

INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 15th November 2021 via Zoom.

Present: Gus Leighton (Chairperson), Claire Wilson (Minute Secretary), Judith Gallacher, Pamela Cottam Dick Robertson, Kate Skene and 8 members of the public

In attendance: Cllr Braes.

Apologies: Ken Goddard (Planning Liaison), Alan Budge (Treasurer), Ann Johnston, Cllr Nicol and Cllr Myles

The minutes of the last meeting were approved (proposed by Dick and seconded by Pamela) and will now be posted on the website and sent to Angus Council and the NHW co-ordinator.

Action: Claire

Planning and CNP Report

Only one application has been submitted since the last meeting. This was for Careston Farm requesting a change of arable land to garden and garage. It was agreed that the application required no comment.

Gus has performed a site visit to Whiteside at Careston and agreed that the application (from October) required no comment.

Aberdeenshire

Glendye Windfarm proposal: see www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx. No recent movement on this but a watching brief will be kept.

Cairngorm National Park

No meetings of the AoCC notified.

Treasurer's Report

Alan was unable to attend the meeting.

Alan has paid the remembrance wreaths from his own account (company no longer accepts cheques) £74.80 to be reimbursed to him.

Alan will organise payment of the Hall Hire. Claire has completed the risk assessment and obtained the public liability insurance certificate and will send to AngusAlive. It was agreed that if Covid Restrictions increase again, then ICC will revert to virtual meetings in 2022. **Action: Claire**

Alan will send cheque for £500 to EVIS from Guild Home monies as agreed at the last meeting.

Action: Alan

It was agreed that Alan should proceed with organising internet banking for ICC to make it easier to deal with payments due to restrictions with cheque payments, restricted banking hours and members working arrangements.

Police Report

Claire gave a condensed update from the Police report received from Sgt Mustard.

There have been distraction thefts in the local area within offices, retail and other business premises. Members of staff have been distracted by a person whilst their accomplice steals personal items (mobile phones, purses and other property) from bags/coats/desks.

Rural Crime remains an issue in Tayside and rural communities are reminded to be vigilant and report all suspicious activity. Reminders to secure buildings and improve security was given.

Police dealt with 338 calls in the Brechin and Edzell area. There was a total of 98 crimes recorded, of which 1 was specific to Edzell. The issue has been investigated and no further enquiry is ongoing. There continues to be concerns regarding motorists not adhering to the speed limits within the Edzell area, in particular 20mph zones (compounded by the closure of Edzell Arch). Local speed initiatives by the Police will continue to be planned.

Recurring items

Speeding within Edzell

Gus has written to Angus Council Roads department re: additional street furniture and traffic calming measures – this will be reviewed once the VAS sign data is available.

Gus will continue to push for a meeting with Police Scotland, MSP and local Councillors regarding speeding within the area. **Action: Gus**

Defibrillator Insurance

There was no update available at the meeting.

It is understood EVIS were to take ownership of the defibrillator and insure it, as ICC cannot own property. Alan to check this. **Action: Alan**

Inglis Court

A full Council Meeting was held on 4 November and a decision was taken to demolish Inglis Court. Gus stated that this was a disappointing result but that he did not think this was the end of the discussion.

Power washing of Plant equipment

There has been communication from Cllr Myles to state that the company will now no longer wash their vehicles on Lethnot Road.

School Warning Lights

The lights continue to flash at Edzell School despite Claire reporting it via the AccessLine both personally and via Inveresk Community Council. Cllr Myles was not at the meeting to update but Cllr Braes will contact the Roads Department to enquire. Claire also added that Stracathro School's timer needs reset as the lights are flashing at 0720hrs. **Action: Cllr Braes**

Speeding in Little Brechin

Speed restriction signs (30mph) and extension of the speed limit boundaries at Little Brechin have been agreed but signage still needs to be sited. Cllr Braes will seek an update. **Action: Cllr Braes**

Speeding in Inchbare

Traffic calming measures will be discussed once the results of the VAS signs data has been reviewed. Traffic has been quiet due to the current diversion although a resident did comment that the signs need to be clearer where access is possible to as there are still cars going through the signs and then having to turn back.

Residents have now moved into the new builds, but concerns were expressed at the meeting as it was voiced a young child has been seen riding their bicycle on the pavement (unaccompanied). The concern was that the families are being lulled into a false sense of security due to the road being closed.

Stracathro Hospital

Gus has now received an e-mail address and will contact them shortly. **Action: Gus**

Blind Corner Signage at Blairno

Tar has been added to the outer edge of the road. Council will keep area under review re: SLOW being painted on the road.

Potholes on Glenesk Road

Kate confirmed that the potholes on the Glenesk Road have now been repaired.

Ward Councillors' Report

Cllr Braes gave an update on the repairs to the Edzell Arch which he received just before the meeting. The repairs in principle are simple however the structure support required to make these repairs are more complex and will take time. Temporary diversions are in place.

There was a long discussion at this point regarding the demolition of Inglis Court. Cllr Braes stated that it was a difficult decision to make re: Inglis Court but he had to decide on the information he was given. Independent valuers stated that Inglis Court was not worth putting on the open market. Angus Council had asked the opinion of Angus Council housing tenants who voted to demolish the building (it is unknown how many or who these tenants were). A member of the public commented that Angus Council funding is Government money and Government money is provided by taxpayers which includes the majority of Angus Council residents so to listen to a small minority (Angus Council tenants) was not a true reflection of the public opinion. It was also asked if a community profile had been done to take in the demographic of Edzell population (high proportion of elderly).

Another member of the public stated that the way the final residents of Inglis Court were dealt with was disgusting and they had been forced out (fire exits padlocked and communal areas locked). Cllr Braes stated that he was not happy how the residents had been treated and he had voiced this to the Council.

The removal of the Warden made the option of Sheltered Housing less favourable. It has always been claimed that the changes of SDS (self-directed support) has meant that people wanted their care to be provided in their own home and thus no need for sheltered Housing. As the wardens never provided personal care then this claim is not valid. The removal of the Warden meant that the elderly residents felt more vulnerable. When the Council introduced other vulnerable younger client groups (e.g mental health issues, dependency issues etc) to the sheltered housing facilities in Angus the elderly did not want to reside in that situation any more.

Cllr Braes suggested that the Community could have put a bid in for a Community Asset Transfer however this had not been suggested by the Council when the public had contacted them with their objections.

Gus stated that the Council had deliberately ignored local public opinion on 3 occasions. There was a survey and a petition out to the local public and a demonstration attended by nearly 200 people who did not want Inglis Court demolished. It was felt that the Council should have taken note of the offer from Mark Guild to buy the building which was much more than the valuation. This option was not discussed at the full meeting. Gus was amazed that there was no mention in the Options Report of the 18 flats to be built at Duriehill for rent through the Angus Housing Association, nor the 6 new family houses at Inchbare. He asked, "Surely these had a bearing on the Inglis Court decision?". Cllr Myles and Cllr Nicol were unable to attend the meeting this evening.

Cllr Nicol sent a report to update the ICC. Councillors report the uptake of primary school meals has increased but secondary school meals have not increased. Four out of five Secondary School pupils who are eligible for free school meals are not taking this offer up. It is not known if this is due to families not being aware of the offer or the stigma of taking free school meals. Tayside Contracts have been put forward for an award for their meal production.

Salt supplies have been slow to the Council but there should be enough by December. Due to the mild weather recently the first gritting to occur in Angus was last Friday (12th November). The gritters have usually been out before this in previous years.

Gavin has been in contact with Angus Council regarding the issues with the Edzell Arch.

Correspondence

New UK Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in Scotland

It is not thought to affect the ICC area. Cllr Braes is attending a Council meeting on this subject and will inform the ICC if there is any information that may affect the area.

Flood Group Update

Fiona Work gave a short update on the proposed plans for the Flood Group moving forward. There is an online survey that local residents are encouraged to complete (see link below)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nKagUU8OPUu2QhLgExmGNXanB9BjRP9LlrrzGwe-25JURUXIOEEySTJSMU8zNIY5WFFIUIdFTUZOUS4u>

See attachment 1 for full update from Flood Group.

See Hear Angus

Gus had been contacted by the Patient Participation Group at the Edzell Health Centre to work together with ourselves and EVIS. See Hear Angus are currently seeking proposals from localities for small projects designed to help people suffering from either sight or hearing loss, or both.

Successful proposals will be awarded up to £5000.

A member of BHG who was attending the meeting gave some examples of what criteria was required and some examples (e.g improved signage in public places, BSL training etc)

Gus asked everyone at the meeting to think of suggestions and send them to him to forward to the PPG.

Action: All meeting attendees

Brechin Healthcare Group

The last month has been busy as usual with the normal services using the Centre.

The latest user to book space at the Centre is a hypnotherapist for a session on 17th November.

Hopefully he will be happy with the Centre and his sessions will become a regular occurrence.

The Reporter to their CAT Appeal will visit Brechin on Tuesday 16th November to see first-hand the Infirmary site and then walk through the town to the Jenner Centre before making his final decision although they are unsure when that decision will be released.

The Jenner Footcare is very busy with people using the service, including some from Edzell and Edzell Woods. The Edzell GP practice is advertising and supporting this project. People are very appreciative of this service which includes a foot massage and the 45 minute chat and support. People leave with a smile on their face and a spring in their step.

The AGM of the BHG is on Thursday 25th November at St Andrew's Church Hall 7 :30pm. They are hoping to arrange a live link to the meeting. If this is possible, they will send the information to Claire to distribute.

AOCB

Edzell Arch

See update on Ward Councillor section. Gus had spoken to a member of the Roads Department. The repair will be required to be risk assessed and then Tayside Contracts will need to determine whether it requires specialist teams. Several businesses have spoken to ICC members to confirm that there has been a significant downturn in footfall. There have been cancellations of B and B residents as the diversion is too long for them working south of Edzell.

The Ambulance Service was unaware of the road closure so took longer to get to an unwell patient up Glenesk. Gus asked that the Council make all the Emergency service aware of the road closure and diversion routes.

It was asked that the Westwater Bridge repairs were made whilst the road closure is in place to prevent further closures later.

Cllr Braes will forward all this information to the relevant Council Departments. **Action: Cllr Braes**

Bi-annual meeting of Angus Council and Community Councils

The bi-annual meeting will take place on 18th November via Teams. Claire has the details and will forward to anyone who wishes to attend.

Self-help gritting in winter

Claire will distribute posters to shops in the next week.

Action: Claire

Participatory Budgeting

Dick asked who was responsible on judging which proposals are successful as it looked like AngusAlive have several large monetary proposals to be voted for as have some of the schools. It was felt that it was unfair for Angus Council to make the decision if their subgroups were the main applicants. Cllr Braes stated that if Participatory Budgeting was the way forward then a fair voting system would be required.

Gus thanked everyone for attending.

**Next Meeting: No meeting in December
Monday 17th January @ 1930hrs in Inglis Hall, Edzell (Covid restrictions allowing)**

Issues unable to be resolved fully by ICC – 2021

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Date Removed from Agenda</u>
Margie Bridge, Lethnot	<p>Bridge has got several uneven areas on it which has caused accidents to at least 2 cyclists. The Council have assessed the bridge and state the road condition is acceptable.</p> <p>January 2021 - Gus has received a quote for repair of road from Breedons – sent to Roads Dept.</p> <p>February 2021 – Council still maintain surface is adequate and the work unnecessary.</p> <p>Letter sent from MSP to Council in March 2021 – Council maintains road surface adequate.</p> <p>September 2021 – Gus has paid from his own monies to have a sign sited on private land warning cyclists of dangerous road surfaces</p>	<p>October 2020. Returned to Agenda January 2021 with quote.</p> <p>Removed from Agenda-February 2021.</p>
Wishop Burn Bridge/Pathway from Little Brechin to Brechin/Pathway from Westside to Inchbare	<p>Applications sent for Safe Route Grant via Angus Council for repair of Wishop Bridge and creation of other 2 paths. All submissions unsuccessful. Judith to discuss with Cllr Braes and plan put in place to resubmit when another appropriate Grant available either via Angus Council or other means.</p>	<p>Removed from Agenda – September 2021</p>
Blind Corner at Blairno, Lethnot	<p>Tar has been added to edge of road. Council will continue to monitor road and amend signage if required.</p>	<p>Removed from Agenda- November 2021</p>

Attachment 1

15.11.21 Inveresk Community Committee: Edzell Flood Group (EFG) Update

Edzell Flood Group (EFG) continues to work in partnership with many organisations such as EVIS, Angus Council, Inveresk Community Council and Scottish Flood Forum to reduce the vulnerability of Edzell residents from flooding in a bid to prevent the heartache of one million pounds of flood damage seen on 23.12.12.

Edzell Flood Group has been particularly quiet due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, flood monitoring has actively continued via social media. The group requires to re-engage although this may be in a 'virtual' format due to some continued restrictions and /or vulnerable members. A questionnaire is currently 'live' to gauge the best way of EFG working and is open till the 30th of Nov: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nKagUU8OPUu2QhLgExmGNXanB9BjRP9LlrrzGwe-25JURUxIOEEySTJSMU8zNIY5WFFIUldFTUZOUS4u>

As previously reported, EFG is continuing to work with the Scottish Flood Forum, Scottish Government and RiverTrack on developing new community-based flood alarms in Scotland. See link to the Wishop Burn live analytics; <https://map.rivertrack.org/location/wishop-burn-edzell>. You can view the Wishop Burn levels yourself from any mobile phone or computer. As some EFG members frequently travel abroad, having the ability to remotely visualise the live-time levels of water in the Wishop Burn can be a reassurance (see screenshot of the RiverTrack monitor below taken on 31.10.21). Most communication around RiverTrack monitoring has been via the EFG FaceBook social media page: <https://www.facebook.com/EdzellFloodIssue/>

Additionally, there is also the Angus Council alarm based at the Lethnot Road culvert which can send texts to many members of the EFG and Angus Council when levels rise, and action is required. Unfortunately, there is no monitor on this alarm for EFG to follow 'real time'.

There was a significant event on the 31st of October when the Dunlappie Rd culvert alarms were activated due to hedge cuttings from further upstream blocking the culvert (see appendix one). The Edzell Flood Group remind residents to ensure all gardening waste is cleared away from the banks of the Wishop Burn as they can end their journey blocking the Lethnot Road and Dunlappie Rd culverts. Looking forward (to pick up from pre-COVID-19 2020 plans), the EFG is interested in exploring naturalisation flood management options which can have an impact on flooding. Examples of this type of flood management can include planting more trees and exploring the use of leaky dams which has the potential to slow flood water travelling through a village. These measures have the potential to help contribute to slowing water travelling through Edzell at times of high water.

The Edzell Flood Group Action Plan requires updating from 2019 due to Angus Council employee changes of roles and the role of the action plan:

- Ensures that where possible, lives and property are protected during a flood event.
- Minimises disruption during a flood event and re-establish normality as soon as possible once the flood water subsides.
- Identifies the key community and council contacts during any flood event.
- Details the roles and responsibilities of responding organisations and the community during a flood event.
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In summary, moving forward in to 2022 the group has a few tasks in hand:

- Undertake a 'needs analysis' from the group membership to explore the best way to go forward and re-engage with the group post COVID-19.
- Seek digital platform to encourage hybrid meetings for those unable to attend meetings
- Update the 2019 Edzell Flood Group Action Plan considering changes of roles within Angus Council employees
- Explore the naturalisation flood management work for the group.

Anyone interested in Edzell Flood Group work, please do not hesitate to contact EVIS members; EFG members or via;

- Chair Email; fglwork@aol.com
- FaceBook (<https://www.facebook.com/EdzellFloodIssue/> and
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/edzellfloodgrp?lang=en>)
- Rivertrack Live Analytics: <https://map.rivertrack.org/location/wishop-burn-edzell>