthrie Port, Arbroath.