

# Royal Burgh of Arbroath Community Council

Minutes of Meeting  
16 Barbers Croft, Arbroath  
4 June 2024



## Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** **Members:** Fiona Doran, Alex Smith, Stuart Walker, John Steele, Martin Chisholm, Cheryl Glen, Rogan Firth, Steve Findlay, Colin Stewart  
**Councillors:** Serena Cowdy, Lois Speed  
**Communities Officer/Police Liaison/Other:**

During the meeting, Peter Cuthill was elected as the newest member to join the Community Council

**Apologies:** **Members:** Jamie McKay  
**Councillors:** Martin Shepherd, Brenda Durno  
**Communities Officer/Police Liaison/Other:** Sgt Garry Miller

## Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 7 May 2024 were proposed by Stuart Walker and seconded by Martin Chisholm.

## Hospitalfield School Friendly Zone

Email received from Cllr Cowdy was read out – this was in response to what Cllr Cowdy pledged to find out following a constituent query at the last meeting. Cllr Cowdy highlighted that the Communities Committee can be accessed via the website and that climate-related data will form part of the papers at the next Committee. Member of the audience thanked the Community Council for their support in this matter and highlighted that Louise Nicoll had visited the site stating that although ‘on paper’ this project looked good – in person she witnessed issues. Question was posed to Cllr Cowdy for action, namely, to discover from the Roads Department how many objections have now been received and an update re the progression of a permit request for a resident. It was asked by Stuart Walker if the Community Council should submit a view now or wait until the Committee has taken place – recommendation from Cllr Cowdy that this should be actioned now. Cllr Speed then highlighted that anyone could request to speak at the Communities Committee. Further discussions and points raised by other Hospitalfield residents highlighting mixed impact of the zone although majority feel the zone isn’t working and should be disbanded; instead of changing a culture the zone has simply resulted in displacing any problems that were there in the first place. All agreed the school has a role to play in shaping behaviour and that unfortunately lessons were not learnt from previous projects. Resident highlighted that since the zone has come into existence there are no parked cars outside their house while another resident highlighted the opposite, with cars now parking across their driveway and parents sitting on their garden wall – the street has gone from being quiet to noisy.

**ACTION – Cllr Cowdy to deal with two questions from audience**

**ACTION – Community Council to send letter to Angus Council opposing the zone**

## Parking at Seagate

Issued raised re new parking legislation which came into effect and the impact on the specific street of Seagate. Due to size of pavements, parked cars and road usage – historically accepted that residents park on the pavement (LHS when driving from Seagate towards Oldshorehead) allowing for slow and clear passage on the road and the ability for pedestrians to use the RHS pavement and businesses to continue accepting deliveries

etc. However, new legislation results in £100 fine when 'wheels are parked on the LHS pavement'. If residents are to follow legislation and not park on the pavement this results in traffic mounting the RHS pavement causing a risk to pedestrians and businesses. Cllr Cowdy highlighted that all roads would have been examined by the Roads Department prior to legislation coming into effect and currently Arbroath only has 6 or 7 exemption roads. However, both Cllrs Cowdy and Speed encouraged residents, whether individually or as a group, to send in concerns to the council.

### **Angus Council Access Line – response times**

Two members of the Community Council raised this issue explaining their experiences of having spent considerable amounts of time contacting the Access Line and being on hold for up to 1 hour 45 minutes. It was also highlighted that Angus Council often ask for residents to respond to something and when help is sought through the Access Line a response often isn't provided i.e. can wait up to two-weeks which means the resident doesn't receive support they need. Stuart Walker highlighted Angus Council's Customer Care Charter which states phone calls would be responded to within one-day. Rogan Firth asked if the Community Council should write a letter on behalf of the community expressing thoughts, it was agreed and that the letter should be directed to the Chief Executive

**Action – Community Council to send letter of complaint re response times of the Access Line directly to Angus Council CEO.**

### **Angus Community Council bi-annual meeting**

The Chair provided an update on this meeting which took place Tuesday 28 May to which a number of Community Council members attended either in person or online. It was felt too much time was spent at these meetings on areas of business favoured by Angus Council and not by Community Councils. It was made clear that Arbroath Community Council continues to challenge the support provided by Angus Council and that Arbroath Community Council will continue to support and do the best they can for the people and town of Arbroath.

### **Correspondence**

Nothing to add.

### **Councillor updates**

Cllr Speed described their ongoing casework which continues to increase; they spend their time reading and preparing for meetings and currently feel frustrated by challenges and many decisions being made; the savings being asked for as well as the distribution of resources. Cllr Speed gave assurance that they challenge and scrutinise the Council and will continue advocating for those who are not always heard. Cllr Speed finished by stating that a great number of people within the Council work very hard and do lots of good work.

Cllr Cowdy started by explaining that a lot of people are feeling the pressure within the Council, then went on to update us on the £20m levelling up funding. The General Election has resulted in a slight delay in this work as with MPs being in purdah the election of the Town Board Chair cannot be progressed. A ward visit with the new CEO took place along with Louise Nicol and Jack Cruikshanks during which the harbour was highlighted as a unique long-term asset. George Meehan is now the new Deputy and as the environment spokesperson Cllr Cowdy asked for anyone to submit concerns, they may have in the use of weedkiller currently used along roadsides. Although the safest there is, it is still carcinogenic and poisonous to dogs.

### **Police report**

Police report was read out by the Chair.

### **Planning**

Nothing to add.

## **AOCB**

Member of the public was read an email received from Cllr Durno following concerns/complaints raised at the last meeting re Andy Stewart Court. It was agreed the unfortunately the Community Council after having spent many hours and dedicating time and support are now unable to do more re this issue (with all lines of enquiry now being exhausted) so any further concerns should be taken to their local councillor. It was also suggested that a Steering Group could be reestablished by the residents.

Discussion took place re the refurbishment of the library with the archives moving into this space resulting in the Access Office moving temporarily for a period of 6-months to the Saltire Centre. The library facilities would also move during this time. It was agreed that the consultation for this work had perhaps not been the best and that other locations had been considered including Kirk Square, but it was decided the Saltire offered the best space. A question for Cllr Cowdy was posed re employment status of archive staff as a result of this relocation. Cllr Speed recommended that people should feel confident to be persistent and express their views (positive and negative) to the Council but especially when they are unhappy with decisions. It was highlighted that the dates for the consultation re the layout of the refurbished library had not been set yet.

### **ACTION – Cllr Cowdy to find out employment status of archive staff**

#### **Post Meeting Update:**

**Cllr Cowdy received the following response from one of Angus Alive's two joint CEOs:**

**“Essentially the Archives Service is going to lift and shift from Restenneth to Arbroath Library. There's no impact on frontline staff, although due to a staff vacancy at management level in Arbroath Library we did take the opportunity some time ago to merge two roles into one, as it made sense to only have one manager within the facility. This resulted in a saving of approx. £45k.”**

Seagreen macro applications – the closing date was end of May and we received 15 x applications. A significant amount of money overall has been asked for which unfortunately means some projects will not be awarded the amount they requested. A shortlist will now be sent to Craig Mullen at SSE.

Update provided around Arbroath Connexions who have secured accommodation at Russell Square until the end of August, however, despite the goodwill of the community raising £10k the organisation is still in need of £28k to enable services to run until the end of March.

Query raised as to influence of the Community Council on Stagecoach services, however, as there is no competition for these bus services and with the industry not being regulated, it was agreed that the Community Council are limited in their support.

### **Chair summary**

The Chair thanked everyone for their continued support and attendance at these meetings – it is much appreciated; members will strive to help and support the town where we can.

### **Next meeting**

Tuesday 6 August 2024