

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE LUNANHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GARDEN OF CLOCKSBRIGGS HOUSE
ON WEDNESDAY 26TH MAY 2021

Present	Mr Jeremy Gow	Chairman
	Mr Fred Hudghton	
	Mr Scott McIntosh	
	Mrs Avril Martin	
	Mrs Dona Robbins	
	Mr Ken Stewart	
	Mr David Conran-Smith	Secretary

In Attendance: Councillor Lynne Devine representing our three Ward Councillors

Item 1 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Secretary for allowing our meeting to be held in the garden of his home, necessitated by covid restrictions denying us the ability to hold it in our normal meeting place, St Margaret's Hall. He expressed his disappointment that restrictions on our numbers meant that our other two ward Councillors were not allowed to join us. Julie Philips had also been unable to attend. He went on to make reference to the ongoing pandemic which was blighting so many people's lives. We were fortunate to live in this relatively quiet and generally fairly little affected part of the country but at the same time bemoaned the continuing poorness of our digital communications. It was good to see that all of us had kept well and as far as he understood this had also been pretty much the case for our local community. He looked forward very much to things returning to normal in due course, with the vaccination programme going successfully forward. With the garden bathed in sunshine we could perhaps feel optimistic also about summer's arrival after its very wet and chilly start.

Item 2 Minutes of the last Meeting and AGM

The Secretary summarised the Minutes of both meetings. At the AGM, approximately two years ago, there had been discussion on the subject of Resilience, the future of the Leisure Centre, the effort being made to enhance the generation of foot and cycle paths and regeneration of the Town's centre. The members had unanimously approved the continuance in office of the three Office Bearers and Julie Philips had been content to continue as Planning Officer. Little did we suspect at the time of that last meeting in February of last year that we would not be meeting again until now. At that meeting the main issues that were discussed were the then current participatory budgeting process, the work to replace the gas main piping along the High Street (possibly still to be competed), the changes to the town's parking policy, and changes also to the handling of Council grants to CCs. There had also been some disquiet expressed at the development of quarrying in the field the other side of the Arbroath road beside the Foresterseat Caravan Park, which seemed considerable more extensive than was warranted by the construction of a "small " fishing lochan"

and the replacing of the long defunct Tammy's Knowe hillock with the spoil from the diggings. A great deal of sand and gravel had been moved from the site without, it seemed, any license being granted for such an operation. Lastly, it had been agreed that all members should try to encourage others from the community to join their Community Council, as it had seemed likely that at least two of our members would be standing down.

Both sets of minutes were accepted as true records of the meetings.

Item 3 Reports of the Office Bearers

Chairman The Chairman reported that he had nothing to add to comments he had made in welcoming us to the meeting.

Commented [Ma1]:

Treasurer The Treasurer handed out copies of the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. She further noted that the stated balance of £1,155.62 could now reflect also the additional grant of £645 just received for 2020 making our balance now £1,800.62. She stated that it was her intention to stand down from the Office of Treasurer but would like to remain a Community Council Member. There was general disappointment that after so many years of looking after our accounts she felt it was time to hand over as Treasurer; as no member offered to take over from her it was agreed that she would continue to look after things until a replacement could be found.

Secretary The Secretary started his report by explaining how it was that we had to hold our meeting outside. He felt it sad, and rather strange that there was no way in which a meeting such as this, with just eight people present, could not have been permitted to meet within a building such as the village hall, a completely controllable environment, ample space and within walking distance of most members homes. When 50 people are able to attend a wedding or funeral and unspecified members of the public eat within a café or restaurant why cannot a meeting such as ours be held inside a Hall such as St Margaret's? Why should it not be possible for the Council to be given authority to permit so sensible a waiver of the rules?

He went on to comment on the difficulties over the last year in arranging this meeting, so long overdue and important - important particularly for the reason that several members had indicated that they might be standing down from the CC. There were also outstanding matters that we should take notice of such as the re-building of the Restenneth footpath and restoration work around the wellhead of the River Lunan. We could also look forward to the probable need to address such matters as the next round of Participatory Budgeting and the need for training the local community in handling the defibrillator and in basic first aid. One of the Secretary's roles was to disseminate information that arrived on his desk on such matters as scamming, neighbourhood watch activity and monthly police reports. There had also been several surveys to complete and forward as necessary to members. There had not been much to report of planning application activity but one forthcoming planning application was expected in the late summer, for the building of an electricity storage site beside the road to Lunanhead on the outskirts of Forfar, opposite the electricity substation and connected to it by a cable under the main road. This plan would be discussed later.

The Secretary concluded his report by saying that he would be standing down at this meeting but was satisfied that Dona Robbins would be an excellent candidate to replace him, having been Secretary of another Angus CC a few years ago (Lundie, Muirhead and Birkhill). She would be seeking Co-option as a member. Good news.

Item 4 Membership Issues

Two members were standing down: Fred Hudghton was far too busy and would cease to be a member although he offered to continue to use his facebook page to spread CC news around his perhaps 200 contacts. Julie Philips was also too busy to continue as a member. Although not standing down from the CC Avril Martin would be standing down as Treasurer. Similarly, the Secretary would be standing down from his Office but would for the time being continue as an Associate Member, without a vote, and would until another member were prepared to do so, take over the role of Planning officer. These changes to our membership were noted.

Dona Robbins was accordingly co-opted as a Member of the CC.

It was noted that David Ritchie might in due course put himself forward for co-option to the CC and other possibilities were also being investigated. This was encouraging news; it seemed probable that our membership quota would not be an issue for a while at least.

Item 5 Re-election of Office Bearers and Other Officers

It was proposed by Ken Stewart and seconded by Scott McIntosh that the Chairman should remain in office for a further year and with his expressing his readiness to do so and there being no objections raised to his re-election the proposal was carried. It was further proposed that Dona Robbins should be elected to the Office of Secretary and there being no objections that proposal was carried too. It was also proposed that David Conran-Smith should for the time being deal with Planning matters. Avril Martin would continue to look after Treasury matters until a replacement could be found. Advertising for such a replacement would be undertaken by the newly appointed Secretary and Fred Hudghton via his Facebook.

Item 6 Signing of the Constitution

The Constitution was signed in accordance with Council instructions by all current members of the CC present.

Item 7 Input by the Councillors

Councillor Devine mentioned several matters that were currently concerning Council members. The future of the Leisure centre was one. Very considerable ramifications were involved relating particularly to its being in the ownership of the Common Good Fund. It seemed that the deterioration of a future for the building itself, its associated amenities such as the toilet block and the site itself would take a great deal of time and effort. The current spate of vandalism and the difficult experienced by the Police in tracing the culprits was a cause for some concern as was the possibility of vandalism spreading into the Caravan Park. The appalling weather of the winter and especially the last month had caused several incidents of flooding and considerable further pot-hole damage to roads. It was perhaps worth noting that in the last 4 weeks rainfall has been measured at Clocksbriggs as about 250 mm (roughly 10 inches) well over twice as much as any May total in the last 20 years. It is to be hoped that the Council Flooding Group would find life easier in future after Councillor Devine joined it. The Chairman thanked Lynne for her input to our meeting – always very much appreciated.

Item 8 Input of the Secretary

The Secretary noted the need to bear in mind the issues of the Restenneth footpath and work on the Lunanhead well site for a future meeting but in the short term there was the matter of the planning application of Logan PM to build a battery power storage unit as an offshoot of the electricity

substation on the edge of Forfar beside the road to Lunanhead. This facility would be about 200 metres from the edge of the village and there appears already to be some concern of the unit being so close. The planning team had organised two online question and answer consultation opportunities for 15th June (3-5 pm) and 24th June (5-7 pm) using the website www.meetings.ili-energy.com and there would be an opportunity to provide feed back up till 2nd July. It was possible that a meeting could be arranged with Logan PM and DCS proposed that a meeting of the CC be held before hand to which the Logan planning team could be invited.

Item 9 Date of the Next Meeting

Although it was difficult to forecast when and how we would be able to hold a further meeting it was hoped that one would be possible towards the end of June to which the Planning team for the battery storage unit could be invited. Wednesday 30th June was proposed and members were asked to keep this date free. There being no further business to discuss the chairman closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

J. Gow

Chairman