Location: Mearns Community Campus

Present: Andrew Macdonald (AM), Dave Stewart (DS) Carol Medlock (CM) Janette Anderson (JA) Alasdair Shiach (AS) Ken Williams (KW) Chris Rushbridge (CR) John Lovell (JL) Anne Lawson (AL), Paul Green (PG), Ashley Buchan (AB)

EX Officio Cllr Carnie, Cllr Carr, Cllr Evison, Cllr Stelfox

Visitors Tim Stephen (TS), Area Manager

Apologies: Remi Savlan (RS), Kevin Todd (KT)

Date: January 29th, 2024

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| **Marykirk Road Issues** | **Actions** |
| With a large public contingent present all interested in this topic it was agreed that given Tim Stephen, Aberdeenshire Area Manager was present, that this would be addressed prior to the formal meeting.  The road was swept away with storm Babet, replacement costs contribution received from Scottish Government Bellwin Scheme, although the council will need to make a contribution.  The design is being improved for greater robustness and the design phase is almost complete and will shortly be going out to tender. Tenders concluded hopefully by end of March, and work to commence in April. The council anticipate the road will be viable by mid-summer.  Q – why has it taken so long for the design? Theres been 3 major accidents at the roads recommended for rerouting to Montrose in disrepair with potholes etc.  A - Theres been further degradation with further weather events, and there’s time and resource issues at the Council as several other communities similarly affected by these events, and it’s a good time to tender at the end of the serious weather event season.  Q - Why the Redesign    A – new design to be elevated above the concrete mattress, culvert etc for future robustness  Q – Re Route roads not fit for purpose  A- some of these roads in Angus are not in Aberdeenshire Councils responsibility. Road repairs are prioritised and there’s similar issues across Aberdeenshire with road repairs.  Q – Will the roads be improved / repaired  A – standard road repair policy applied, and that resource for repairs spread across Aberdeenshire.  Q – Can road be repaired exceptionally as we have HGV on roads not fit for purpose with further degradation  A- there’s a limited roads budget and its allocated across Aberdeenshire, its not possible to prioritise roads in this way  Q- Signage re road closure at Marykirk is inadequate  A - Road closed south of Marykirk signage due later this week  Q- Public transport unreliable & not working properly  A – TS advised he would take an action regarding public transport  Q – What is the road repair priority  A - Main Arterial routes – AMEY  The Key Roads  B&C roads – with resource limitations, it takes longer to get there  Issues relating to Marykirk Road replacement then concluded |  |
| **Election Chair and Vice Chair** |  |
| Andrew Macdonald nominated as Chairman by AL and CM – no other nominations AM elected.  Dave Stewart nominated as Vice Chairman by JA and CM – no other nominations, DS elected. |  |
| **November Minutes** |  |
| Approval of November minutes – proposed, CR seconded KW  No Matters arising  Signage during recent flooding – no logic and stopped mid re-direction. Cllrs to raise requirement for better communication between council and police.  CR – re planning access at old community centre only occasional use. Agreed MCC would remove objection. |  |
| **Police Report** |  |
| Circulated as received |  |
| **Correspondence** |  |
| Circulated as received |  |
| **Road Closures** |  |
| Circulated as received |  |
| **Request to speak at MCC omitted** |  |
| One Marykirk resident had requested to speak but were no able to do so within the allotted time. Owners of Marykirk hotel. Revenue loss c 40%, lack of ability to recruit & retain with road disruption. They felt there have been very poor communication from council. It was agreed any outstanding matters would be referred to TS.  Suggested that Marykirk Community Assn could act as a conduit, and perhaps a dedicated FB page to be considered |  |
| **Roads** |  |
| A90 North from Brechin 50 Zone needs extended top Edzell Woods, the South 50 markers needs moved c 300yrs for safety. To be addressed with council.  Fordoun Bridge Issue. During bad icy weather large HGVs sliding backwards when waiting at lights, suggested that a weight restriction is place on bridge for safety. Council acknowledged gritting cut backs and road gritting prioritised by road class.  Abbeyton Bridge – decision awaited on whether work will recommence. Work has started but as it will straddle 2 Financial Years, a review required on current priority. Decision by council 22nd February. Recommendation for residents to contact Councillors regarding this issue. |  |
| **Planning** |  |
| Mr Brock Microbrewery presentation  Unanimous support from MCC, CR to do the comment to council  Glendye Wind Farm & Associated Overhead Cabling:  Glendye to Stonehaven  SSEN alignment corridor  100 Acre Battery storage  120 acre sub station site  Thistle Offshore / Benholm new line  SSEN Consultation 4-24 March  Glendye Wind Farm – Fetter cairn 20th Feb, Drumlithie 21st Feb  17th Feb MCC represented at SOM Community meeting by AS & CM |  |
| **Landscape Services** |  |
| Nothing of note |  |
| **Waste and Environmental** |  |
| +ve feedback on recycling centres being open again.  SUEZ plant at Altens creates opportunity for an improved recycling approach |  |
| **Settlements** |  |
| **Auchenblae**  Burnmoo – burn has underscored the road and road is slipping towards the burn.  Potholes  **Fettercairn**  Snow gate out of synch when road opened / closed etc  Suggestion that electronic signage considered  **Fordoun**  Traffic lights – no budget to make permanent  Pothole at junction with dual carriageway very dangerous  **Edzell Woods**  Shakin Brig – progressing, weather dependent construction  **Glenbervie**  A90 junction in a black hole can there be a refocus on this issue  **Laurencekirk**  Storm Babet funding £33000 allocated  Ditches at sides of roads full of water, exacerbates flooding issues and we are losing trees due to high water levels field side  **Luthermuir**  Right of Way at Crosspoles, property now sold. RofW moved by developer and now property sold there’s concern that new owners may obstruct the right of way. Previously the Access Officer failed to turn up for the meeting as they got lost. In the Planning Application RofW mention its to be 2m wide.  Why is the planning condition not applied?  Luthermuir primary closure – P&J reported, no communication from council, GC conformed no specific discussion at council to date.  Hall Access – why no further progress? TS confirmed Council happy to restart the process, council want to ensure that all different groups are considered.  DS reaffirmed that Council are responsible for ensuring access to Parks and vehicular RofW. Was raised in august but not progress, TS to take forward  **Marykirk**  Landscape Services – issues with shrubbery around the village – agreed that CR to write to Neil West on this issue.  **West Cairnbeg**  Nothing to report |  |
| **Treasurer’s Report** |  |
| No active signatories on the account  It was agreed and minuted that:  There will be 3 Signatories going forward ( Chair, Vice Chair & Treasurer ) these will be:  Chair : Andrew Macdonald , Vice Chair : David Stewart, Treasurer : Alasdair Shiach.  with 2 of the 3 required to sign cheques and authorise payments.  Accounts currently £9075.24 (£200 o/s to pay) Currently Susie and Jim are signatories agreed they can sign in interim. |  |
| **CC Insurance** |  |
| AM to liaise with Zurich re policy terms as he has a known contact |  |
| **AOCB** |  |
| On 14th December 2023 a meeting was held with Aberdeenshire Council. At that meeting it was agreed that following an internal complaint about the behaviour of a Member, Mearns Community Council, acting in good faith, followed a flawed procedure which resulted in an unsatisfactory outcome. It was agreed that no action would be taken against any Member on this occasion.  Aberdeenshire council £300K write off on wages and ongoing pension liability accrual. Issue goes back 20 years – why is this beings imply written off with no council responsibility. accountability. Requested information on council internal processes in such matters.  12th May – Marshalling request from Laurencekirk residents for Army March through  1st Inspiring Aberdeen Nominations- request for MCC to put names forward.  AM wanted it noted that MCC will, be finding its feet for a period of time as with Mike’s passing and with Susie and Jim resignations we have lost over 100 years of experience. |  |

Minutes Prepared By: Anne Lawson,

Date: 26th February 2024

Minutes adopted

…………………………………………………………………………. Andrew Macdonald, Chair MCC

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