

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on 17th June 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Present:

Community Councillors: - Linda Clark (LC), Tom O'Brien (Tob), Eleanor Feltham (EF), Kathryn Patullo (KP), Graeme Clark (GC), R. Wardhaugh, B. Batson.

Apologies: -, James Gray -Cheape, Jim McMillan (JM), Cllr Brown and Cllr Davy

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus Councillors: - Lynne Devine (LD) and Ian McLaren (IM)

Others: - Jason Penman (JP) Tony Walker (TW) and Marley Hunter (MH) observers

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

2. Minutes from previous Meeting: Proposed by EF Seconded by LC

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: EF change date on mins to correct date. Cllr Devine reported the pipes at the old leisure centre to Scottish water, hoping they will be used to repair the damaged sewer pipe.

4. Chairperson's report: Chair spoke about the community council bi-annual meeting with Angus council, items will be on the August agenda.

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report: Licensing board application for extended retail space for alcohol sales at seasonal times no other changes, no objections.

TOB reported on the proposed survey by the Improvement service, this will hopefully help the community council engage with the community. BB asked what the purpose of the survey was and what we needed to put in it. Survey to help make our case for getting the message across to the public. MH said that the community council needs to approach young people and not ask them to attend meetings if we wish to engage better with young people. BB asked what people's view of the community council and are they sure what the role of the community council is. LC said that she sees the community council as a bridge or voice of the people. The community council is a statutory body involved in planning applications and may attend meetings/presentations on the proposals. At the moment Covid restrictions and zoom meetings are not helpful in engaging with people. People can come along to community council meetings and make a proposal or give a presentation.

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

7. Police & Fire Service Report: Tob reported that the 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. GC said it would be good to have the Police attend the meetings so concerns can be raised. RW agreed with GC and said we are not getting a chance to give feedback to the Police.

8. Local Councillor Update: Cllr I. McLaren: The issue with flooding at Lunanhead should now be resolved as the problem was with blocked /broken drainage. This will be monitored. Road works at East port and West port at the moment. Car parks are free to park but the other rules such as parking between the white lines must be adhered to. The toilets at Glen Doll are now open for the public to use, this is good news for visitors etc.

Cllr Devine: Mentioned the Forfar gala art project being run by Forfar action network, instead of a gala day. The project hopes to turn the shop windows in the town into an open air art gallery. This will hopefully attract more people into the town centre and use the shops etc. Other ideas are a graffiti jam and artist workshops for families/individuals. LD also attended the healthy child group which aims to try and tackle the rising obesity and lack of activity in young children. Money going into various free activities over the summer holidays at the leisure centre. New app being launched by visit Angus soon showcasing various places to visit in Angus. As old people's champion meeting with VAA and writing an article on pension credit for the Gallowshade community group newsletter. Council meeting will have a full agenda and will be talking about the old leisure centre at the loch. RW asked following the inspection by community council had the council asked for any input, LC said not yet has no group had come forward with a plan yet. TW asked what is the community council stance on the old leisure center. LC said that the community council had various meetings about the centre but no official stance yet as we do not have all the information. CC had put input into the public consultation. EF said there was no guidance on the issue with the reversal of the decision to demolish. TW asked what do people want at the loch, toilets, cafe or other facility, questions not asked during the survey. TOB said ideas were asked for in the survey but needed to be viable and not just a wish list. TW asked after the inspection what conclusion the community council reached. GC said the consultation did ask questions and the survey was answered individually and as a community council. GC said that to reach a firm conclusion more information is needed which is not forthcoming. BB did not attend the visit and is not competent to make a decision but is concerned about issues relating to the common good fund moving forward. BB also how do we get the information during covid when during zoom meetings we get cut off, this issue of lack of info needs to be dealt with. LC said that community councils have not been approached to hold a public meeting about the old leisure centre, in the past CC have attended meetings with the public about the quarry issues and the recycling centres. RW asked if we will get a copy of the notes from the council meeting? GC said the 4 councillors should have the information and we need to lobby them for it and to put across the case for the old leisure centre. LC said the issue with the toilets at the loch needs to be sorted asap as this has been going on far too long and is a separate issue from the leisure centre and should be built regardless of what happens to the centre. TW told the community council to put a view forward based on the information so the public can see what the CC can do.

9. AOCB: Community council survey. What questions do we want to ask? BB asked what should be put into the community council survey, JP said that community council should engage with the youths and listen to them not talk at the youths, TOB said this should be a 2 way conversation. JP asked what engagement the CC does with community groups. BB asked do we know how many community groups there are? And how do we engage with these groups? LC said we should encourage young people to be involved in things, JP said encourage kids to get involved using community empowerment to force the council to do things the community wants. GC said the local improvement plan needs to be updated as the last plan was 5 yrs ago . The community now put their thoughts forward to be involved with the local plan. The council should engage with the public to ask for opinions on what should go in the local plan such as sporting facilities and housing developments. There could be meetings where youths can attend. There is a lot to be decided in the local plan. EF said Tenant Participation officers should be attending community group meetings as she did years ago around the Gallowshade area to give advice. EF also said they need to let the community know where to get the information on funding and empowerment from. LC said there was only so much you can get from community council when there are few members, and you need to get members of community groups to become community councillors to increase numbers. LC said the community council is happy to hear views from members of the community but this should be constructive and not just criticism which brings nothing to the discussion. BB said We are a conduit but it is one way coming from the local council, we need to change this so we set the agenda. CC has no real power as we have no funding to do anything. TW said we need to know what we can do and how we can do this, also what we are supposed to do and what can be done. RW said should CC visit local community groups? To help with issues. EF said we could advise groups where to get information from and how to deal with

issues.

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: EF said that there had been issues with trying to attend the online meeting with the energy company proposing the battery farm at Lunanhead/Whitehills, it seems they are not trying very hard to sort out the technical issues. They got the name of the local council wrong as in highland instead of Angus council. EF to contact Lunanhead CC to coordinate responses. EF said there are Other companies about to come forward with similar proposals for battery farms in the Forfar area. TOB expressed concerns about the proposed solar panel farm at Padanaram as well.

12. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Community Council will take place at 7 pm on Thurs 19th August 2021 via zoom