**Minutes of A Meeting of the City of Brechin and District Community Council held on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 at 7.00pm in the Community Campus Brechin.**

Present.

Eric Gray, Elaine MacNicol, Jill Scott, Jim Sherrit, Mary Anderson, Paul Wright, Susan Barr, Sheila May, Nadia Anderson, Logan Henderson, Karen Jack

Councillor Houston Angus Council

Members of the public

Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Evans, Derek Harper, Andy Crow, Amanda (from the brechiner)

Minutes of Last Meeting.

It was proposed by Jill Scott, seconded by Mary Anderson, that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2015 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

•Bank Account – The new Brechin Community Council bank account is now operational.

•Flood Prevention CC Emergency Plan – Brechin police and fire services are interested in the proposal and there have been volunteers, any other interested parties should let the Community Council know.

Agenda

•Dalls Lane Public Toilets – Proposals to keep the Dalls Lane Public Toilets open are due by the 20th May. It is planned that the toilets will close sometime in the near future in order to save money. Angus Council proposed in a letter that an alternative option to closure was an asset transfer. The Community Council were asked to supply any alternative service options and reply by 30th May. The closure would save £60,000 with £12,000 of that coming from cleaning costs. Brechin Community Council are enquiring about how these figures were arrived at.

•Presentation to Brechin High School (Viewfinder) – Jim Sherrit, community councilor, restored the viewfinder which resided outside of the technical building of old Brechin High School. The viewfinder was presented to Rector Archie Bathgate and Deputy Head Boy Ross Alexander and the new location has yet to be decided.

•Police Update – No police in attendance.

•Interpretation Boards – There was a discussion on the problems with the boards and whether or not it was possible to make the boards two sided.

•Nursery Lane Link Road – Possibility of Bollards being placed, there will be a consultation to confirm what option is preferred.

•Gas Pipe at Kinnaird – Floods at Kinnaird

•Councilors Updates Including the Flood Prevention Scheme – The landscaping on River Street is almost complete and East Mill Road will be closed for approximately six weeks due to drainage of the caravan park. River Street will be open during this time so there will still be access to the bridge. Street furniture is being placed on River Street as the area of wall which was impacted by a tree is being "reinstated". It was queried whether or not there would be an opening ceremony for the street and possibly a map of old Brechin and one of wider Brechin.

•Change to Community Council Constitution – The Community Council have sub groups which are attached yet there is no mention of them in the constitution. If everyone is in agreement these groups (Park Group, Health Group etc) - who have no financial power – will be inserted into the constitution.

•Recycling Centre – Regarding the closure of Brechin's Recycling Centre there has been public backlash. The Community Council have questioned where the savings are being made and whether there is any evidence of an environmental impact report. It has been suggested that this would increase the area's carbon footprint and other models would still cut costs but still meet the needs.

Reports

•Convenor – Proposes partnership meeting in order to share minutes and better communication. The Health Group are writing a response letter to let the NHS as they are unhappy with their response and would like all of their questions answered. The Park Group has been raising money for an outdoor playground and have secured the funds required.

•Secretary – Hydroboard has been written to but there has yet to be a reply. In regards to the new bank account documents need to be produced. This meeting will be closed to the public at 20:30 as there are confidential matters to be discussed.

•Treasurer – Total = £3.492.22 but £1,450 of that belongs to the Park Group leaving the community council with a total of £2042.22. Co-op bank account still open, working on closing that. As it is the end of the financial year the accounts are being done, Mr Robertson will be looking over them to verify.

•Planning – Application verified for Den House – it will become 3 joining houses. Application for change of use (building with old furniture). The building is being sold but there is some confusion as to who owns it – Angus Council or Common Good Trust.

AOCB

•Report in Courier – The Courier newspaper reported that Angus Council had a £10 million underspend (£2.5 million unallocated the rest is allocated for future spending) This money has come from projects costing less than expected, delays in projects (money still allocated), staff vacancies which have yet to be filled. Departments can bid for the money.

•Youth Council Study Leave – The current 5th and 6th year are entitled to 10 days of study leave. There will be a study carried out to ask students how much study is actually done during study leave. The youth council ask the community council to write a letter to support the youth council and ask for clarification on the benefits of this system and whether or not it can be altered.

Date of Next Meeting The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th June 2016 at 7.00pm in the Community Campus

**Confidential Matters**

In a string of emails relating to the cancellation of the Brechin Flower Show councillor Andy Crow - not present at this meeting – made comments which may be deemed inappropriate. There was a complaint made by the Horticulture Group and concerns about the code of conduct.

The convenor asked the community council what they thought the comments made were; that the emails were disrespectful and it shows Brechin Community Council in a bad light as he is known in the community as a counselor, and that whether or not he was speaking from a personal point of view or a counselors point of view is not clear. However the group was likely contacting him in regards to the issue because he is affiliated with the community council.

Section 3 of the Code of Conduct was read. The community council have issued an apology to the Horticulture Group and made it clear that this was a personal opinion and not the group's stance. Andy Crow has refused to send a personal apology, stating that he will stand by his comments. The community council has asked for a reply within a week.

On how to proceed – the code of conduct will be strengthened next meeting to make things clearer if it should ever happen again. It is a possibility that the secretary should write to Mr Crow and as for a formal apology – if he fails to deliver then further action will be taken. Suspension of a counselor can span from less than a year to five years including all meetings and sub group meetings.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th June at 7.00pm in the Brechin Community Campus.