



**Muirhead, Birkhill and Liff Community Council  
Approved Minutes of meeting  
Held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Attendance:**

Chair: Stuart Grubb  
Secretary: Avril Kidd  
Treasurer: Keith Kirkhope  
Planning: Rose Jenkins  
Community Councillors: Margaret Dunning; Grant Kidd  
Elected members:  
Police: Sgt Chris Grieve; Martin Brennan  
Members of the public: 1

**Apologies:**

Community Councillors: Liz Cargill;  
Elected members:; Cllr Melville; Cllr Doran; Cllr Whiteside  
Angus Council Officers: Hong Zhang

**Minutes of previous meetings**

- o Approved at meeting 17/1/24

**Police Report**

**Recent crimes/issues in the area:**

Assessment period – 17/01/2024 – 19/03/2024

There were **37** calls to the Muirhead, Birkhill, Fowlis and Liff area during this assessment period.

**12** crimes were recorded. A break down as follows: -

Group 1 – Crimes of violence - **2** crimes recorded.

Group 2 – Sexual crime. **0**

Group 3 – Crimes of dishonesty (includes shoplifting & fraud) - **5** crimes recorded.

Group 4 – Crimes involving property damage - **1** recorded crime.

Group 5 & 6 – Miscellaneous/ other crimes including threatening & abusive behavior, offences against emergency workers and retail workers - **4** crimes recorded.

Group 7 – Motoring offences - 0

**Emerging issues locally:**

**Other topics of note or messages:**

Vehicle crime within rural Angus is on the rise. Police are asking residents to ensure they lock their vehicles when unattended. Owners of keyless type vehicles are encouraged to purchase keyless car entry pouches/Faraday pouches. Any suspicious vehicles in the local area should be reported to Police on 999.

[www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)

[www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/road-safety/protecting-your-car](http://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/road-safety/protecting-your-car)

## **Matters arising**

**20/3/24**

This meeting was a working session to work on Resilience Planning/ Communication plans and to discuss some planning issues. All other issues will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Planning - General Update.**

Since the previous meeting 5 relevant applications had been submitted (2 were for the same address at listed building consent was also required). All have been shared on the internet and no other comments received. It was noted that one application relating to seeking planning permission in principle for the erection of 2 houses on land at Backmuir of Liff had been withdrawn.

### **Planning - Complaint**

There was an issue identified with Angus Council's planning department reference planning application 23/00756/FULM. This is for the installation of solar panels on the land behind the roundie and to the east of Stoneygrove. This application is in addition to those reported above.

This planning application was approved and news of this was conveyed in the Courier on the 12th of March 2024. It was brought to the attention of the Muirhead, Birkhill, and Liff Community Council on the 15th of March 2024. The community council members were surprised at this because we were unaware of the planning application despite receiving the weekly planning lists. When we receive these we search through for the ones that are noted as assigned to our Community Council in the information. We did not find this application.

We were aware of this development as the applicants came to one of our meetings to discuss this with us in 2023, and they spoke to us as part of their initial consultation prior to making a full application. We had members of the public in attendance as well at the time, and there were concerns raised at that point about the access routes and impact of traffic on Gourdie Brae and towards Liff.

We were unsure how we could have missed the full application being submitted as we would have wished to comment on any proposals that could cause implications for traffic access and egress and general road safety, and we would have reflected the concerns raised in the consultation had there been no changes to the initial proposals that were presented. Upon further inspection, we can see that the application was wrongly assigned to Monifieth Community Council. As a result, we did not find the application in our weekly searches.

We were very concerned that due legal process has not been followed; the application was not validated correctly with the basic details, and as a statutory consultee we were not afforded the opportunity to comment on this application due to, we assume, an administration error on behalf of Angus Council. The application being wrongly assigned to Monifieth made it unsearchable for us or anyone living in our area who may have had an interest in commenting.

In light of this, we have written to the Council and asked how this could have happened and why no one in the planning committee checked that it had been correctly assigned, and whether there is any recourse that would allow the population of the Muirhead, Birkhill, and Liff Community Council to review a major proposal that significantly affects them. The initial response that we received was unacceptable as this basically blamed the Community Council for not checking the addressing on the several pages of documents that are issued on the list each week. We wholly rejected this position and submitted a formal complaint detailing our concerns and asking for information on how this could have happened and be prevented in the future again.

CLlr Whiteside and CLlr Melville also raised their concerns that this had happened. As a member of the Planning Committee they had read the associated reports during the meeting and assumed that our lack of response meant no concerns had been raised.

We await a formal response to our complaint. In the meantime, a statement has been posted on the Facebook pages.

### **Planning - Additional developments nearby**

It was noted that Dundee City Council has received an application for a new football stadium, hotel, housing, crematorium, heating plant, extension to ice arena, and new road configurations. Although MBLCC is not a statutory consultee for this area, we have shared on the Facebook page for information.

### **Flood Mobile**

This event was organised in collaboration with Angus Council and was noted as being very well attended today.

Based on the discussions that were had one of the next steps is to work with the the Scottish Flood Forum on our flood map. They will help us to translate our sketch information into a digital map that we can share with SEPA, and it may lead to the identification of other actions that can be taken to alleviate local issues. RJ to action sketch flood map and pass to Scottish Flood Forum.

Much was said of the impact of farming in the area. RJ will discuss with some local farmers to understand what they can and cannot do, and the regulations that they work under (e.g. SEPA). RJ will report back at the next meeting.

### **Resilience Planning**

An application has been made to the National Centre for Resilience fund for £500. This will allow us to fund the costs of undertaking a consultation with the local communities to understand their needs. It will also help us to formulate a plan and identify other projects that we can apply for funding for.

- Identify Community groups and hold working sessions with them to understand their needs/ where they could be part of the Resilience plan
- Identify Community members who could be part of a Resilience Group

### **Communications plan**

- Avril met with Hong to discuss.
- Avril to work on a straw horse version for review.

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**Usual minutes below were not discussed at this meeting.**

### **Ongoing issues**

- **Community Resilience planning**

**17/1/24** Rose shared an update on our resilience planning. There is a draft funding request that will be submitted **National Centre for Resilience Community Councils**  
<<https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/ncr/howtoworkwithus/#applyforfunding>>

Open to: Scottish Community Councils

Grant Amount: £500

Application Deadline: **31st January 2024** (£600 of MBLCC money was approved at the meeting to be used for matched funding) for a Resilience Event as part of our Community communication plan).

This comprehensive funding request application covers all aspects of resilience – flooding, winds, extreme snow, ice, power outages. This will allow for further funding requests to be investigated for equipment identified in the Resilience plan (e.g generators for community halls, pumps, sandbags).

- **17/1/24** MBLCC plan to host a public resilience event with various emergency responders such as Scottish Power, Scottish Flood Forum, Fire brigade, Police. Explains to households what they might want to put into place themselves (Household resilience); Possibly do DeFib awareness talk ; Perhaps some CPR training. Jennifer Anderson from the Angus Council Resilience team suggested a Saturday morning in March with some refreshments and some fun things for children to do. Once there is an agreed date with a quorum of attendees this information will be shared as widely as possible and start asking what Volunteers could bring to allow us to create a Skills/Assets Register.
  - At this event we may look for Volunteers to work with the CC on a Community Resilience Team
  - It would be useful if the community were able to point out areas at risk on a map at the event (e.g. which public roads were flooded (and where) along with private properties that were also flooded.

- **Traffic and speeding including in Muirhead, Birkhill and Liff and Fowlis**

- **15/11/23** – Pop up Jim
  - need to get padlocks before deploying. Will be deployed during daylight hours for a few hours at a time.
  - **17/1/24** – Ready for deployment. Requests for Jim to be deployed at various places will be added to a spreadsheet
- 2/3/23 - Need to see if we can have the speed detectors moved and recalibrated and get the data
  - **17/1/24** – There are 4 detectors on the main roads through Birkhill/ Muirhead two are owned by Angus Council and 2 were bought by the previous MBLCC
    - 2 in Birkhill on Coupar Angus Road.
      - One beside Asda Petrol Station
      - One beside the Bowling Club
    - 2 in Muirhead (both Swarco with a date on them of June 21) with serial numbers 16689 and 16670)
      - One on Coupar Angus Road opposite the church
      - One on Newtyle Road opposite the back of the old nursery
  - **17/1/24** – MBLCC have previously asked Angus Council under an FOI application whether they own and maintain the cameras. The response was that they did not. The previous mins of MBLCC meetings have also been searched for any details relating to the cameras. At the meeting the details of ownership and responsibility were discussed again. Cllr Whiteside has spoken to Craig Hudson from Angus Council Roads department and he is happy to be contacted about the speeding signs. Email sent.

- 6/7/23 – members of the public also asked why traffic police have not attended in months, especially on a Sunday morning when there is a group of motorbikes who round the corner at Adil's and then speed out of the village. ACTION 5/7/23 – Stuart to add this to the police feedback form
- 4/5/23 - Can we reduce the speed to 40 from Muirhead to Liff?
  - All roads are being reviewed at the moment by roads teams and will be complete by end March 23 – ACTION 12/1/23 - Review at next meeting.
  - ACTION 4/5/23 Cllr Whiteside to check on the date
    - 17/1/24 - Update from Cllr Whiteside : the result of the recent speed limit review and specifically 20mph) are with Transport Scotland. However Craig Hudson is going to discuss the route between Muirhead and Liff at this month's traffic coordination meeting.
- 7/9/23 - Liff Village via Facebook – no policing of 20mph zone – are there further traffic calming measures that could be put in place?
  - 17/1/24 – Police have attended and issue remains the same – it is local people who are speeding  
CLOSE

**Graeme Dailly discussion needed - 17/1/24 ACTION - Stuart to contact him again**

- 12/1/23 - Traffic calming measures put in place in December 22. How will Angus Council measure success? ACTION 12/1/23 – Stuart to contact Angus roads. We need the old data and when will we get updated data?
  - Needs better illumination coming IN to the village. 17/1/24 CLOSED- The illumination is the standard for the speed / boundaries and with the houses too
  - 17/1/2 Traffic sometimes meets in the middle and there is a lot of honking of horns
  - ACTION 2/3/23 – Stuart – will they be asking us for feedback on the trial?
  - ACTION 2/3/23 – COMPLETE Stuart to invite Graeme Dailly Director of infrastructure and environment to the next meeting.
    - 4/5/23 update Graham Daily will come along to meet with us at the same time as the community police officer.
- 2/3/23 - Path from Woods to Liff School is needed. Could we use part of the field as is done between Liff and Fowlis? Sidlaw Path Network say that Angus council have said they will be doing something –
  - ACTION 4/5/23 – discuss with Graham Daily when he attends meeting
- 7/9/23 – Can the pedestrian crossing in Muirhead be moved to the other side of the road (to the shop side of the road?) – ACTION 7/9/23 -Discuss with Graeme Dailly when he attends the meeting
- Parking at Liff Schools
  - 10/11/22 - Exclusion zone been setup at Liff. 6 month trial coming to an end. Likely to be extended for another 12 months. Not being well respected. Looking at other options – modify 31 bus schedule being discussed.
    - 17/1/24 CLOSE - Next stakeholder call likely to be in 4 months. Yellow lines still being used as 'optional' but without community wardens on site there is no way to enforce.
  - 10/11/22 - Exploring crossing patrols for the 3 crossings into school – one has already been put in place
- Parking at Birkhill School
  - 15/11/23 – Parent Council are trying to deal with this issue as it is the parents who are parking badly and putting children in danger
  - 15/11/23 – Police suggest reporting Car Registration of those cars parked illegally (see under Police report)

**Correspondence:** Please note ALL correspondence should be sent to secretary@mblcc.co.uk;

Any members of the public who have provided their email addresses for sending out agendas/minutes/asking for public opinions to receive minutes of meeting.

### 1. Funding opportunities since last meeting:

- We now keep a list of possible uses for funding to allow us to react more quickly when the correct funding opportunity comes in. Once suggestion boxes are in place they could be used for this.

17/1/24 No new funding opportunities

### 2. Western Gateway Community

17/1/24 Provided us with minutes of their January meeting and the information is on their facebook page

## Finance/Treasurer:

17/1/24 £600 was approved at the meeting for match NCR funding for resilience

## Planning:

- 15/11/23 – NPF4 Update  
MBLCC have responded to Angus Council’s call for interest in participating in the creation of a local area development plan. Members are reminded that the minutes of July 2023 explain the importance of the new National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and how this feeds into our ability to have a greater influence on shaping the MBLCC built environment.  
17/1/24 – Rose working with the planning officer to provide the MBLCC input in greater detail
- 17/1/24 – 4 planning permission requests submitted since November with one withdrawal. No significant issues or concerns noted.

## Social Media and Communications:

- Facebook insight  
Total Followers 1,433 (up from 1,420)
- Last 28 days (20<sup>th</sup> Dec to 17 Jan)  
  
Post Reach of 2,580 – a slight decrease on previous 28 days.  
The post with the largest reach of 1.3K was the Highfield Forestry tree works proposal
- 6/7/23 - Discussion with the members of the public who attended said we need to try to find other notice boards that people might see as not everyone is on Social Media – suggestions inside all of the shops, halls, notice boards, Dr Surgery. Would like to see all events (such as coffee with a cop) on these notice boards. Also would be good to have suggestion boxes available in a number of places. ACTION 7/9/23 – Stuart to investigate
- 15/11/23 – ADIL’S have agreed we could put suggestion boxes in shop
- 15/11/23 – need to see if we can get keys for the notice board at Tiddlywinks

## **Any other competent business:**

- 2/3/23 - Condition of fencing and bushes on path between Coupar Angus Road and Inver Terrace in Muirhead.
  - 5/7/23 - Progress is being made.
- 7/9/23 – Public use Defibrillator for Liff village. This was an item brought up on the local Liff Facebook page and Stuart said he would bring it up with the CC. Hong provided some information in advance of the meeting.
  - 17/1/24 – funding application submitted to National Lottery by Stuart
- 17/1/24 – Defibrillators in Muirhead/Birkhill – the online tracking system seems to think there are TWO at the bowling hall – **ACTION 17/1/24** – Avril to check if there is one at Servite Housing that could be confusing the issue and Ken to check who is the ‘owner’ of these
- 17/1/24 – Grant provided an update on the Green Circular Route
- 17/1/24 – Issue with cars parking on the pavement outside the Pharmacy which is a big issue especially at busy times of day **ACTION 17/1/24** Cllr Doran will bring this up with the police

**Date of next meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm (Tom Brown Room, Millenium Hall, Birkhill)

For up-to-date information visit our Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/MBLCommunityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MBLCommunityCouncil) or Website at [www.MBLCC.co.uk](http://www.MBLCC.co.uk)

Minutes of meetings are held here : [Meeting Minutes \(mblcc.co.uk\)](https://www.mblcc.co.uk/Meeting-Minutes)

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Contacts for MBLCC - [chairman@mblcc.co.uk](mailto:chairman@mblcc.co.uk) ; [treasurer@mblcc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@mblcc.co.uk); [secretary@mblcc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@mblcc.co.uk);  
[planning@mblcc.co.uk](mailto:planning@mblcc.co.uk)

### **Useful links and email addresses**

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

<https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk>

There are various ways to contact the police to report anything happening. Via the Community Council report, calling 101 or by emailing the community mailbox directly [TaysideMonifiethSidlawCPT@Scotland.police.uk](mailto:TaysideMonifiethSidlawCPT@Scotland.police.uk)

Registration numbers of vehicles illegally parked (such as dangerous parking or obstruction) can be emailed directly to [TaysideMonifiethSidlawCPT@Scotland.police.uk](mailto:TaysideMonifiethSidlawCPT@Scotland.police.uk).

Please note that if a car is reported as stolen then turns out not to be stolen but just abandoned you will be asked to report it to Angus Council for it to be removed.

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/bins\\_litter\\_and\\_recycling/litter\\_and\\_flytipping/report\\_an\\_abandoned\\_vehicle](https://www.angus.gov.uk/bins_litter_and_recycling/litter_and_flytipping/report_an_abandoned_vehicle)

Any road or street issues should be reported via the Angus Portal here

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/roads\\_parking\\_and\\_travel/roads\\_and\\_pavements/report\\_a\\_pothole\\_street\\_lighting\\_or\\_other\\_roadstreet\\_issue](https://www.angus.gov.uk/roads_parking_and_travel/roads_and_pavements/report_a_pothole_street_lighting_or_other_roadstreet_issue) or scan the below QR code

