

**Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom.**

**Present:**

**Community Councillors:** - Linda Clark (LC), Graeme Clark (GC), Tom O'Brien (Tob), Jim McMillan (JM), Ian Dickson (ID), James Gray-Cheape and Robin Wardhaugh

**Apologies:** -, Eleanor Feltham, Charlotte Douglas, Kathryn Patullo and Cllr B.Davy

**Minute Secretary:** - None

**Angus Councillors:** - Lynne Devine (LD), Ian McLaren (IM) and Cllr Colin Brown (CB)

**Others:** - Tony Walker (TW), Brian Batson (BB)

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

**2. Minutes from previous Meeting:** Proposed by LC Seconded by ID

**3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting:** Cllr IM reported back about the parking spaces at McLaren's bakery raised by ID. IM had spoken to Ian Cochrane from Angus council and he had said that the Community council would have to put in formal questions about the spaces. ID said that the issue had been raised by a member of the public to ID and was not a community council idea. RW said that at times there are hold ups caused by these spaces and buses and large vehicles trying to pass. LC and GC had looked at the spaces and agreed the spaces are not really needed and LC thought a letter should be sent to all the community council members for their thoughts on the spaces. GC said that the businesses should be spoken to as well to see their take on the subject.

Cllr LD spoke about the signage for the caravan site at Lochside, she said that if it would be a brown tourist sign, the caravan park owners would have to put in a notice to government to get a sign put up. ID said it needs a sign as there is confusion on where the entrance to the site is, often caravans and motor homes are on the wrong road.

LC spoke about grit bins and community involvement and whether more bins could be provided for certain areas. There could be a chance to involve the Rotary club in discussions. There was an issue with the bin at Turfbeg not getting filled, it has since been reported. RW asked if consultation could take place to see what is needed, the issue will be raised when the community council meets with Ian Cochrane (Angus council). LD talked about the MOG being set up to look at training to get the pavements cleared and LC said that maybe shops should clear their frontages if staff had equipment and training.

**4. Chairs Report:** LC would like to commend the bin and recycling staff for the work they have been doing during the pandemic and the recent bad weather. GC mentioned about problems with overflowing bins and the birds dragging rubbish out of the bins in the high st and Castle st. LD said there is a problem with people filling the bins with black bags. LC mentioned a council worker who had cleared a pavement of snow and how hard he had worked, however a snow plough came along and covered the pavement with snow again. Joined up thinking is needed to stop this happening.

**5. Secretary Correspondence/Report:** No new correspondence, contact made with Angus council to arrange meeting re winter maintenance and litter issues.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** No report, however vote was taken to change bank to another one with better facilities than the current bank.

**7. Police & Fire Service Report:** None, LD to look into Police attendance.

**8. Local Councillor Update:** Cllr IM spoke about the toilets being delayed at the loch due to various issues with cost etc. TOB mentioned the negative comments on Facebook and the fact the information in the press release was not very well put together. ID asked if a letter could be sent to the papers to explain the correct situation, it is in the public interest to let people know.

Cllr LD Attended a talk on covid-19 vaccination program, it said that Tayside was 3rd best in Scotland. So far the VAA have supplied around 700 volunteers to meet and greet people. Dr's surgeries are moving tiers to different age groups if they have extra vaccines. LD updated about the town centre regen, CCTV going in Castle st and 1 CCTV camera going in Little causeway. Artists have started work on the wall panels at Asda, the theme will be about the historical references to the Jute industry. The other projects are going ahead but have been delayed due to Covid. LD also working on alternate budget at the council.

Cllr CB mentioned that at some meetings the councillors are not getting on but said that in Forfar all the councillors get on well. TOB asked about the trees at Balmashanner, this still ongoing, RW said that he had changed his mind about the trees and now agreed they should be taken down.

**9. AOCB:** Update asked re removal of trees from the cricket club, Cllr LD to chase this up. BB mentioned issues with the Post office main door again not working and what could be done. Flooring issues were also mentioned. A discussion followed about the issues with the post office and what could be done about them. It was decided that the secretary would write to the post office again and that Cllr LD would write a letter from all 4 councillors to the store manager about the the issues in the store. BB said he would also report issues to the post office and write a personal letter to the local paper about the issues at the post office as well as the manager of the store.

#### **10. Subgroup updates:**

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

Future Planning/ Consultations- (EF) – Meeting to be held re community council response to NP4

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

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

**11. Planning Applications:** GC reminded all about meeting with Scotia homes re Westfield development coming up in March.

#### **12. Date and time of next meeting:**

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