

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on 20th May 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Present:

Community Councillors: - Linda Clark (LC), Tom O'Brien (Tob), Eleanor Feltham (EF), Jim McMillan (JM), Kathryn Patullo (KP),

Apologies: -, Graeme Clark (GC), James Gray -Cheape, R. Wardhaugh, B. Batson, and Cllr I. McLaren

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus Councillors: - Lynne Devine (LD)

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 LC Seconded by KP

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: None.

4. Chairperson's report: See appendix A

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report: TOB and LC to attend Community council bi-annual meeting with Angus council on behalf of Forfar CC. TOB mentioned the White hills Energy Storage Project Old Brechin Road Forfar meeting that had taken place before the Forfar CC meeting.

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

7. Police & Fire Service Report: Tob reported that community council will get an updated monthly report and if any issues TOB can have either a phone call or teams meeting with Sgt Crichton to discuss.

8. Local Councillor Update: Cllr Devine Talked about changes to the administration at the council and changes to the opposition party. Cllr Speed and Lawrie had left the administration and Cllr Devine had stepped down as leader of the SNP group with Cllr Whiteside as new leader with Cllr Braes and Duff sharing deputy duties. Cllr Devine had taken on a new role as Older peoples champion for Angus, there are about 14 across Scotland. It is an important role as pensions are 1 of the lowest in Europe and there seems to be a stigma around pension credits and people claiming them. Also mentioned the facility at Kirrie connections dealing with dementia and its problems. Lochside leisure centre put back to the next meeting due to the proposal put forward had no fixed or sustainable plan.

9. AOCB: Paths network: a meeting was held and moving forward a check of paths in Forfar to take place to see what needs to be done and who will be able to do it and if funding may be needed for bigger projects such as restoration etc. Further meeting to be arranged.

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: No new planning applications. The application for the new battery storage farms were discussed. EF said these battery storage units were needed as a lot of the electricity from wind farms is lost as no way to store the surplus for use at other times. There are currently 2 of these in Dundee. Gigabox have put in an application for a site at Lunanhead old substation and 2 other ones are planned for Forfar. There was a Zoom meeting before the community council but there were issues getting in. Community council to have a meeting to discuss these applications.

12. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Community Council will take place at 7 pm on Thurs 17th June 2021 via zoom

Appendix A

Chair's report to FCC, May meeting, 2021

Chair Linda Clark reported on the following:

Litter still a huge problem with the Lochside park having several bins vandalised severely. (As part of their planning consent, that businesses where their sale items are in particular takeaway, a condition should be added i.e., that regular pick-up around their businesses should be undertaken.) *Cllr Devine mentioned the rotary club and asked if anyone knew the contact for the co-ordinator so other groups can take part.*

Commend 2 women in particular for their efforts in picking up on a regular basis and in various areas across the town.

The council should consider installing two bins where the operatives are finding serious over-flowing with one. This could apply within the areas around takeaways. This might have to be extended into more rural areas around Forfar where the problem is bad, this is probably due to people parking cars and eating their food.

Lochside centre issue.

CCTV in Castle St. for affected businesses.

Lochside public toilet. – *Cllr Devine said there maybe an issue with the toilets due to proposals for the old leisure centre, chair said that Forfar CC had assurances that the toilets and leisure centre were separate issues, and that local councillors had okayed the money. These need to be built urgently. Cllr Devine not happy no changing places toilet to be built as it will most likely get vandalised.*

Path from the Turfbeg Rd. to the Leisure centre is badly eroding.

Wasteland across from Aldi's. Still an issue.

Dropped kerb project. - issues with cars at Fiskens parked across the dimpled part of the path.

Pipes left at grass area next to old leisure centre chair concerned this might be moved or damaged by youths.