

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on 21st Jan 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Present:

Community Councillors: - Linda Clark (LC), Graeme Clark (GC), Tom O'Brien (Tob), Jim McMilian (JM), Ian Dickson (ID), Ian Whyte (IW), Eleanor Feltham (EF), Charlotte Douglas (CD) and Kathryn Patullo (KP)

Apologies: - James Gray-Cheape Robin Wardhaugh, Cllr Davy and Cllr Brown

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus Councillors: - Lynne Devine (LD) and Ian McLaren (IM)

Others; - Tony Walker (TW), Brian Batson (BB) and Elaine Cruickshank (EC)

1. Welcome and Apologies – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes from previous Meeting: Proposed by Tob Seconded by JM

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: Request to add lighting of roundabouts to town centre improvement group. GC reminded all to have they say on the Lochside leisure center consultation.

4. Chairs Report: LC brought up the recent frosty weather and the issues with getting the pavements gritted during lockdown, particularly the hilly parts of the town. LC spoke to Ian Cochrane manager at Angus council about getting grit bins refilled and getting extra ones fitted. Requests to get bins refilled can be done online at Angus council website. Can money be found to get extra ones. The paths at Loch and caravan park need upgrading due to flooding etc. Chair also wished the work of the refuse collectors to be commended particularly the guys with the wheeled bins. ID mentioned that the council put out a request for volunteers on facebook and email to help grit paths, he replied but got no reply back. Cllr LD to check what happened. TW said that a lot of people were willing to help grit paths etc. Also he mentioned a new book about the old path networks around Forfar and wondered if either the council or volunteers could help with the upkeep of these paths. ID asked who should upkeep these paths as people need to know. Cllr LD said the council needed to look at this and make them accessible. GC mentioned Adopt a street scheme and whether this was still going on and if so this may be better publicised also would the council be able to supply litter picking equipment, EC said the rotary club had been doing litter picks and would be happy to work with other groups. EC said that Friockheim have a community facebook page where they coordinate litter picking and gritting via various groups. BB agreed with EC but said it needs coordination to various groups to get the job done. Cllr LD Council may not do it but a resilience group would be an idea to get things done as Forfar is a large area to cover with 1 group. ID said there were a lot of potholes around the paths and maybe if the materials/equipment were supplied volunteers could do the work. Chair LC said VAA should be able to coordinate people to volunteer and not be afraid of litigation etc if they do anything.

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report: Various correspondence sent out re leisure center consultation, NP4 consultation and consultation on the toilets at Forfar loch.

6. Treasurer's Report: No report

7. Police & Fire Service Report: Jan 2021 report from Police sent out and placed on Facebook.

8. Local Councillor Update: Cllr IM reported that the new street light poles were being fitted and the new path upgrade at the rear of the caravan park was now completed. He also explained the issue with the ice and the problem was made worse by it raining then freezing on top which compounded the issue and priority was given to major routes first.

Cllr LD: A lot of the town regeneration is very slow to be done due to covid and other issues, council pushing to get these jobs done. CCTV being looked at for little causeway.

9. AOCB: ID asked how the cricket club got money to remove trees and put up a wall by the loch side , was planning put through and was permission gained to remove the trees. He also said he tried to report an issue with the old leisure center and could not get through on 101. EF raised whether the information about planting trees in an area at Padarmarm was correct she was told she would need 1600 trees by the woodland trust. A question was asked about the 2 parking spaces outside McLarens the bakers on east high street and why they were there and whether they can be removed as they cause a bottleneck with the traffic.Cllr IM to speak to Ian Cochrane, LC asked if it could be mentioned in the local plan. ID asked if the signage group could look at a proper sign being put up to show where the caravan park is. Cllr LD to look into it.

EC asked about the Tay cities deal and whether any deals are coming to Forfar. LD said most of the deals are large projects for Arbroath and Montrose and 1 million for broadband across Angus. LC asked what the criteria was for bidding for the deals. Cllr IM said the best option would be to write to the Chief executive for information. TW Said money going into training and upskilling for schools and colleges in electronics etc. EF said you can use Tay cities deal website for mins and reports. EC raised a point whether a rep from the community could be part of the common good fund committee. EF mentioned the Scottish land commission for information on common good funding etc.

LC said that the community council was looking for new members.

10. Subgroup updates:

Common good fund/Council buildings and assets- (TOB/LC) - Nothing to report

Future Planning/ Consultations- (EF) – NP4 next stage starts 19th Feb 2021 4 new headings for the various levels.

Town centre improvement group – (CD): - Nothing to report

Quarry subgroup (RW/EF): - All meetings cancelled till covid restrictions are over.

11. Planning Applications: Letter received from Scotia homes re Westfield application, public online meeting 25th March 7.30 -8.30pm

12. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Community Council will take place at 7 pm on Thurs 18th Feb 2021 via zoom