

**Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting on 18th March 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom.**

**Present:**

**Community Councillors:** - L. Clark(LC), G. Clark(GC), K. Patullo(KP), I. Dickson(ID),J. Gray-Cheape(JGC), E. Feltham(EF), R. Wardhaugh(RW), J. McMillian(JM), C. Douglas(CD) and T. O'Brien(TOB)

**Minute Secretary:** - None

**Angus Councillors:** - Cllr C. Brown and Cllr L.Devine(LD) part.

**Others;** - B. Batson and T. Walker members of the public.

**1. Welcome and Apologies** – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Cllr I. McLaren(IM) and Cllr L. Devine (part).

**2. Minutes from previous Meeting:** Proposed by ID and seconded by RW.

**3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting:** Post office issues, letters sent by TOB, BB and LD to post office counters, TOB no response received by meeting. BB sent a letter to Forfar dispatch which was published. The issue about a box outside to post letters has to be addressed to Royal mail. LD wrote a letter to the post office and the shop owner no reply from either.

**4. Chairs Report:** LC reported on the meeting with Walter Scott and community council members about road issues, litter and winter maintenance. LC said the meeting had gone well and issues about flooding had been addressed and a flood resilience group was being looked into for the Forfar area.ID was proposed to be the lead on this group for the community council.ID mentioned sustainable energy and how Forfar should be involved. LC said about the increase in the budget for the next year for gully cleaning. RW mentioned the area by the B+M shop and flooding there. LC talked about the path/road from the caravan entrance to the old leisure center and problems with flooding, she said council were looking into this, LD confirmed this. LC said about the potholes and the new reporting system online, she said it was important for everyone, public and staff to report the potholes. RW said about the potholes from Lour to Kingsmuir and that they had been filled in. BB asked how to report them online and said there was a link on the council webpage. CD said the only problem was you could only report 1 pothole at a time. LC said about large quarry lorries and farm tractors causing issues with the road surface breaking up. LC said grit bins were brought up at the meeting and council would check if any spares were available to give out, RW to speak to the rotary club about getting some extra bins and hopefully volunteers will come forward to help clear paths.

LC mentioned the community council was needing new members and that Mr Brian Batson had noted interest in joining. Mr Batson was proposed by TOB and seconded by LC. The members present voted unanimously to co-opt Mr Brian Batson as a community councillor.

**5. Secretary Correspondence/Report:** Local governance review was sent out to members ( tagline “ your community, your ideas, your future) and it was noted that the school exclusion zone at Langlands was going ahead. Another link was sent out about councillor attitudes to citizen management. Local place plans were mentioned and it was decided to contact G. Grewar from Angus council about what was happening with these.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** LC and EF have agreed to become new signatories on the bank.

## **7. Police & Fire Service Report:** None received

**8. Local Councillor Update:** Cllr Brown (CB) The trees at Balmashanner still have the marks on them and the council officer in charge of trees is happy for these trees to be removed, the removal of the trees will be brought up again with the public.

Cllr Devine(LD) The trees at the cricket club that were brought up at the previous meeting did not have protected status so could be removed without planning, however the wall has been brought to the attention of planning and consent may be needed by the cricket club. Issue with transport Scotland about them not getting back in touch re the Glamis roundabout. The Old leisure center has been deferred until the next council meeting due to Cllr Davy putting forward an amendment about issues brought up in the court case and financial issues with who will pay the bills for the center going forward. Cllr Brown had been asked to leave the council meeting. A time limit needs to be set for dealing with the old leisure center. LD happy with the council budget set for the coming year especially the increase for dealing with flooding. GC asked if information on the consultation on the leisure center was available to the public, ID mentioned that the community council had basically given the same verdict years ago. LD said that other buildings on the common good fund pay for maintenance and upkeep from the fund, this may be the case for the leisure center. LC said that the common good should not be used for this type of cost The difference being the leisure center is not bringing in revenue. Disappointed with the outcome of the consultation, RW asked what is wrong with the building as it was viable a few years ago. EF asked does this mean that the building proposed by the gymnastics club becomes a common good asset. Hopefully groups like the drama studio, gymnastics etc may have a use to use the squash courts and building and will apply for a CAT.

## **9. AOCB**

TW asked if the path network had been mentioned, LC said that local paths had been brought to the attention of the council. Looking for improvement in the paths, in particular the one around the loch. Council officers to look for funding for the path network. ID said we need to look at setting up a group of volunteers to look into this, also contact Lairds etc to ask if they have any surplus material that can be used to fix/do up the paths. TW maybe the community council can set up the group. GC maybe have similar thing to adopt a street initiative. LC the idea to setup group is a good one but the community council could only facilitate the group as we have only a few members. GC Forfar path network is substantive and there is a charity "paths for all" to help. There are various groups around Angus and need to be organised to make this work, council has methodology for setting these groups up. Cllr Brown said lots more people have been using the paths during the covid pandemic and this has led to the paths being worn more quickly than normally. LC said there is a mandatory paths network when new developments are built.

**Action** - Get in touch with Lairds re materials. Community council to set up sub-group re paths. Group to comprise GC, KP, BB and TOB. GC to look at funding, TOB getting a list of groups who may be interested, TOB will contact community workers about this.

GC asked if Police can be invited to the meetings, TOB explained the response he had received about Zoom but will ask if a meeting with the Police can be set up using a different means other than Zoom. LC said that new 20mph limits need to be enforced/monitored and what is going on with this situation. BB mentioned the cable SSE wish to run through the Montreatmont forest and the bird watching and woodland groups monitoring the situation. BB will monitor on behalf of the community council.

## **10. Subgroup updates:**

Common good fund/Council buildings and assets- (TOB/LC) - TOB Discussion on where the money is spent and decisions what the money is spent on. Issues with no community council representation on the group or having input into the running of the common good fund.

Future Planning/ Consultations- (EF) – EF reported that the NP4 comments from community council had been sent.

Town centre improvement group – (CD): - Suspended till further notice.

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

**11. Planning Applications:** Sent out by EF nothing to pass on.

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

**The next meeting of the Community Council will take place at 7 pm on 20th April 2021 7pm via zoom.**