

MINUTES OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

held on Thursday 21st March 2024
at The Playhouse, The Mall, Montrose, DD10 8NN

Present:

Ross Thomson (Chair), David Paton (Vice-Chair), Maggie Braid (Secretary), Roy Gill, (Treasurer), Council members - Pip Hills, Dave Wood, Joan Murray, Kirsten Tomlinson, John Tomlinson, Gail Penman, Jenny May, Dylan Robertson (JCC) Murray Ruckbie (JCC) and Councillors Bill Duff, Kenny Braes, Ian Gall and Tommy Stewart.

1. Chairman's welcome

Ross Thomson, (Chair), welcomed the large number of members of the public who attended the meeting

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

3. Feedback from Montrose Junior Community Council

Gail Penman, Chair, of the newly inaugurated Montrose Junior Community Council (JCC) advised the meeting of the structure of the JCC, i.e. the JCC has representation from the majority of primary and high schools in the area. During their first meeting the JCC confirmed that their reason for having their meetings is 'to make Montrose a better place'. The notes from the meeting are attached for reference.

A number of the JCC members were represented at the meeting and made a valuable contribution and representation to the meeting.

4. Presentation from Brave Lassies Blether representatives

An informative online presentation was provided by Lauren Engall from NSPCC and Marie-Lou Chauvin from the Young Womens Movement, on the local campaign of the local Brave Lassies Blether group to address sexual abuse and consent among young women.

5. Presentation from Angus Council representatives re coastal erosion and damage issues

a. Graeme Dailey, Director Infrastructure & Assets

Graeme Dailey updated the meeting on the current repairs being undertaken at the shoreline and explained the process being undertaken to repair the shoreline area at the Sea Splash. Graeme Dailey also went on to explain the repairs being undertaken at the area around the Coastguard Station.

He asked the meeting to ensure the public were made aware that there were areas that were cordoned off at the Boardwalk and were not safe, so these should not be walked on. Barriers are currently in place, but it was said that members of the public are not always complying with the safety instructions. Graeme Dailey advised that this area was going to be reinforced and contractors are currently engaged to complete this repair work.

If we have more large storms, the greatest risk will be to properties etc., in the flood corridors. Graeme Dailey advised that Angus Council were actively looking to design hard engineering to protect identified areas, and would look to utilise some of the £440,000 already allocated to conduct these activities.

The funding for the repair works has been sourced from the Bellwin scheme, which reimburses the cost of emergency repairs and relief required following emergencies caused by weather. Further funding may also be sourced from Scottish Government.

Graeme went on to describe longer-term options which Angus Council are planning to commence in Spring 2025. This project relates to a 'soft engineering' option as detailed in the Dynamic Coast Project Research Summary report, commissioned and funded by the Scottish Government, CREW (Centre of Expertise for Waters), NatureScot, SEPA, Crown Estate Scotland, and a number of other organisations.

The project is planning to move large amounts of materials dredged from ports in north-east Scotland, transferring this by sea to replenish the Montrose coast. Discussions are being held with Montrose Port Authority regarding their dredging, but materials dredged from Montrose Port are insufficient to meet the ongoing needs.

Angus Council is presently developing a plan to submit to the Scottish Government for the funds required for this project, estimated to be in the region of 8 million pounds. Application is being made to the Scottish Government and discussions are to be held with various stakeholder groups.

Graeme Dailey advised the meeting that consideration is also being given to the installation of several rock groynes to support the overall 'soft engineering' project.

Questions raised from the Floor regarding Coastal Erosion and Damage Repairs

- **Protection of properties on Traill Drive**

Graeme confirmed that recent survey works suggested that there was no further damage to the infrastructure that had been damaged during the storms at Traill Drive. However, given the issues raised by residents, Graeme confirmed he would ask engineers to carry out further investigations in the area.

- **Montrose Port**

Local residents near Montrose Port raised concerns that MPA should be asked to review where they were currently placing their dredged materials and these should be used to recharge the dunes. Graeme Dailey advised this would be raised with MPA.

- **Golf Course**

A representative from Montrose Golf Course advised the meeting that they have set up monthly meetings with involved stakeholders to establish a process to plan to conduct a managed retreat while attempting to save the golf course. He asked if Angus Council would assist in supporting the associated costs. Graeme Dailey explained that Angus Council are doing everything they can, in the short and long term, to expedite matters.

- **Caravan Park, South Links**

Residents and owners of properties in the Caravan Park at South Links raised their concerns regarding the recent storm damage to the dunes etc. Councillor Bill Duff confirmed that the caravan park is the property of Angus Council and it had been considered that the property is not currently regarded as high risk.

However, since the last high tides following recent storms, Angus Council are committing to further review the area. Graeme Dailey confirmed he will arrange for another inspection to take place and report back.

b. Stakeholder Group

Angus Council confirmed that the Scottish Government have set up a key stakeholder group responsible for discussing and agreeing actions relating to flood damage and coastal erosion. Dave Wood MCC member, asked if he could be considered as a community member of the stakeholder group. Graeme Dailey confirmed he would put forward this suggestion to Angus Council.

b. Flood Resilience Planning – Jacqui Sempill, Angus Council

Jacqui Sempill, Manager, Risk, Resilience and Safety, Angus Council described the process for flood resilience planning and explained that Angus Council have in place an emergency plan for each area within Angus Council, with local responsibilities for agencies and local residents. Details of this can be seen on [Interim Report on the Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin- Local Flood Risk Management Plan.pdf \(angus.gov.uk\)](#) and also on [PVA 07 04 Full.pdf \(sepa.org.uk\)](#)

Jacqui suggested that Montrose local community should set up a Community Flood Resilience Group and it was agreed that Montrose Community Council would work with the community, and other local Community Councils, to develop a Montrose area Community Flood Resilience Group. Montrose Community Council will liaise with Jacqui Sempill to arrange an inaugural meeting to plan the requirements of the Community Flood Resilience Group.

6. Minutes of last meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2024 were taken as read and approved.

7. Matters arising from previous meeting

- **Item 8.1 Butterfly Park update**

David Paton again raised the issue of the lack of repair being completed to the broken facilities in the Butterfly Park. This has been raised as an issue for more than 6 months. Councillor Bill Duff again confirmed he would raise this again with the Angus Council representatives to try to ensure repairs were carried out asap.

- **Item 9.4 Police Scotland presentation re Social Media/Online Risks**

Gail Penman advised the meeting that the presentation had been very successful and had considerable representation from the local community. However, Gail did raise concerns about how we should communicate meetings like this in future, and a number of ideas were put forward to ensure as many people as possible are advised.

8. Treasurer's Report

Roy Gill provided the meeting with an update on the current Montrose Community Council funds. He advised that the current balance of funds is £14,881.04, of which £6,264 is ring-fenced for ProMo High Street regeneration funds. This amount also includes a repayment of a Seagreen Microgrant amount of £749 from the Moose Club which has closed down and no longer requires the allocated funding.

9. Councillors Report

Councillor Bill Duff advised the meeting that Angus Council confirmed that the council tax is being held at the same amount for 2024 as instructed by the Scottish Government. He also advised that the council tax rates for 2025/2026 may have a substantial increase (circa 15%) though Angus Council were currently rejecting this increase. Further discussions are continuing to take place before final confirmation.

10. Questions from the floor

A question was raised from members of the Montrose Cricket Club in relation to their inability to have facilities to use in Montrose. Councillor Bill Duff advised that they had already looked into the situation relating to the split from Montrose Rugby Club and their joint use of the previously used park. Montrose Community Council agreed to look into whether we could assist in this issue and report back.

11. Agenda Items:

a. Seagreen Large Project Update

The meeting was advised that from the 7 Note of Interest applications received for the Seagreen large project, Seagreen have agreed that 4 organisations should be asked to submit their full Application. Correspondence will be sent to those organisations with a submission date of end May. Following this, a public consultation process will be set up, to enable Montrose Community Council area public to vote for their preferred options.

b. Seagreen Microgrant Applications

MCC will be issuing a notice early April to advise the community organisations that further microgrant funding of £500 per organisation will be available for applications. We currently have 5 applications from local organisations for the new funding. All applications will be reviewed prior to next MCC meeting.

12. Police Update

Constable Ronnie Irvine introduced himself to the meeting and advised that the regular Police update will continue to be produced. He advised that, within Angus region, Montrose is one of the safest towns.

13. Correspondence

The only correspondence was from Tess White MSP, who advised that she was not able to attend our meeting but would make every effort to attend future meetings. However, Ross Thomson, Chair, read a letter to the meeting, from Tess White MSP, congratulating MCC on a Motion she had raised at the Scottish Parliament in relation to the £18,000 Seagreen Microgrant funding we had distributed to organisations in the Montrose area.

14. Planning Report

There were no relevant planning reports to share with the meeting

15. AOCB

The MCC meeting would also include minutes from the Junior Montrose Community Council in future.

Ross Thomson mentioned Martin's Law to the meeting. Martin's Law is a pending UK wide legislation that will require those responsible for certain publicly accessible locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and mitigation measures. Constable Ally Hutchison, Community Police Officer, has offered to organise a Counter Terrorism Information evening for local groups who organise events with 100 or more people. MCC are happy to assist with making arrangements and we will discuss this further at our next meeting, when Ally Hutchison will be attending.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting is Thursday 16th May at 6.00pm (or 5.00pm for Junior Community Council) at The Playhouse.