

Murroes & Wellbank Community Council,

Meeting held at Murroes Hall on 10th of October 2024 following the AGM

Present: S.Anderson (SA, Chair); G. Cowper (GP, Secretary); A. Martin (AM, Vice-Chair); J. Crozier (JC, Treasurer); G. Reid (GR); K. Gerrard (KG, Wellbank Hall - online); Cllr B Whiteside (online); L Clink (LC, volunteer - Minute Secretary)

Members of the Public: Ian Robertson (Stop the Crem); Jim Nicol; Jane Bell; Angela Fraser

Apologies: Cllr H Doran ; M Went (MW, Planning Rep), H Zhang (HZ, Angus Council, Vibrant Communities team) ; M. Mauran, Cllr L. Melville

The meeting was held in person and online via Teams.

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Previous Minutes

LC asked for an amendment to her attributed statement regarding the glass recycling locations suggested for Ballumbie Castle Estate ("BCE") for clarity.

"Linda Clink informed the meeting the BCE Residents Association had balloted residents on two proposed locations with the result reported that the majority of respondents were opposed to having a glass recycling facility placed on the estate."

Minutes from previous meeting approved with LC's proposed amendment.

Matters Arising

- Road Repairs

Cllr Doran's action re GC's report of deteriorated C6 Brighty Wood road repairs.

GC reported no work has been carried out to date and again expressed her concern about the Council's practice to close cases before any repair work has been carried out. Cllr Whiteside advised she had no update from Cllr Doran, but said although the case has been closed, what actually happens is the case is passed on to the relevant person (i.e. it is not closed). Cllr Whiteside suggested she request Roads staff to make a site visit. GC confirmed a site visit was undertaken last year and we were still waiting for the work to be undertaken. Action: Cllr Whiteside to follow-up and suggest a Roads representative come back out to the site again.

Repairs outside Duntrune House. IR confirmed the whole section of road outside Duntrune House to the junction with Westhall Terrace had been resurfaced.

SA reported concerns on the poor quality of road repairs. SA provided examples of pothole repairs at Ballumbie Castle Estate, where concerns of these repairs not

lasting the winter. Action: SA to report the problem to the Council and ask if the repairs could be undertaken to a better standard.

- Speeding

SA had received speed recording data from Angus Council's electronic speeding sign on Drumsturdy Road. SA said this data gave more detailed information than that provided from the three speeding signs discussed at the last meeting. SA has asked Angus Council to provide him with speed recording data to report at every second CC meeting. SA hopes to have this data for the December CC meeting, and to put a snapshot out with the minutes.

SA reported that the local community police team intend to make a presentation, hopefully before the next CC meeting in December, regarding its Community Speed programme whereby residents could monitor the speed of vehicles on their local roads with speed cameras and pass information of speeding vehicles to Police Scotland. Following the presentation, the CC would consider the merits and the financial cost to the CC to purchase speed cameras and equipment.

AM expressed surprise that the reported average speed from the sign at the bottom of Westhall Terrace was only 27mph. AM believes more relevant speed data would be from the speed camera located outside Murroes Hall, recording the speed on a straight road rather than at a sub 30mph bend. AM requested data be provided from the Murroes Hall location camera to inform if traffic calming measures were needed. In response to JC, SA advised significantly higher speeds (above 70mph) had been recorded on Drumsturdy Road compared to 3 locations reported at the last meeting.

Angela Fraser and Jane Bell joined the meeting and SA relayed a brief summary.

- Footpath

Cllr Whiteside had no update regarding the representation at the last CC meeting from parents in Kellas whose children were no longer provided with bus transport to Murroes Primary School. Although Angus Council had intimated the footpath should be used, residents and parents feel the footpath is unsafe and parents are driving their children to school. GC reported that the Council had cut back some of overgrowth and/or used weedkiller, but GC felt the footpath was still a concern.

Cllr Whiteside said the Council was implementing policy, but knew about the concern the path was not at a good enough standard as one resident had contacted her.

Cllr Whiteside said the footpath should be maintained on a regular basis in future, however the Council has cut back on the frequency of 'cutting back' weeds from footpaths. Cllr Whiteside invited residents to report when the weeds get out of hand to the Council and request maintenance. GC to report current state to the Council.

Police Report

SA summarised the police report to the meeting. **See Appendix 1.**

SA highlighted suspicious vehicles seen in the Kellas and Ballumbie Castle Estate ("BCE") areas and that 2 work vans had been broken into on BCE. SA reported that

residents who challenged the two occupants of a suspicious van driving around BCE at night were subject to verbal abuse. SA referred to an active BCE Residents Association facebook page which notified residents of potential problems.

SA reported the Police encourage people to use CCTV and CCTV doorbells, ensure all doors are locked, put lights on, and to contact the community police team of any concerns. It was suggested residents take note of the registration number of suspicious vehicles and forward the registration to the police.

Secretary's Report

- Angus Council Tree Officer

GC had received an email from Angus Council's Tree Officer asking if people had any doubt if permission is required to fell a tree, i.e. if it was legal or not, to get in touch. The Tree Officer could give feedback on felling or refer to Scottish Forestry.

- Glass Recycling Sites

GC reported that Angus Council is due to deliver another glass recycling bin to Murroes Hall due to the usage being made of the existing bin.

GC also reported that two gas canisters had been 'dumped' outside Murroes Hall which Angus Council had agreed to collect and dispose of. One canister has 'gone missing' in the meantime but Angus Council will still have one to pick up.

Residents in Westhall Terrace area had received letters about the new paper/ kerbside bins changes, but not all residents in the phase had received letters to date.

Cllr Whiteside reminded the attendees that Angus Council's online consultation about locations to place new (community) glass recycling facilities was still open, and residents could highlight gaps and propose locations to the Council for consideration.

- Murroes Hall

The consultants had been in touch and reported that the Hall can be saved, but it requires a lot of refurbishment. It is hoped to have an exhibition about the project in the new year. Funding for the project is still to be sourced.

Financial Report

JC stated that the finance update was the same as the report given at the Murroes & Wellbank Community Council AGM earlier that evening.

The balance of the Community Council Bank Account on 10th October 2024 stands at

£11,892.66 (Eleven thousand eight hundred and ninety-two pounds and sixty-six pence)

This figure includes grants from Seagreen and the Lottery with specific criteria.

Since the last meeting, Angus Council Operational Grant for 2023/24 session was received and payments were made of expenses to the CC's Chair, Secretary and also to the Treasurer for Minute Taking.

The CC welcomes applications from community groups within the Murroes and Wellbank Community Council area for the Seagreen Grant fund on amounts up to £500.00

Councillor Update

Cllr Whiteside had no update on the actions Cllr Doran took away from the last meeting. Cllr Whiteside reported that Councillors were currently busy on the Housing Improvement Plan, and also on the work involved in pre-budget which is likely to be another tough one this period.

SA highlighted he had attended the VOiCE training course run by the Vibrant Communities Team (Hong Zhang and Sandra Livingston).

SA is seeking assistance from the Council with the planning process required for the Council's Development Plan. It involves many challenges for the Community Council and is difficult for CCs to take forward, there being no capacity, time or resources within the Community Council to give this important work the attention required. SA seeks more support from the Council and noted the deadline, by next Christmas, to have the plan completed and submitted. Cllr Whiteside was asked if the Council could take this forward.

Planning Update

SA reported MW had resigned as Planning Rep and SA would cover the planning role meantime.

SA gave a report on recent planning applications within the Murroes & Wellbank Community Council area.

24/00535/ADV – Land at Ethiebeaton Park, Ethiebeaton, Monifeith

Installation of two non-illuminated charging hub signs

Rec'd 30/08/2024 – Awaiting decision (No objections noted)

(Approved subject to conditions – 10/10/24)

24/00562/PRIORN – Land East of Stable Block, North Cotton, Kingennie

Prior notification for farm-related building works (non residential) – erection of an agricultural building

Rec'd 13/09/2024 – Awaiting decision (No objections noted)

Proposed Crematorium (20/00830/FULL)

Ian Robertson gave an update on the proposed Crematorium at Duntrune.

See **Appendix 2**

IR expressed his opinion planning should have a category for strategic community assets like crematoriums as part of its development planning.

GR asked would the price of cremations go down in the area?

IR clarified the Council cannot control the price of cremations, and public health funerals mentioned in his update could be burials or cremations.

Solar Farm (*24/00470/FULL: North east of Gagie Farm*)

Formation of section of access track (extension to consented road and alternative point of access into BESS).

Rec'd 29/07/2024 - Awaiting decision, Roads - no objection, SSE - no objection

17 objections currently from members of public (previously 8 objections noted)

The Community Council made a representation to the Planning Service dated 24 August 2024.

Angela Fraser shared her further concerns about the formation of the access track to the proposed BESS at Gagie Farm. The applicant states the road and access track is not going to be used, it is just a back-up access. The planned screening of areas with an extensive line of hedging on a document which Angela had just discovered on a document published on the ECU's website ("Energy Consents Unit") (*ECU ref ECU00003354*), *this document was not found through normal search process which was a concern*. Angela Fraser expressed concern about the close proximity of the proposed hedging and trees to the site boundary, and whether there was sufficient space for a tractor to access between the hedging and solar panels.

Angela Fraser shared her opinion that the onus is on the developer to demonstrate they have the right of access to the road at Gagie Home Farm when other owners of the road have said 'no' to the developer's proposed use of the road, and highlighted the change of use of the road from agricultural purposes.

Angela Fraser reported that although the developer's document on the Council's website had indicated the road was not to be used for access by construction vehicles and materials, a vehicle had already stopped in the yard of 3 Old Gagie Home Farm with the driver looking at the access to the BESS site with a view to bringing heavy equipment in to the BESS site from there.

Angela Fraser reported that Angus Council had withdrawn its objection to the ECU, as a statutory consultee to the solar farm, and has requested trees to be planted in amongst the hedges. Angela Fraser hoped the trees would be planted at a sensible distance from the boundary and intended to write to the ECU encouraging them to change the proposed landscaping.

Jane Bell reported that the landowner had planted a hedge 1 metre from their boundary, and some of her plants had unexpectedly died.

SA said he appreciated the frustration expressed, but advised that there was nothing the CC can do with regards disputes between neighbours or alleged damage. It was suggested the residents contact the Police if they considered there had been vandalism.

AOCB

Parking Outside Schools - Murroes Primary School

Jane Bell noted that four parking attendants had attended at another Angus School, but no parking attendants had been seen at Murroes Primary School where it was felt it was really dangerous.

Cllr Whiteside responded there is a small number of wardens, and she would check when they had last been at Murroes Primary School and when they were next due.

SA reported that the Architect for the Murroes Hall was to provide a design for the footpath outside the school. Angus Council would have to approve the design and then funding would need to be sourced. A discussion ensued about the lack of parking at the school and the inherent danger and risk of accident, injury and damage from the parking and cars reversing out onto Westhall Terrace. GC shared the Headteacher's response that the school car park was for parents' use, and teachers could not use the car park even when empty, hence the parking on the road.

Road Signage – Kellas Road

Angela Fraser described two areas on the Kellas Road where some vehicles are driving on the wrong side of the road when negotiating corners when exiting Kellas towards Wellbank, making it very dangerous from a road safety perspective, particularly for HGV and agricultural vehicles which need more room to negotiate some corners. Angela Fraser reported one accident had resulted in a fatality, and asked if Cllr Whiteside could take the matter up with Angus Council Roads department to look at implementing road safety measures including signage to improve road safety and reduce the risk of accidents.

Cllr Whiteside asked Angela Fraser to send her an email about the situation and her suggestions and she would forward it onto Roads department.

New Footpaths

GR asked Cllr Whiteside if there were any plans for footpaths in Burnside of Duntrune, and highlighted areas a footpath was needed along 100m of road.

Cllr Whiteside responded that Angus Council is doing another "trawl" for footpaths and cycle paths but there is a waiting list and work is prioritised on a 'needs' basis and dependent on annual funding. Cllr Whiteside suggested residents can highlight any footpaths that are required to the Council.

SA thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wellbank Hall, Thursday 5th December 2024 at 7.30pm

Appendix 1 – Police Scotland Report



Tayside Division

Angus LPA

LPA Commander - Chief Inspector Ross Fitzgerald

LOCAL COMMUNITY POLICING AREA REPORT – 10 th October 2024	
Local Community Policing Area	Murroes and Wellbank Community Council TaysideMonifiethSidlawCPT@Scotland.police.uk
Local Area Inspector	Inspector Mahboob Ahmad Mahboob.ahmad@scotland.police.uk
Local Community Policing Team	Sergeant Christopher Grieve - christopher.grieve@scotland.police.uk Constable Martyn Brennan - martyn.brennan@scotland.police.uk Constable Ronnie Irvine - ronnie.irvine@scotland.police.uk

To be sent to the following Community Council email addresses a few days before the meeting documenting the previous month's activity.

Murroes and Wellbank Community Council – Steve Anderson – sanderson0@talk21.com

Beth Whiteside cllwhiteside@angus.gov.uk

Heather Doran cllDoran@angus.gov.uk

Craig Fotheringham cllFotheringham@angus.gov.uk

Lloyd Melville cllMelville@angus.gov.uk

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www.securedbydesign.com

Assessment period – 13/08/2024 – 10/10/2024

There were **46 calls** received in the local area during this assessment period.

16 crimes were recorded in respect of your area over this time –

Group 1 – Crimes of violence/threats – 0

Group 2 – Crimes of sexual nature – 0

Group 3 – Crimes of dishonesty – **7** recorded crimes.

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

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

Group 7 – Road traffic crimes – **4** recorded crimes.

Further information.

There have been several reports of suspicious vehicles in the Kellas, Wellbank and Ballumbie areas along with a number of crimes being recorded for thefts.

****We would like to reiterate our message to residents to ensure property and vehicles are made secure, particularly during the hours of darkness and a reminder not to leave valuable items on display and unattended. Use of dawn to dusk lighting and CCTV systems, including doorbell cameras are highly recommended. The Community Policing team can be contacted directly by residents should they wish any advice around home security and full surveys can be undertaken.**

****Any suspicious vehicles or activity should be reported to Police immediately either via 101, 999 (if a crime is ongoing) or via the Police Scotland website using the ‘Contact Us’ section.**

Lots of crime prevention advice can be found at.

www.securedbydesign.com

Appendix 2

Crem Campaign update to Community Council on 10/10/24 (*paper dated 22/8/24*)

Headlines:

- Conditions agreed by 'new' DMRC, further procedural errors by Angus Council, Freedom of Information requests revealing no substance to some councillor statements and Angus Council stonewalling complaints & queries.

Update:

- 'New' DMRC
 - Conditions agreed on 30/9/24
 - Further procedural errors by Angus Council despite assurances from previous complaints e.g.
 - 1) First version of meeting notice contained two basic errors – site name was for Carmyllie and not Duntrune and meeting date was in the past
 - 2) Second version of meeting notice issued later the same day still contained an error – site name was Duntrune but not the correct location
 - Now awaiting Decision Notice
- Freedom of Information (FOI) requests have revealed that there is no basis for some of the key statements made by some members of the 'new' DMRC when justifying going against policy e.g.
 - Re Funeral Poverty in Angus statements: Angus Council has no definition of 'funeral poverty' and in the last 12 months it carried out just 9 public health funerals – number of deaths in Angus over this period is 1500, so the public health funeral rate is just 0.6%
 - Re long waiting times for cremation statements: first FOI response said no data on this as Angus Council does not carry out cremations, which was an attempt to avoid answering the original questions posed – this response has been challenged as Angus councillors are making statements on the cremation waiting time metric, so one would imagine that they had some basis for doing so – second FOI response due by 11/10/24
- Angus Council stonewalling other complaints and queries despite Cllr Doran's interventions – it would appear that the only way Angus Council can be held to account is via taking legal action at the Court of Session
- Carmyllie crem appeal due to be heard on 17/9/24 but agenda item was pulled live in the meeting due to a third procedural error by Angus Council as not all 21 of the interested parties had apparently been informed of the appeal. The meeting is now expected on 22/10/24.
- Dundee FC stadium and crem planning application now set to be determined in the autumn

Question (open since June 2022):

- 2) Has Cllr Whiteside had the opportunity to feed back the concerns raised by the Community Council regarding the Roads Service's response to the recent complaint or is this something that would need to be taken forward after the conclusion of the current legal action?