

INUTES OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

held on Thursday 16th May 2024
at The Playhouse, The Mall, Montrose, DD10 8NN

Present:

Ross Thomson (Chair), David Paton (Vice-Chair), Maggie Braid (Secretary), Council members - Pip Hills, Joan Murray, Kirsten Tomlinson, John Tomlinson, Gail Penman, Jenny May, Dylan Robertson (JCC) Murray Ruckbie (JCC), Potential new member Dawn McNeill and Councillors Kenny Braes, Ian Gall and Tommy Stewart.

1. Chairman's welcome

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

2. Apologies for absence

Roy Gill, Treasurer, Dave Wood and Councillor Bill Duff

3. Feedback from Montrose Junior Community Council group

Gail Penman, leader of the MCC junior section, supported various JMCC members with their feedback to the meeting following their recent JCC meeting. The main areas of their discussions included:

- Concerns at the number of pot-holes on the road surfaces around Montrose which could prove dangerous for cyclists etc. It was agreed that this point would be passed on to the Councillors for their action
- the issue re the equipment and use of the various playparks in Montrose. The junior members advised the meeting that they were conducting a review of all the local playparks etc., and would provide feedback on their findings on what they would suggest for development, refurbishment etc.
- the issue of litter and how they would suggest this is dealt with. Members of the JMCC group agreed that they wished to take on responsibility for setting up a system to clean up various areas used by children and young people around Montrose and would report back to the next meeting on their plans.

A significant number of the JMCC group were represented at the main MCC meeting and made a valuable contribution and representation to the meeting.

4. Minutes of last meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2024 were taken as read and approved.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting

a. Angus Council representation – Graeme Dailey, Director Infrastructure & Assets

It was agreed to invite an Angus Council representative to attend a meeting in the year to update the community on coastal erosion progress and plans for 2025.

b. Flood Resilience Planning – Jacqui Sempill, Angus Council

It was 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.

6. Matters arising from previous meeting Graeme Dailey, Director Infrastructure & Assets –

• 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. Councillor Bill Duff confirmed he would raise this again with the Angus Council representatives to try to ensure repairs were carried out asap.

7. Treasurer's Report

An account of the current situation was provided by Roy Gill in his absence.

8. Councillors Report

Councillor Tommy Stewart updated the meeting on the issue of traveller caravans being located in the laybys on the town boundary and actions have been taken for them to be moved. The annual gypsy convention arrangements were discussed and it was advised that Angus Council will be monitoring the agreed number of 40 allocated spaces to ensure these were the maximum number used in the allocated space.

9. Questions from the floor

- Kirsten Tomlinson raised the issue that empty shop windows in the High Street were unattractive and we should try to setup a process whereby local organisations could be asked to provide boards etc., of local activities to place in the empty shop windows to make the High Street more attractive. It was agreed that contact would have to be made with landlords, building owners, agents, etc., to move this project ahead. It was agreed to set up an MCC sub-group to move this project ahead. The sub-group members were agreed as Kirsten Tomlinson, John Tomlinson and Joan Murray.
- It was suggested by the floor that Montrose Port Authority be invited to attend a future meeting and it was agreed that this would be arranged.

10. Agenda Items:

a. Seagreen Large Project Update

David Paton updated the meeting that we have agreed with Angus Council that we will utilise their online website voting process for the community public consultation process and also use facilities at The Playhouse for community members who do not have access to social media. Further details of specific dates will be provided at a later date.

Raised by JMCC representatives on the age limit for those being able to vote in the public consultation

The meeting was advised that Seagreen had confirmed that the minimum age limit for voting is currently 18 as per the electoral voting eligibility.

b. Seagreen Microgrant Applications

MCC agreed the funding application of 3 local organisations and further applications will be sought for the new 2024 funding allocation.

11. Police Report

Constable Ally Hutchison attended this meeting and updated those present on the activities and actions of the local Montrose Police representation. The focus of the community Police is on being proactive within the community by carrying out various initiatives, including working with P7 children, road safety, new drivers recruitment scheme for S6 pupils, etc.

12. Correspondence

No correspondence was required to be shared with the meeting.

13. Planning Report

David Paton advised the meeting of the following relevant planning applications:

- Installation of groyne on the beach area as part of the ongoing coastal erosion action planning by Angus Council
- Roos Leap – condition of the planning being approved with restrictions on the times etc., where music can be played in the outside area.

14. AOCB

1. Ross Thomson advised the meeting that we had received a letter from Peter Flannigan re the NHS Services for residents of the community in relation to bus access to hospitals in Dundee and Perth etc. Ross agreed that he would liaise with our local MP and would report at our next meeting

15. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting is Thursday 18th July at 6.00pm (or 5.00pm for Junior Community Council) at The Playhouse.