

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on 15th April 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Present:

Community Councillors: - Linda Clark (LC), Graeme Clark (GC), Tom O'Brien (Tob), , Ian Dickson (ID), James Gray-Cheape(JGC), Eleanor Feltham(EF), Kathryn Patullo(KP), Brian Batson (BB) and Robin Wardhaugh (RW)

Apologies: -, Jim McMillan (JM), Charlotte Douglas (CD) and Cllr Colin Brown (CB)

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus Councillors: - Lynne Devine (LD), Ian McLaren (IM) and B. Davy

Others; - Jason Penman (JP) observer

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

2. Minutes from previous Meeting: Proposed by KP Seconded by BB

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: None.

4. Chairperson's report: Chair very busy but needs to report issues with the path from Turfebeg road to the leisure center. The path is deteriorating very badly and is becoming dangerous especially for cyclists. Can the council look into getting the path repaired. JP mentioned the footpaths at Gallowshade area of Forfar and the chair mentioned the reporting of paths all around the town, it should be everyone's job to report issues through the council. LD said to JP that if he contacted the local councillors they could take this up, Cllr Davy agreed with the statement. JP said this is the reporting process not the right way to do things. Cllr Davy said yes but local Councillors could ask questions of council officers. LC Spoke about the consultation on the leisure center and getting access to look at it.

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report: Received correspondence from Royal British legion about their Tommy signs and plaques. TOB would send the link out to community councillors. Several licencing requests were sent out, any comments by 27th April so they can be sent to council. KP mentioned that 1 of the requests had been granted before to previous owners.

6. Treasurer's Report: No report, awaiting changes to signatory details and addressee issue.

7. Police & Fire Service Report: None, LD to look into Police attendance. Police report sent out to community councillors. Forfar has had few issues compared to the much smaller Kirriemuir. Cllr Devine asked if the report could be sent to her and if anything about dog napping was on the report. TOB not sure if dog knapping is an issue in the report, TOB to send report to Cllr Devine. EF said dog knapping was a serious issue and people around Forfar loch were reporting being approached about their dogs and that unknown vans were being seen in various areas.

8. Local Councillor Update: Cllr Davy: Mentioned the next full council meeting in May and the leisure center would be on the agenda along with roadworks on Westfield. He also spoke about the summer opening times at the recycling center. **Cllr McLaren:** Mentioned the solar panel lights fitted at Lordburn park and the fact they were not very good so they had been upgraded to mains lighting and were now a lot better which makes the area safer. GC asked if CCTV cameras could be put up to monitor the mess on the land opposite Aldi. Cllr McLaren said that there were ongoing problems with serving the notice on the owner of the land, the council have been trying to contact the owner. LC asked if money from the budget could be used to fix the issue with this area. GC mentioned a gate, Cllr McLaren said there is a gate,

however this was broken by fly tippers and a sign had also been taken down. Cllr McLaren said information was needed such as car registration numbers etc. so prosecutions could be made. LC asked about an update on the toilets at Forfar loch; these are badly needed. **Cllr Devine:** Gave an update on regeneration work and the problems with CCTV being fitted in Castle street, Little causeway easy to fit and contractor happy to carry out the works. The path network has been passed to VAA so might get people interested from there. Cllr mentioned the Angus food growing strategy plan for Angus. Goosecroft have expressed an interest in growing food in tattie boxes. JP mentioned the area in Gallowshade that could be used for food growing and the Glensview group were interested. Spoke about the extra money for the Tay cities deal projects in Montrose, at the Mart in Forfar and rural broadband.

9. AOCB: BB: brought the issue of community energy schemes and a group looking to put up wind turbines for local communities to use the power and any profits to be given to common good funds or other community funds. LC said that local council officers should have knowledge of this and could look at this for BB. Cllr Devine said various ways to do this and a climate change group were looking at various options for Forfar. Solar panels may be a better way to go. ID said no need to fill a field full of turbines instead use lampposts, solar panels have issues with power capacity. RW said that the area at Balmashanner could be used for solar panels. Cllr Devine said there are issues with community groups setting up wind or solar farms as the costs are high. EF said that a planning application had gone in for a solar farm at Tealing. BB said he would be happy to speak to council officers and LC said council officers should have information on groups involved in this. TOB said that a council officer could attend a meeting to speak on this. RW said that developers should be involved, LC said that this should be at the initial build and not as retrofits.

Action - TOB to contact Angus council to find the best person to speak to. Cllr LD said the best person to contact would be Gavin Balfour. Cllr LD said that electricity bill was going through parliament about money coming back into the community.

Path network group: TOB said that emails had gone out via communities department to various groups etc to find out who might be interested in this group. A few have come forward and a meeting is to be arranged.

Community councillor Charlotte Douglas:(CD) It was sadly reported by TOB that Charlotte Douglas had stepped down from her role as a community councillor. TOB said she would be missed as a valuable member of the group and had left a lasting legacy of art projects around the town. All wished CD the best and thanked her for her time as a community councillor. **Action:** Chairperson to write to CD on behalf of the community council to thank her for her contribution to the community council.

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: Nothing to report.

12. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Community Council will take place at 7 pm on Thurs 20th May 2021 via zoom