



**Muirhead, Birkhill and Liff Community Council
Approved Minutes of AGM and meeting
Held on 15th November 2023**

Attendance:

Chair: Stuart Grubb
Secretary: Avril Kidd
Treasurer: Keith Kirkhope
Planning: Rose Jenkins
Community Councillors: Liz Cargill; Margaret Dunning
Elected members: Cllr Melville; Cllr Doran
Angus Council Officers: Hong Zhang
Police: Sgt Stewart Ramsay; Sgt Chris Grieve
Members of the public: 19

Apologies:

Community Councillors: Grant Kidd
Elected members: Cllr Whiteside

Minutes of previous meetings

- o Approved remotely on 26/10/23

Police Report

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

Recent crimes/issues in the area:

Assessment period 07/09/23 – 14/11/23

There were **87** calls to the Muirhead, Birkhill, Fowlis and Liff area during this assessment period.

24 crimes were recorded. A break down as follows:-

Group 1 – Crimes of violence. 3 crimes recorded.

Group 2 – Sexual crime. 0 crimes recorded.

Group 3 – Crimes of dishonesty (includes shoplifting & fraud). 10 crimes recorded.

Group 4 – Crimes involving property damage. 2 crimes recorded.

Group 5 & 6 – Miscellaneous/ other crimes including threatening & abusive behavior, offences against emergency workers and retail workers. 5 crimes recorded.

Group 7 – Motoring offences. 4 crimes recorded.

Emerging issues locally: Issues with speeding vehicles are still being reported on Church Road and Woodside Road in Liff. Proactive patrols have been undertaken and more are planned in the coming weeks.

Other topics of note or messages: Sergeant Stewart Ramsay retires from Police Scotland on 30/11/2023. Sergeant Christopher Grieve applied for this post and will take up this position as first line manager for your Community Policing Team on 04/12/2023.

15/11/23 At meeting

Police team have obtained a stock of no cold calling door stickers from Trading Standards that they will hand in /distribute to the local area.

There will be a future 'Coffee with a Cop' but it might look different to those that have happened in the past – and there will be plenty of notice of the event so that the CC and the Councillors can share details on Facebook.

Police encouraged everyone to sign up for Neighbourhood watch emails. ACTION – CC to post link on Facebook.
<https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk>

There are various ways to contact the police to report anything happening. Via the Community Council report, calling 101 or by emailing the community mailbox directly TaysideMonifiethSidlawCPT@Scotland.police.uk

This mailbox can be used to report the Registration numbers of vehicles illegally parked (such as dangerous parking or obstruction) to allow the community police to follow up directly with the registered owners.

Please note that if a car is reported as stolen then turns out not to be stolen but just abandoned you will be asked to report it to Angus Council for it to be removed.
https://www.angus.gov.uk/bins_litter_and_recycling/litter_and_flytipping/report_an_abandoned_vehicle

(Note Car abandoned at the Cleaners opposite Tiddly Winks was checked up. It is not stolen and police have reported it to the Council for removal in this case)

Matters arising

Ongoing issues

- Parking at Liff Schools
 - 10/11/22 - Exclusion zone been setup at Liff. 6 month trial coming to an end. Likely to be extended for another 12 months. Not being well respected. Looking at other options – modify 31 bus schedule being discussed.
 - 10/11/22 - Exploring crossing patrols for the 3 crossings into school – one has already been put in place
- Parking at Birkhill School
 - 15/11/23 – Parent Council are trying to deal with this issue as it is the parents who are parking badly and putting children in danger
 - 15/11/23 – Police suggest reporting Car Registration of those cars parked illegally (see under Police report)
- Traffic and speeding including in Muirhead, Birkhill and Liff and Fowlis
 - 15/11/23 – Pop up Jim - need to get padlocks before deploying. Will be deployed during daylight hours for a few hours at a time.
 - 15/11/23 – Section below to be discussed once we have a date for Graeme Dailly attending

- 2/3/23 - Need to see if we can have the speed detectors moved and recalibrated and get the data ACTION 2/3/23 – Stuart
 - 4/5/23 -update, Stuart has not been able to get hold of traffic police
 - 7/9/23 – Rose has been chasing up the speed detectors
 - 12/1/23 - Traffic calming measures put in place in December 22. How will Angus Council measure success? ACTION 12/1/23 – Stuart to contact Angus roads. We need the old data and when will we get updated data? Needs better illumination coming IN to the village.
 - ACTION 2/3/23 – Stuart – will they be asking us for feedback on the trial?
 - ACTION 2/3/23 – COMPLETE Stuart to invite Graeme Dailly Director of infrastructure and environment to the next meeting.
 - 4/5/23 update Graham Daily will come along to meet with us at the same time as the community police officer.
 - 6/7/23 – members of the public who attended all questioned why we can't have a 20 MPH speed limit through the village. ACTION 5/7/23- COMPLETE – Rose emailed Council to ask for clarification for the 20 mph zones. They have until 2025 to implement this in areas they identify as suitable.
 - 6/7/23 – members of the public also asked why traffic police have not attended in months, especially on a Sunday morning when there is a group of motorbikes who round the corner at Adil's and then speed out of the village. ACTION 5/7/23 – Stuart to add this to the police feedback form
 - 4/5/23 - Can we reduce the speed to 40 from Muirhead to Liff?
 - All roads are being reviewed at the moment by roads teams and will be complete by end March 23 – ACTION 12/1/23 - Review at next meeting. ACTION 4/5/23 Cllr Whiteside to check on the date
 - 2/3/23 - Path from Woods to Liff School is needed. Could we use part of the field as is done between Liff and Fowlis? Sidlaw Path Network say that Angus council have said they will be doing something –
 - ACTION 4/5/23 – discuss with Graham Daily when he attends meeting
 - 7/9/23 - Liff Village via Facebook – no policing of 20mph zone – are there further traffic calming measures that could be put in place?
 - 15/11/23 – Police report seems to suggest police have attended
 - 7/9/23 – Can the pedestrian crossing be moved to the other side of the road (to the shop side of the road?) – ACTION 7/9/23 -Discuss with Graeme Dailly when he attends the meeting
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- **Community Resilience planning**

- 4/5/23 - Can we put a resilience plan in place for electricity etc. going down/emergency plans. Is there funding for generators etc. for community halls?
 - ACTION 4/5/23 Rose To share a draft plan
 - 7/9/23 – Rose to reach out to SSE
 - 15/11/23 - Rose did speak to SSE who pointed us to their website and a community grant scheme. However, we need a plan in place to make this work. Now looking to how we can structure consultation on a plan within the Community looking at a range of incidents (e.g. flood, power outage, extreme snow etc).
- 15/11/23 Flooding – as we know villages within the MBLCC area had some level of flooding during Storm Babet.
 - Flood recovery support for those who have been flooded
This page https://www.angus.gov.uk/the_environment/flooding_and_coastal_erosion/flood_recovery_support is for people and businesses affected by severe flooding. It has details of help and advice from Angus Council and other organisations.

- Resilience Community Team – perhaps as a subcommittee reporting into the CC. Avril and Rose to work with Hong and the Angus Council Resilience team.

Hong suggested we setup site visits for the areas that were flooded with Angus Council/Scottish Flood Forum/Farmers as a good starting point for what could be done to help prevent/deal with flooding. A member of the public with SEPA Experience informed us that Farmers need a license from SEPA to allow dredging of burns now.

- See funding opportunities for resilience below in Funding opportunities
- MBLCC to look into how to host a public resilience event with various parties such as Scottish Power, Scottish Flood Forum, Fire brigade, Police. Explains to households what they might want to put into place themselves (Household resilience); give out resilience bags. Possibly do DeFib awareness talk (Neil). Perhaps some CPR training. This was met with some enthusiasm by the members of the public who attended.

Correspondence: Please note ALL correspondence should be sent to secretary@mblcc.co.uk;

Any members of the public who have provided their email addresses for sending out agendas/minutes/asking for public opinions to receive minutes of meeting.

15/11/23

- A. Christmas trees offer :- REPLY – it is too short notice for this year – but contact Gary Fairweather to see if the offer is likely to be there next year to see if we can be organised for that.**

Forwarded from Councillor Doran

My name is Gary Fairweather, I am the Director of a Landscaping Business Called Root One Central Ltd, we have recently purchased a Plant Nursery at Letham Forfar.

The Reason for my email is we own a sister company called Eden Mill Christmas trees

<<https://edenchristmastrees.co.uk/>>

<https://edenchristmastrees.co.uk/> we will be selling Christmas trees from the Nursery this December, however we would like to Donate a free 20 foot Christmas tree to all the local villages and towns in the area.

- B. Sidlaw Demand Responsive Transport Service from PLNTransport@angus.gov.uk - REPLY - Share on social media - Councillor Melville said that this is a first trial to see if it may be possible for other rural areas so please do make use of it where appropriate**

<https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/537> and [538](https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/538) sidlaw area demand responsive bus service pdf

Service 537 and 538 demand responsive journeys operate Mondays to Fridays ONLY Journeys on Services 537 and 538 run on a demand responsive basis; i.e. when requested to do so by intending passengers. These services will operate on all adopted roads where requested and where possible to do so within a limited area. Your pick-up time will be confirmed by 17:00 the day before travel. Passengers are nevertheless asked to be ready at least 10 minutes before the time agreed. Whilst every effort is made to accommodate customer requests for pick-up times, calls are on a first come first served basis; your time may therefore need to be adjusted to fit into the daily travel schedule. Booking the service A journey should be requested by phoning Angus Council's Demand Responsive Transport Hotline number on 07584 206124 between the hours of 09:00 and 15:00, Monday to Friday. Bookings can be made up to one week in advance, but to ensure your seat is booked, please call us by 15:00 the day before you intend to travel. Remember that if a journey is not booked, then it will not run. When you call you will be asked a number of questions (see below). These are designed to tailor journeys to suit your individual needs as far as possible.

Muirhead and Birkhill

Passengers wishing to travel to/from Muirhead and Birkhill can use Service 57. Service 57 continues to Dundee Bus Station, passengers should refer to the full timetable for this services for further details of intermediate stops.

Mondays to Fridays

	Service Number:	538	538
Auchterhouse Road End		10:21	14:23

Connections on Service 57

Auchterhouse Road End	10:24	14:24
Muirhead Coupar Angus Road	10:29	14:29

Dundee Bus Station	10:54	14:54
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Mondays to Fridays

Connections on Service 57

Dundee Bus Station	10:00	14:00
Muirhead Coupar Angus Road	10:26	14:25
Auchterhouse Road End	10:29	14:29
Service Number:	538	538
Auchterhouse Road End	10:30	14:30

- C. St Marnocks Church, Fowlis – REPLY the MBLCC is trying to focus on resilience planning and feels they don't have the bandwidth to support this but Hong asked that they contact her as the Scottish Land Fund may be able to help. In addition, it was noted the organisations like Historic Environment Scotland and the National Trust may be better placed to support this initiative.**

Dear Mrs Kidd

I understand that you are secretary of MBL Community Council, and so am writing to ask whether it would be willing to support ideas and suggestions concerning the future of St Marnocks Fowlis which is scheduled for decommissioning and closure by order of Dundee Presbytery next year.

The Church dates from 1453 and is regarded as one of the finest pre-Reformation surviving buildings of its type in Scotland. It contains unique paintings and artwork which are of national and even international importance and has won accolades from medieval and art historians alike.

Consequently it is a very important historical asset to the local communities and needs to be kept as intact as possible while given a new role in 21stC.

Kirk Session has set up a Working Group to look into possible ways of re-purposing the church for secular use and is now considering the possibility of broadening its remit via a Steering Committee to devise a Feasibility Study and eventually a Business Plan.

Members of the present working group of 4 consist of mainly church members who have consulted widely with the academic community over the historic treasures in the church, and would now like to see this expanded to include user groups and a greater community representation. We would be very pleased if Community Council might wish to become involved in the work of this Committee, at least for a finite period to see it through the next stage of development. Our Group plans to meet again sometime earlyish next month

if you or any of your colleagues would like to discuss this offer please contact me With thanks - I shall look forward to hearing

Adrian Zealand, 6 Kirk Road, Fowlis DD2 5SB..,

- D. Draft Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement - Confirmed that MBLCC has provided information to the survey noting our enthusiasm to be involved at all stages to of the NPF4 implementation and the creation of the Development Plan Scheme.**

<<https://engage.angus.gov.uk/development-plan-scheme>> is now out for consultation from Tuesday 24th October until 12pm on Tuesday 21st November 2023.

Link to survey page - <https://engage.angus.gov.uk/development-plan-scheme>

Angus Council website - <https://www.angus.gov.uk/dps>

The Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement is essential for communicating the progress, intended engagement, and predicted timescales to stakeholders, Key Agencies, and the general public as we move forward with the next Local Development Plan.

As part of the Local Development Plan preparation, we are looking for your views on the content of our Draft Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement 2023. Views on the Participation Statement will allow us to understand how you want to be engaged and consulted with during the preparation process of the Council's next Local Development Plan. We have created a survey on our new engagement platform as linked above, if you could provide any comments or representations by **Tuesday 21st November at 12pm**, it would be much appreciated.

Alternatively, a copy of these survey questions and the draft document have been sent to all Angus libraries if any individuals or organisations would like to submit their views in writing to Local Development Plan Team, Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar DD8 1AN.

If you have any other queries, contact the Development Planning team at ldp@angus.gov.uk<<mailto:ldp@angus.gov.uk>>

1. Funding opportunities since last meeting:

- We now keep a list of possible uses for funding to allow us to react more quickly when the correct funding opportunity comes in. Once suggestion boxes are in place they could be used for this.

* **National Centre for Resilience Community Councils - REPLY - we should aim to apply for this**

Fund<<https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/ncr/howtoworkwithus/#applyforfunding>>

The Community Council Fund is a new for Grant Call for the financial year 24/25.

Open to: Scottish Community Councils

Grant Amount: £500

Application Deadline: **31st January 2024**

* **National Centre for Resilience Third Sector, Community & Practice**

Fund<<https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/ncr/howtoworkwithus/#applyforfunding>>

The Third Sector, Community and Practice Fund is a new for the financial year 24/25.

Open to: Community Groups, Practitioners & Third Sector organisations from across Scotland

Grant Amount: Up to £15,000

Application Deadline: **31st January 2024**

* **Connecting Scotland - Support for Device Lending Libraries**

<https://connecting.scot/for-organisations/funding-opportunities-from-connecting-scotland#:~:text=Support%20for%20Device%20Lending%20Libraries,who%20are%20experiencing%20digital%20exclusion.>

Summary: Provides devices and/or connectivity to organisations that can be used as part of lending schemes or lending libraries to support people who are experiencing digital exclusion.

Next deadline: **27th November 2023**

* **Essentia Foundation**

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/essentia-foundation>

The Essentia Foundation is a charity that once operated Health and Social Welfare telephone counselling and information services supported by data processing and analysis in the field of public information. Their clients included HEBS, the Scottish Government, the Department of Health and the Central Office of Information as well as pharmaceutical companies. When the company was sold, the Essentia Foundation was established.

Up to £3,000

Deadline: **30/11/23**

The Foundation provides financial support to charities and community groups to help achieve the following objectives:

Improved health and social welfare of children and young people up to the age of 25 years old.

Increased opportunities for training, enhancing learning, upskilling, and developing career opportunities, and supporting young people up to the age of 25 years old to move towards employment.

* **Alfred Dunhill Links Foundation**

<https://www.alfred-dunhill-links-foundation.org/>

The official charity of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship golf tournament.

From the moment the first ball was struck in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship in 2001, charity has always been an essential element in the make-up of this unique event. Many millions of pounds have been raised over the years. Initially funds were raised through the generosity of individual golfers and organisations, then in 2011 this commitment to charity was formalised with the creation of the Alfred Dunhill Links Foundation.

The Foundation is now the official recipient of charitable funds raised by the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, which it then distributes to local and international charities and other benevolent organisations, benefiting a host of good causes.

In addition to raising funds from various activities involved with the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, the Foundation also accepts donations from individuals and organisations.

Click here <https://www.alfred-dunhill-links-foundation.org/> for more details and funding applications.

* **Democracy Matters 2 and Community Engagement Fund**

Do you want to influence the future of democracy in your community? Get involved in Democracy Matters 2 and share your views. Find out more

here <https://scdn.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e4ab5fd617ed5b89b39b1e131&id=a9e988e980&e=fcdd781444>

Funding is available to support organisations and groups to host conversations and gather the views of people across Scotland on how we can create a system of inclusive local democracy. Conversations (consultations) can be in the form of community events, meetings or gatherings.

Grants of up to £300 are available to host your conversation and the closing date

is **26th January 2024**. Find out more here<<https://scdn.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e4ab5fd617ed5b89b39b1e131&id=b680528b8f&e=fcdd781444>>

* **Voices from the Frontline**

<<https://rosauk.org/our-programmes/voices-from-the-frontline/>>

Rosa's Voices from the Frontline fund, now in its sixth year of running, offers one-year grants of up to £7,000 to women's and girls' organisations to support campaigning and influencing work that enables women and girls to use their voice to achieve change. Click here<<https://rosauk.org/our-programmes/voices-from-the-frontline/>> to find out more.

* **FREE TREES FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES**

We want to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree. So we're giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities. Together, we'll get millions more trees in the ground.

Tree packs give the opportunity to bring people together to plant trees - encouraging local wildlife, protecting our landscape against tree disease and creating wooded areas. There are thousands of free trees to give away to schools, community and youth groups.

Packs are dispatched in November and March when the trees are dormant and perfect for planting. Click here<<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>> to read more.

Finance/Treasurer:

Nothing new to report

Planning:

▪ 15/11/23 – NPF4 Update

As noted above, MBLCC have responded to Angus Council's call for interest in participating in the creation of a local area development plan. Members are reminded that the minutes of July 2023 explain the importance of the new National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and how this feeds into our ability to have a greater influence on shaping the MBLCC built environment.

▪ 15/11/23 - General Planning Updates

Since the last report, three further planning applications were submitted but regarding the erection of a new dwelling house at The Neuk was withdrawn.

Of the two remaining applications, these were highlighted on the MBLCC Facebook page. No comments were received at the time of the meeting.

▪ 15/11/23 - Muir Homes

Representatives of Muir Homes held a Community Consultation event on 9th November 2023. Members of the public representing MBCAG in attendance at the MBLCC public meeting raised a number queries in relation to the Community Consultation which are summarised below in relation to Planning matters.

The Public attendees were reminded that the current proposals are only at early consultation stages in accordance with the Pre Application Notification (PAN) conditions that have been imposed by Angus Council in response to the Developer asking for early engagement on their potential ideas. There is no planning application to comment on formally.

Representatives of the Community Council were also in attendance with their own survey forms at the Muir Homes Developer Community Consultation to take a crude 'exit poll's of the local community and whether or not they were for or against the possible plans. The Community Council also handed out forms with the following information :-

- At the moment this is just a Muir Homes Consultation - and all feedback should be provided to directly to them at this stage - either in person at the event or on their website. We will provide Muir Homes an anonymised summary of the feedback we receive (Note we can only do this if the survey forms ticked the box to allow us to share that information). This should be reflected by Muir Homes in their final planning submission.
- There is nothing formal that can be commented on at this time to Angus Council.
- IF and WHEN planning goes in by Muir Homes then **each household** will need to contact Angus Council directly to be counted as individual letters of agreement or complaint. Any petitions would be seen as a single count of complaint. Similarly, any feedback from the Community Council is seen as a single count.
- SEPA and Highways are statutory consultees in Muir Homes final planning submission.

At the meeting Councillor Melville also advised that the ONLY thing that can be used to influence any Councillor decisions on planning are comments made directly on the planning application webpage. They cannot consider any additional letters, objections or documents that are sent direct. It was reiterated in the meeting that the best course of action to express an opinion on the project at this time, was via the Muir Homes website which is gathering feedback as part of the current PAN.

Representatives of MBCAG raised a list of other issues but these were not addressed in the meeting. However, MBLCC noted the pertinent points and has written to the main representative of the group to set out their response. MBLCC have requested that this response is shared with MBCAG members as required.

Having now supported the necessary PAN activities in response to the conditions that were set out by Angus Council, the MBLCC will consider the Muir Homes development proposals if and when further information is provided from the Developer. If members of the public wish to raise this item again, they are requested to submit their query to the Secretary 5 working days in advance of the scheduled MBLCC Public Meeting for consideration. Any issues raised as AOCB will be noted and considered for inclusion in future agendas if they have not already been addressed.

Social Media and Communications:

- Facebook insight
Total Followers 1,420 (up from 1.3K)

- Last 28 days (17th Oct to 13 Nov)

Total Reach of 3,00– an increase of 389% (on previous 28 days) Audience of 29% who follow the page and 71% do not follow the page.

The post with the largest reach of 3K was the Muir Homes event post.

- 6/7/23 - Discussion with the members of the public who attended said we need to try to find other notice boards that people might see as not everyone is on Social Media – suggestions inside all of the shops, halls, notice boards, Dr Surgery. Would like to see all events (such as coffee with a cop) on these notice boards.

Also would be good to have suggestion boxes available in a number of places. ACTION 7/9/23 – Stuart to investigate

- 15/11/23 – ADIL’S have agreed we could put suggestion boxes in shop
- 15/11/23 – need to see if we can get keys for the notice board at Tiddlywinks

Any other competent business:

- 2/3/23 - Condition of fencing and bushes on path between Coupar Angus Road and Inver Terrace in Muirhead.
 - 5/7/23 - Progress is being made.
- 6/7/23 - Proposal to trial Google workspace to improve emails, improve collaboration and reviewing of meeting minutes – agreed. ACTION 5/7/23 – Keith COMPLETE to make a suggestion on how to move forward with it.
 - ACTION 7/9/23 – Proposal made by Keith to be reviewed by all
 - 15/11/23 –Try it out for November minutes
- 6/7/23 – members of the public suggested it might be time to look at Community Wardens/Police – ACTION 6/7/23
 - Updated 15/11/23 – Was reported to Police but Community Wardens are not police they are Angus Council
- 7/9/23 – Public use Defibrillator for Liff village. This was an item brought up on the local Liff Facebook page and Stuart said he would bring it up with the CC. Hong provided some information in advance of the meeting.
ACTION 7/9/23 Stuart – to investigate

15/11/23 - All other AOCB matters addressed the Muir Homes development which is noted in the Planning Section.

Date of next meeting: 17th January 2024 at 7pm (Tom Brown Room, Millenium Hall, Birkhill)

For up-to-date information visit our Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/MBLCommunityCouncil or Website at www.MBLCC.co.uk

Minutes of meetings are held here : [Meeting Minutes \(mblcc.co.uk\)](https://www.mblcc.co.uk/Meeting-Minutes)

(<https://mblcc.co.uk/Meeting-Minutes>)

Contacts for MBLCC - chairman@mblcc.co.uk ; treasurer@mblcc.co.uk; secretary@mblcc.co.uk;
planning@mblcc.co.uk

Any road or street issues should be reported via the Angus Portal here

https://www.angus.gov.uk/roads_parking_and_travel/roads_and_pavements/report_a_pothole_street_lighting_or_other_roadstreet_issue or scan the below QR code

