

**MONIKIE AND NEWBIGGING COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING : 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018**

**Members / Councillors Present**

Iain Richmond, Hamish Evatt, George Winslow, Betty Winslow, Dave Anderson, Cllr Mark McDonald, Cllr David Cheape, Alistair Harbison

**Apologies**

None

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Under the item Councillors Questions Cllr McDonald had informed the meeting not Cllr Boyd. Minutes were amended and approved by Iain and seconded by George.

**Police Liaison Officer's Report**

There was no representative at the meeting from Police Scotland. The members of the Community Council recognised that operational requirements must take precedence.

**Treasurer's Report**

Hamish indicated that the balance to date was £483.24.

**Planning**

George reported that there were no relevant planning issues to discuss.

He had written to Kate Cowey of planning for details as to why the appeal for the Naraden site had been successful and awaited a reply.

Copies had been sent to Councillors and Cllr Cheape agreed to pursue this issue.

**Charity Funding Application**

A bid had been sent to the Postcode Lottery for funds to replace C/C notice boards. A brief discussion took place about type, quality, number and cost. Cllr Cheape suggested also applying to Carnoustie Golf Links for funding and Hamish as treasurer will attend to this.

**Monikie Park Event**

The chairman welcomed **Alan Brennan**, Monikie Park ranger and **Gavin Gowans** from CIC ( Community Interest Company) and invited them to speak about this project.

This is a joint venture between Angus Alive and the CIC, is the first of its kind and will take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 from 9am to 9pm.

Although the plans are at an early stage, Alan and Gavin outlined the details at present and asked for questions and ideas from the meeting.

Alan emphasised the fact that ANGUSalive is a trust encompassing sport and leisure and as such has to fund these facilities.

Innovation is key to this and if this event is successful it could become an annual festival.

ANGUSalive is in support of this and in partnership with CIC wished to invite input from the local community in the form of comment and ideas.

Gavin Gowans who will be the overall director spoke in general and in answer to questions from members made the following points:

- The theme for the festival is to a re-imagining of what it is like to be human and an experience and appreciation of all that the natural world around has to offer.
- It will be an eclectic mix of the arts, humanities and science with an emphasis on fun, education and hands on opportunities.
- It is envisaged that will be a wide range of activities in the form of workshops, talks, demonstrations, sports opportunities, music, drama, refreshments and food and that the rural economy should be reflected in these.
- It is hoped that Dundee science centres and St Andrews University will have a role to play.
- Dundee University Comic Department will hold 4 workshops at the event.
- The festival will be a ticket event and so numbers will be limited although the park would remain open as usual to other members of public.
- Environmental issues will be paramount and the event should have as low an impact as possible.
- The festival should appeal to all age groups.
- All proceeds will be ploughed back into CIC, a non-profit making organisation.
- The event will be marketed as a brand and will be advertised in media.
- Car parking will be a major consideration with ANGUSalive in charge of this.

As the festival is in the early stages of development the chairman asked that a brief in writing be submitted to the C/C for discussion, consideration and comment and Alan Brennan agreed to give updates regarding participants etc to the C/C.

The chairman thanked Alan and Gavin for their participation.

### **Other Park Event**

Hamish took the opportunity to ask Alan for an update on the Triathlon due to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

It had been proposed that a Junior Event should take place along side this with a road closure for Safety reasons.

Alan replied that a decision on the event was dependent on a Police report which was awaited.

### **Curling Pond Site**

Alistair Harbison has agreed to be the C/C advisor on this issue as he has had a vital role in trying to safeguard this site and has been liaising with agencies with a view having the site designated for protection in the future.

He informed the meeting that the Forestry Commission have prepared a case for the Procurator Fiscal to prosecute the site owner and at the moment current development has been halted.

There was, in light of past events, little likelihood that planning permission would be given for any development on this site under the restrictions of the current Plan for Angus, a fact that had been indicated to the owner and his agent before the illegal felling of the wood.

As a new development plan is in the process of being devised concerns were expressed that this would affect current protection of such sites.

Cllr McDonald asked for details of past council involvement and investment in the area of the site.

Hamish mentioned the otter tunnel and the fact that F/C had no protection order on a tree, a Scots pine, which has already been felled.

Alistair replied with information obtained from Tim Castleton who listed kerb lowering, laying of access pipes, construction of an amphibian barrier (the toad wall) to facilitate migration. The investment in this work was quoted as £24,000 and would come from various sources but we had no details of the agencies involved in providing this.

This indicated that the council and other conservation agencies recognised that this was a site worthy of investment.

Alistair is in contact with agencies advising on how to have the site designated as a L.N.C.S – Local Nature Conservation Site a measure which could provide protection in the future.

Alistair has received communication from Denise Reed – Area Manager for SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) which indicates that SNH are “supportive of establishing and managing LNCS sites in Angus and are actively discussing this proposal with Angus Council at the moment”

She stated that the Curling Pond site “ may well be suited for inclusion although this process will probably take some time”.

Discussion took place over the problem of actually enforcing orders and the time taken to come to any resolution.

The question of how a landowner is involved in the preservation of a site and the procedures to ensure cooperation remains unanswered at the moment.

Disappointment was expressed that, despite Alistair’s repeated highlighting of this case to the Council since June 2017 and his emphasising the rich biodiversity, the integral aspect of the site within the local ecosystem and the risks pertaining as a result of the developers intended actions, the notion of designation of the site as a LNCS was not explored and pursued.

Alistair will continue to be the contact point for these agencies and update the C/C for the next meeting.

Rae Grey informed the meeting that the amphibian migration should be starting in the next week.

### **Councillors Questions and Answers**

Parking restriction lines at park entrance:

Cllr McDonald addressed this issue and had contacted Craig Hudson who highlighted issues of winter weather problems delaying work on this.

Cllr McDonald to enquire as to the progress of this.

Cllrs Cheape and McDonald highlighted the elements of the latest budget.

Cllr Cheape commented that this was a balanced budget which comes at a cost to services.

- ANGUSalive was charged with balancing its own budget and although there was a funding cut there was no significant change.
- Car parking charges to be re-introduced with metered off road charges.
- Winter conditions budget is affected and there will be a removal of gritting tractors and pavement gritting in rural areas.

- Priority bus routes will still be gritted.
- Education: A programme of rural school closures is planned with investment in other schools going ahead.  
There will be a reduction in unfilled positions and vacancies for staff removed.
- There have been cuts in all services and council staff redundancies.
- Rise in Community Charge.

Cllr Cheape expressed concern about the conditions of roads with emphasis on the countrywide pothole problems caused by the severe winter conditions which serves to highlight the investment needed to restore them to a safe level.

A very significant part of the £250,000 budget is going to be spent on road work in Arbroath near the retail park roundabout which was discussed and the general feeling was that this could be diverted to upgrade the roads affected by the above problem.

The chairman thanked the Councillors for their input.

**A.O.C.B.**

Monikie School:

The upgrading of the broadband provision seems to be going ahead.

Provision of a defibrillator for the area is in hand and more details will be provided at a later date.

**Date of Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

