

**MONIKIE AND NEWBIGGING COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING : WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

**Members/Councillors Present:**

Iain Richmond, George Winslow, Betty Winslow, Alison Binnie, David Morrison, David McGovern, Cllr. David Cheape, Cllr. Mark MacDonald, Cllr. Brian Boyd.

**Apologies:** None

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Minutes were approved by George and Iain.

**Matters Arising:**

Pitairlie Brae:

Cllr Macdonald reported that council staff had visited the site and he awaits an update from the Roads Department. He seemed fairly confident that a barrier may be replaced.

Telecommunications:

Iain Richmond updated the meeting on this matter.

Having written to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Michael Matheson MSP, in December 2018, bringing to his attention the dissatisfaction of residents with the poor broadband and telephone connectivity in our area, he received a reply from Andy Manson, a member of the Scottish Government's Digital Connectivity team to the effect that he was happy to investigate the issue.

Following this, as requested, Iain supplied them with two addresses in Monikie for their investigation.

On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Iain received a response which was discussed. The only advice given was that the two households should contact their service providers to request a service upgrade or approach a different ISP.

The meeting agreed that this was not a satisfactory result as it completely missed the point of the exercise and did not address the initial complaint of poor infrastructure which results in telephone calls being frequently cut off and internet disruption.

It was pointed out that BT and other ISP's must be aware of this widespread problem.

Various ideas were discussed as to the way forward.

Iain has arranged to invite a resident of Monikie, Mr Iain Stephenson, to address the C/C at the next meeting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He has a proposal to improve the service using a Community Initiative Partnership and he will explain this to the C/C.

Mr Stephenson has also organised a Public Meeting in the Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 when BT will outline the logistics of this. He will be advertising this meeting in the area and it is hoped that all those affected by this poor service will attend.

This information will appear on the Facebook page.

C/C Projects:

Purchase of village noticeboards.

Iain Richmond had circulated members with details and it was agreed that he should go ahead with the ordering of these. Manufacturing should take around 6 weeks.

Memorial Stone:

It was suggested that a contribution from The Monikie Memorial Hall could help fund his project and Iain agreed to contact the trustees about this.

Cllr Boyd reminded the meeting that grants from other sources may be available for a project of this kind.

### **Councillors' Questions and answers:**

Parking Charges:

This was discussed at length on several relevant points.

- Lack of detail in initial proposal and when it was available councillors were not allowed to comment.
- The lack of meaningful consultation and an economic impact assessment.
- The serious effect on businesses in towns.
- The decision to use digital machines instead of cash machines.

It was generally agreed that the whole scheme is not working and is having a seriously detrimental effect on all Angus towns.

**Police Report:**

No report had been forwarded for this meeting.

**Planning Report:**

George reported that there were 3 new applications.

18/01008/FULL: 19/00046/PPPL: 19/00048/PPPL

He also reported that Planning Application Ref: 18/00875/PPPL which involved a Right of Way in Monikie had been withdrawn.

George gave details of the tree preservation order that had been granted for trees along Panmure Road opposite the coffee shop.

He questioned why the trees between there and the park gates had not been included as requested in order to complete the preservation of a green corridor as was the purpose of the submission to the Council.

Councillor Cheape read from the report submitted by the planning department supporting the order and highlighting the self-seeded nature of the trees within most of the area – the old marshalling yard.

The trees along the roadway to the gates appeared to be included in this appraisal resulting in their exclusion from the preservation order.

George indicated his rejection of this assessment reasoning that the aforementioned strip of trees were in his opinion indistinguishable in respect of maturity and quality of growth from those granted preservation approval.

He stated his intention to pursue the matter further.

Cllr MacDonald is awaiting information from Kate Cowey of the Planning Department on the subject of identification of sensitive sites within the Angus development plan which was discussed at the last meeting and undertook to report back thereafter to the committee.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The funds stand at £3076 which includes the grant of £2500 for new noticeboards.

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

Sweet Nix Coffee and Cake Shop in Monikie:

Betty had visited to speak to the new owner Leanne Rankin about the erecting of our new noticeboard outside the premises and she gave her some information about her business.

The shop has been open from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 with opening hours from Wednesday to Sunday 10 am till 4 pm offering light bites such as sandwiches and toasties with homemade soup.

Her coffee is local from Arbroath Sacred Grounds and all cakes, treats and scones are homebaked by Leanne.

She expressed her keenness to promote the shop as a community hub and hopes to encourage local groups to use it.

**Date of Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**