AR BRO ATH AND DIS TR IC T
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2017, at the VAA

Present:
**Members:** Marc Ritchie, Morag Lindsay, Sandy Beedie, Maureen Beedie, Diane Parry, Jim Shaw, Julie Smith, Helen Wallace and Max Wallace
**Angus Council Rep:** Mhairi Dickson
**Local Councillors:** Cllr Brenda Durno, Cllr David Fairweather, Cllr Alex King, Cllr Donald Morrison and Cllr Sheena Welsh
**Police Officers:** Susanne Stark and Fiona Allardyce
**Children and Learning Project Managers:** David Smith and Eileen Dix

**In attendance:** 12 members of the public

**Meeting:**

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Martyn Geddes and Community Councillor Ian Cameron.
2. **The Chair’s Welcome** – Marc Ritchie welcomed everyone to the April meeting of the Community Council and asked for approval for the March 2017 minutes, Jim Shaw proposed and Max Wallace seconded. A member of the public said he wanted to discuss a possible amendment to the AOCB matter in respect of the £15,000 grant but the Chair said the Accessibility Study would be discussed in item no.8. The member of the public raised a concern regarding funding covered in item 8.

3. **Matters Arising** – Self Directed Support, Helen told us Max had talked to Angus Carers and a meeting is arranged for Friday afternoon to talk about getting involved in an open forum for people to find out about SDS. The Locality Improvement Group will also discuss their possible involvement. Police bollard issue at Pend.

The Chair asked if there were further comments on the Accessibility Study matter and the same member of the public raised the same concern as in item 2. The Angus Council Rep reminded us that the application to the Activating Ideas Fund had been approved by the outgoing chair back in 2016 and was awarded to allow the Community Council to identify in more specific detail the problem areas in the Town Centre and that key action points for implementation would come out of this Accessibility Report. The Chair said he would provide more detail in item 8.

4. **Correspondence** – The Secretary said there had been an email from BT/EE to say they would like to meet us and the residents of Auchmithie to discuss installing a 4G mobile phone mast in the village. A meeting is in the process of being arranged.

5. **Police Report** – There is currently a campaign to tackle hate crime and we were encouraged to report hate crime. There have been 194 various crimes in the Arbroath area in the last month including road traffic offences, assaults, thefts, vandalisms and other offences and an increase in break-ins with 10 reported mostly resulting in stolen bikes. Residents and visitors are reminded to be vigilant by closing windows and locking doors. Youths continue to cause problems around supermarkets. Street work with other agencies including Angus Council is going on to address the problem as is more foot patrol. There has been a month long action at Hayshead School to try to educate motorists to park correctly. A number of tickets have been issued at Kirk Square and the public have been supportive on seeing this happen. An operation with dedicated officers and a dog targeted drug misuse outside De Vito’s.

6. **Local Councillor’s Update** – Cllr David Fairweather said he’d had an enquiry about taxis going down Abbey Path and passed this to the Traffic Coordination meeting on the 28th March. He also had a Policy and Resources meeting and the last meetings of Communities and Children and Learning. The Member Officer Group has been very successful in reducing carbon emissions especially with new street lighting. David also dealt with bins on the Westway and a couple of Housing issues. He attended the final Pride in Place meeting and said Cllr Jeanette Gaul had been very successful in getting the group to work together on a non-political stance. David attended the 45 Commando Parade and said the Provost’s speech was excellent. He attended the DMRC, and has the Licencing meeting on Thursday.

Cllr Sheena Welsh attended Policy and Resources, Children in Learning and the Angus Education Trust meetings and also supported some of the Primary School entries at the Arbroath Music Festival in March. Sheena said the teachers and
instructors throughout Angus do an amazing job preparing the kids to take part in the Festival. She also made some school visits, attended a Friends of Arbroath High School meeting as well as the School Orchestras Concert in Brechin. Sheena was at the 45 Commando Parade and said she was pleased to see it well supported by the Town. Sheena also attended Rock Challenge at which Arbroath Academy came second with the chance of a wildcard through to the Scottish Final. Arbroath High School took part in the Premier League event and will attend an event in Grimsby in July. Cllr Welsh also dealt with littering at Warddykes and Mayfield, some housing, planning and roads issues and attended some briefings on future management structures.

Cllr Brenda Durno attended the Angus Third Sector Collaborative for all the voluntary groups to see how they could all work together more closely. Brenda also attended the Music Festival and has been working closely with the Dementia Centre and the Inverkeilor shop. Cllr Durno has been out to Lunan Bay Hotel and said it was good to see it back in use again. Brenda attended some craft workshops, a political Conference, the RNIB forum which highlighted accessibility problems outside shops and learned about bus stops giving spoken instructions re buses. She also looked at some planning applications, dealt with parking issues, is helping an up-cycling Project set up a new unit and attended the Freedom March.

Cllr Donald Morrison also attended the Third Sector Conference and said they had discussed the way forward for the voluntary sector which needs to fill the gaps left by NHS and Council cuts. Donald is a Director of Voluntary Action Angus and added that VAA has been discussing how to take the conference outcomes forward. Donald attended the last Pride in Place and the Carbon reduction meetings. He is still working with the Men’s Shed helping them to find new premises. Cllr Morrison had to convene a sub-committee as most meetings are over ahead of the Council elections in May. Cllr Morrison attended the latest Arbirlot Community Trust meeting and passed on some of the queries raised at the meeting and a litter pick is expected to take place on 19th April. Donald helped at Keptie Friends March tidy up and also went to see the Friockheim Mill Pond Friends who are still deciding how best to take things forward and said a clear up there should take place soon. Donald was at the 45 Commando Parade and paid tribute to the great service the Marines have given to the town and Angus. Cllr Morrison met recently with Care About Angus and suggested good news was to follow. Donald also dealt with queries in respect of Constituency Housing, Roads etc. Cllr Morrison said the St Vigeans Group is to restart this month and that it was a great group to get going again.

Cllr Alex King thanked his colleagues for so completely covering what’s been going on and showing that Angus Council are still getting on with the day job even though most of the committees are finished up ahead of the election. Cllr King was glad so many people went to see the Royal Marines. Alex had suggested to the Marines last year that they hold another parade through the town as they have the Freedom of the Town and Angus so they should parade more regularly and at the moment 2022 has been earmarked for the next parade. Cllr King has performed many civic duties as Provost and also attended the DMRC meeting. The Civic Licencing meeting is to go ahead on Thursday and there are many items to be dealt with. Cllr King concluded by saying that work is continuing up to the last minute.

7. Application for Co-option to Community Council – The Chair said there had been one application for co-option and voting papers had been circulated to the Community Councillors and he’d confirm within 24-48 hours to the applicant.

8. Accessibility Study – The CC had another meeting with SYSTRA this morning about the draft report ahead of a final report being produced. The Chair said the Charrette detailed areas requiring better accessibility but this study delves deeper into specific accessibility issues. Four key routes have been identified and the CC will meet again in 2 weeks to look more closely at these routes, one of them being the route from the Abbey to Kirk Square. The final report is due at an end of April meeting where particular areas to move forward, as well as potential pots of funding will be identified, followed by us getting the work started. Helen Wallace picked up on Brenda’s earlier point saying we discussed sight and mobility issues. Sandy Beedie said that having been at this morning’s meeting it is clear this new report identifies what and where the problems are and added he could see a difference and a justification for the new report and finished by saying that the CC intends to deliver actions on the back of the report. The Angus Council Rep said that in addition a number of actions by Angus Council are in the process of being implemented and a press release is planned.

9. Christmas Lights – The proposed switch on date is Friday, 1st December. Sandy said the council won't be putting up any lights this year due to cutbacks and the Arbroath lights are available for storing but we will need to fund and organise the installation ourselves. The Council will pay for the electricity and the tree will still be supplied and erected but without lights. The first meeting is at 5.30 pm on Monday, 24th April at Bruce House. A member of the public asked what it would mean for insurance and Sandy said these things still need to be clarified.
10. Treasurer’s Report – The Treasurer, Helen Wallace, reported that the accounts for the end of the financial year were about to be prepared. There was one transaction this past month into the Christmas Lights, a cheque for £320. Therefore, the CC currently has £1746.88 and the Arbroath Christmas Lights sub-group £1110.99.

11 - AOCB – A member of the public identified a danger to pedestrians from vehicles in Abbey Path and said it was particularly dangerous to the partially sighted and added mobility scooters found it difficult to pass a box near the Pet Shop. Max Wallace said Abbey Path had been discussed at the meeting with SYSTRA in the morning. The Police attendees said they would monitor the area but they had received no specific report. Another member of the public said the area around the train station was an accident black spot, he added that cyclists are a problem near there too. Parking on double yellows is a problem in Keptie Street. The Police noted the concerns and said there would be mobile patrols and ticketing. Cllr David Fairweather asked the Police to also monitor Gowan Street corner. Cllr Alex King said the new Community Wardens would take over ticketing possibly in early June depending on how long the changeover takes to go through Council procedures. Another member of the public said the buses struggle to pass the traffic near Arbroath Academy at 9 am. Another member of the public said there were no restrictions in the schemes around the school. Morag Lindsay mentioned parking on the High Street and the Police said it was being targeted most days. Cllr Alex King suggested the Police put in a recommendation to the traffic co-ordination group to put a bollard at either end of the Pend.

12. Planning Applications – A planning discussion regarding the proposed Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary School new builds took place. All Councillors and prospective candidates left before the discussion.

The Chair thanked those attending and reminded them of the details of the next meeting, 7 pm on Tuesday, 2nd May 2017 at VAA, Guthrie Port, Arbroath.