

Muirhead, Birkhill and Liff Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 29th July 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Attendance: Alison French, Stuart Phillips, Ken Johnston, Allan Todd, Cllr Whiteside and 5 members of the public

Apologies: Colin Hunter, Cllr Hands, Cllr Fotheringham

Minutes of Previous Meeting (3/6/21)

Proposed – Allan Todd

Seconded – Stuart Phillips

Police Report – No police report this month

Actions from Previous Meeting/Matters Arising:

- School parking – situation to be reviewed at next meeting as the schools are currently on holiday. Cllr Whiteside to ask AC roads department if there are any other measures which can be put in place.
- VAA re secretary – AF – no update
- Path gritting and Grit bins – consultation on winter services currently being done by Angus Council: https://www.angus.gov.uk/news/have_your_say_on_winter_road_services_in_angus - we encourage everyone to complete this survey and the one on sustainable transport https://www.angus.gov.uk/news/survey_on_public_transport_services_in_angus
- Backmuir Path – discussions ongoing – MBLCC to look at the path
- Liff primary (citizenship award and stone caterpillar) – to be picked up after school holidays
- Henderson Park goal posts – resident raising the issue has been put in touch with Cllr Fotheringham who has offered support.

Solar Farm planning application at Berryhill Site:

The Community Council have received 35 contacts regarding this planning application with all but 1 objecting to it. The one was not supporting or objecting to it, but had concerns. We have advised all those who contacted us to submit their comments via the Angus Council planning portal.

The main concerns expressed in the contacts and at the meeting were:

Inappropriate for the area, the large scale, very close to a number of residential properties, the traffic implications, effect on wildlife including existing wildlife corridors, noise, flood risk, loss of arable land, contrary to AC local plan, AC consider that area to be low suitability for solar power, change of use from agricultural to industrial, cumulative effect, potential of setting a precedent, concern over existing trees perhaps being felled and concern over fire safety (ability to fight a fire).

It was agreed by all Community Councillors to put in an objection to this planning application in support of the local residents.

Piperdam

Concerns have been raised by a number of residents regarding the planning application 20/00408/FULL for the Erection of Farm Shop, Restaurant, Café Building, Dwellinghouse for Staff Accommodation, Biomass Heating Plant and Associated Works which was refused by AC planners on 8 points. It has now gone to appeal and came before the Development Management Review Committee (DMRC) in June. The DMRC determined a further endangered species report was required but not before some members of the committee appeared to support the application with no reference to the points on which the application was refused and no backup information for the reasons to approve it. MBLCC are concerned about how this decision is being made and will write to Angus Council regarding this.

Traffic in Muirhead

Concern raised by a resident about the volume and speed of traffic on the Coupar Angus road in Muirhead. Cllr Whiteside confirmed that speeding issues are being raised by all the CC's in our area. Cllr Whiteside to ask AC about speed bumps or traffic islands to reduce speed. CC will look to moving one of the VAS to this area (AF). AF to ask PC Beattie about speed checks and pop-up Jim being deployed to this area. AF to ask resident for more details of the issues.

CC Members

MBLCC is currently running with only 5 members out of the maximum 10 we are allowed. A discussion was held regarding trying to recruit more and how to recruit a secretary. AF to forward information regarding the shared secretary and website domain ownership suggestion to Cllr. Whiteside. Potential topic for the next bi-annual meeting – how to recruit CC members and can Angus Council provide any help regarding this including providing adverts. Cllr Whiteside to ask AC regarding this.

Ongoing Issues:

- Bi-Annual CC meeting – discussion re CC survey responses. MBLCC area info to be presented at the AGM in September (AF).
- Liff Primary school citizenship award – ideas to be gathered for this time next year.
- Website - Cllr SH to check accessibility of website.
- VAS in Fowlis and 20 mph limit at Liff – still issues of speeding in Fowlis – farm traffic part of the issue. AF to speak to PC Beattie about speed checks in the area.
- Biomass Shed at Piperdam – some new activity. There is a new concrete ramp near the weighbridge. The fencing was never completed. SP and CH to investigate further.
- Recycling at Riverside – agreement not yet signed and people dealing with this have changed.
- Dykes of Gray – no update.

Correspondence:

- Contact regarding a taxi rank in the area – Cllr. Whiteside to check the process so this information can be passed back to the requestor.
- Mens shed – the mens shed at Muirhead has now closed and all equipment transferred to Carse of Gowrie. It was noted that during their time, the Mens Shed made many contributions to the local area.
- Dropped crossing construction – discussions with AC ongoing.

Finance: Audited accounts for 2020/21 have now been sent to Angus Council and the £400 grant from AC has been received.

Planning applications:

- 21/00400/full (02/06/2021) - Erection of single storey rear extension, conversion of attic space and formation of dormer at 13 Hill Terrace Birkhill
- 21/00495/full (24/06/2021) - External alterations to dwelling house and formation of summerhouse at 1 Osprey Bank Piperdam
- 21/00531/full (06/07/2021) - Application under section 42 of the town and country planning (Scotland) act1997 to vary condition 1 of planning application ref. 17/00671/full to allow the existing double glazed units to remain following revision to the listing (ref 1b 13080) to exclude the 21st century conservatory and single storey extension to the rear of service block at Clushmill House Lundie
- 21/00535/fulm (12/7/21) Field 300M West Of Grange Of Berryhill for installation of a Solar Photovoltaic Array (PV) with an export capacity of not more than 49.9MW and associated infrastructure

Social media: Still looking for help in supporting the website and Facebook.

AOCB: The next participatory budgeting process is to be released soon, so need to think if there are any projects in our area that would benefit

Date of Next Meeting AGM and normal meeting on Thursday 2nd September 7pm.
Location to be confirmed depending on restrictions.