

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 25 February 2025 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors MARK McDONALD, KENNY BRAES, SERENA COWDY, JACK CRUICKSHANKS, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAN McLAREN, LLOYD MELVILLE, LOUISE NICOL, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, JILL SCOTT, MARTIN SHEPHERD, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART and BETH WHITESIDE.

Councillor McDONALD, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

The Committee agreed to note that there were no declarations of interest or statements of transparency made.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 January 2025 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

The Convener intimated that a Request to Speak had been received from Mr Leask Mackie in relation to Report No 46/25 on Petition – Speed Reduction, A935, Balwyllo Farm Cottages.

The Committee agreed to hear the Request immediately prior to consideration of Item 4.

At this stage in the meeting Mr Mackie addressed the Committee requesting signs be installed to slow traffic and that the bus stop be upgraded.

The Convener thanked Mr Mackie for his presentation and following questions from Members, he withdrew to the public benches.

4. PETITION – SPEED REDUCTION, A935, BALWYLLO FARM COTTAGES

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 3 December 2024, there was submitted Report No 46/25 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, advising of an Electronic Petition received in connection with a request to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 30mph on the Balwyllo Farm Cottages Road; and that the bus stop on this road also be upgraded; and considers the requests.

The Report indicated that Report No 12/25 agreed at a meeting of this Committee on 21 January 2025 proposed that a review of the Angus Council Speed Limit Strategy be undertaken through the establishment of a Member/Officer Working Group.

The Director of Infrastructure and Environment introduced the Report, advising members that speed limits throughout Angus would be reviewed as part of the Angus Council Speed Limit Member/Officer Working Group and National Speed Limit Review, and that any change to the bus stop could be considered on completion of the review following engagement with the residents on preferred modification.

Following a number of questions and comments, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note receipt of the petition as reproduced in Appendices 1 and 2 of the Report;
- (ii) to note the detail set out in the findings of engineering investigations;
- (iii) to note the detail set out in the options appraisal in Appendix 4 of the Report;
- (iv) to adopt Option 1 – do Nothing, as outlined in Appendix 4 of the Report in regard to the speed limit, taking into account the evidence regarding speeds and accidents, and the proposals in Report No 12/25 for a review of the Angus Council Speed Limit Strategy, having noted that the situation would be reviewed following the conclusion of the Speed Limit Strategy Review.
- (v) to adopt Option 3A - do nothing regarding the request to upgrade the bus stop and to note that the options would be reviewed following the conclusion of the Speed Limit Strategy Review, and that officers would seek feedback from local representatives on the preferred modification to the bus stop.

5. BOG ROAD BRIDGE, BRECHIN – PERMANENT PROHIBITION OF DRIVING

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 25 August 2009, there was submitted Report No 47/25 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, detailing the previous Committee decision to manage the long-term future maintenance of Bog Road Bridge, Brechin and noting the current situation, recommending that a permanent prohibition of driving be promoted for the unadopted road crossing the bridge, as the bridge was no longer suitable for carrying traffic loading.

Bog Road Bridge carried an unadopted road over the Caledonian Railway (Brechin) Ltd (Caledonian Railway), as shown on the plan provided within Appendix 1 of the Report. The bridge was one of three bridges previously included as part of the lease of the Council owned asset to Caledonian Railway.

Following concerns raised by Caledonian Railway, officers arranged for an inspection of the structure to investigate the issue, advise on any protective measure that could be in place and consider the longer term serviceability of the bridge. The inspection was carried out on 11 February 2025 and found that the bridge had reached a stage where it should be closed to all vehicular traffic. As a consequence, a road closure was put in place as a matter of urgency along with media releases to inform the public of the closure. The bridge remained open to pedestrian and cyclists

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the current closure to vehicle traffic of Bog Road Bridge following the recent inspection;
- (ii) to approve the promotion, including consultation, of a permanent prohibition of driving order across Bog Road Bridge, Brechin;
- (iii) to approve the making and confirmation of the order if no representations were received by the Council in response to the publication of the proposals, or if representations were received but were subsequently withdrawn; and
- (iv) to instruct the Director of Infrastructure and Environment to report back to the Communities Committee if representations to the proposed order were received and not subsequently withdrawn.

6. RECYCLING RATE OF HOUSEHOLD AND TOTAL WASTE GENERATED

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 7 November 2024, there was submitted Report No 48/25 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, presenting information on household waste recycling rates and total waste managed by Angus Council from 2019 to 2023. Angus Council remained in the top quartile of Scottish local

authorities for household recycling rates and, in terms of carbon impact, had one of the lowest recorded per capita rates in Scotland.

The Report indicated that Angus Council's household waste recycling rate for 2023 was 52.1%.

Following questions and comments, the Committee agreed to note the information provided relating to household waste recycling rates and total waste managed by Angus Council from 2019 to 2023.