

MONIKIE AND NEWBIGGING COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING : WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2019

Members/Councillors Present: Iain Richmond, George Winslow, Betty Winslow, David Morrison, David McGovern, Iain McRae and Cllr Brian Boyd

Apologies: Alison Binnie, Caroline Richmond, Cllr Mark McDonald, Cllr David Cheape and PC Dawn McGaughey.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes were approved by Iain McRae and seconded by David Morrison

Matters Arising:

Betty confirmed that a letter of thanks had been sent to Carnoustie Golf Links and that Cllr Cheape had been contacted to arrange a photograph with both parties.

Iain had put a reminder on Facebook that the Denfind steading was out of bounds to users of the Core Path for safety reasons.

Iain and Alison have been finalising arrangements for tree planting at the War Memorial.

David McGovern will be in contact with Cllr McDonald to give him details of the parking issues in the village.

Cllr Boyd gave details of the Police 'Pop-ups' in the Angus area which are installed to try to curb speeding issues. We will raise this with Pc Dawn McGaughey who may be able to have them installed in the Craigton area where a traffic issues had been raised by a member of the community to the C/C at previous meetings.

Councillors' Questions and answers:

Cllr Boyd reported that Development Planning pre-meetings were being held looking at the plan for brown field sites and prime agricultural sites.

Police Report: Due to operational duties PC McGaughey was unable to attend.

Planning Report:

George informed the meeting that there were no relevant planning applications.

As the consultation meeting to discuss the Angus Development Plan coincided with the C/C meeting we were unable to send a representative but will be taking part in this consultation.

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George informed the meeting that we were in the process of confirming the arrangements for a meeting with a member of the Planning team to discuss issues particular to our area. George and Cllr Boyd will liaise regarding this.

With regards to this planned meeting George raised the issue of the Curling Pond as an example of the risks posed to sensitive and valued wildlife sites in the area. He addressed the matter in more detail by giving the background regarding the Curling Pond site and updating the meeting on this subject.

He had contacted MP Graeme Dey expressing concern that numerous deadlines had passed with no action being taken by the owners to start work to restore this site and asked for details of the Enforcement Order served on the owner. Graeme sent a copy of this which George made available to the meeting.

Much discussion took place expressing great concern about the future of this site should the owner fail to comply with this Enforcement Order.

We wish to obtain more information as follows :-

Who actually enforces this order and how they go about this.
What sanctions can be made against the owner should he not comply.
Confirmation that the order applies to the individual and not the company.
Whether any financial penalties imposed because of non compliance are directed to the restoration of the site.

Betty was instructed to write to the Forestry Commission and George will be in touch with Graeme Dey for information as to the appropriate person to contact.

George added to this the failures in the law which prevented anyone stopping this destruction even in the face of the Police attending the site as the deed was taking place. He told the meeting that this was the reason we had previously requested a meeting with planning in order to try and prevent another incident of this type.

We would hope to discuss proposals to submit to the next consultation meeting for the Angus Development Plan.

George outlined some ideas for discussion which would involve a more rigorous approach to identifying sites which have similar biodiversity to the curling pond and may be compromised by proposed planning permission. If permission was applied for then a response could be triggered that would warn developers of this and the consequences of action taken before development started.

He highlighted the existing development plan's content which gave a commitment to preservation of 'green corridors' to assist movement of wildlife and 'wildlife conservation'.

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There seems to be a need for addressing the barriers eg fencing and walls that restrict animal movement and the creation of the corridors eg trees and hedges.

He felt a more pro-active approach was needed which would include details of how this is achieved rather than mission statements which are not acted upon.

C/C Project:

Funding for the addition of names to war memorial and tree planting is in hand.

Treasurer's Report: The balance remains as last month.

A.O.C.B.

There was no other competent business.

Date of Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER