

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on Thurs 20th Jan 2022at 7 pm via Zoom.

Present:

Community Councillors: - T. O'Brien (Tob), Linda Clark (LC), Graeme Clark (GC), Jim McMilian (JM) Eleanor Feltham (EF) and Brian Batson (BB)

Minute Secretary: - None

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

Others; - Members of the Public: Jason Penman (JP), Joe Harkin (JH) and Marley Laurie (ML)

1. Welcome and Apologies – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from James Gray-Cheape, Kathryn Patullo and Cllr Colin Brown.

2. Minutes from previous Meeting: The note of the previous meeting was agreed and proposed by EF and seconded by JM.

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: GC mentioned the issue still on-going at the loch around the old crazy golf and pitch and putt area with Scottish water. The area is a mess with the area waterlogged, caused by a break in the pipe, and possible health and safety issues if it is sewage. Secretary to contact Scottish water. Cllr LD said she had c spoken to Scottish water and said that the sewage had been cleared from the path and Scottish water also mentioned that due to dry weather the ponds had dried up and was hoping for an update on the timeline for the work to be completed. LC said issues with the fencing being down may mean dogs could be contaminated by the sewage.Cllr IM said the issues with the water/sewage etc has nothing to do with the building of the toilets.

4. Chairperson's Report: Mentioned the Scottish water issues and hoped they would be fixed before the spring and visitor numbers increase around the Loch. LC said that hopefully the next meeting will be face to face and that the Police will attend. Happy that finally the toilets are getting built at the loch.

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report: Tob talked about the online meeting re Westfield development and issues getting access and questions not really being answered. A meeting to be arranged with the community council for Tues 25th Jan 2022. JP mentioned issues with increased traffic, public access through Gallowshade to the park and capacity of schools. JH said he was against this development and asked if a golf course was in the plan; previously. ML said the development is in the plan but not sure if she supports it, will a new school will be built as part of the development. BB asked if details of the meeting about Westfield be extended to the members of the public at tonight's meeting; this was agreed.

JP asked again why community councils do not contact all groups for their views, LC said that this would not be possible as only a few community council members and over 100 groups in Forfar, easier for groups to approach CC, CC always happy for groups to contact and present views etc at meetings.JP also asked why community workers don't come to community council meetings, LC not sure if this is in their remit. Secretary to find out.

Details were sent out of the 20% car kilometre reduction route map.

Angus community resilience meeting via teams on 24th Jan 2022.

Update on Langlands school traffic scheme to go before committee in Feb, hopefully the scheme will be used at other primary schools, due to SEPA being hacked, no new data on air quality.

Establishment of community councils consultation was mentioned- BB said the role of the community council is changing to try and represent the views of the public in the role. This is a change of enthaise as

the community council will be able to assess the issues and choose what issues to be actively involved in. Notes on this are on the council community council pages.

It was noted that in December 2021 the community council had given some of its savings of £450 to 3 worthwhile causes in the town rather than the money sitting in the bank. The 3 causes were Social Supermarket, Angus Foodbank and the Angus toy appeal.

6. Treasurer's Report: New treasurer K. Patullo taking up the role, issues with the bank hopefully resolved soon.

7. Police & Fire Service Report: LC noted the previous month's Police report mentioned Kirriemuir and reports of paper boys/girls not having lights on their bike, this was something that Forfar CC worked on to supply lights to the newsagents for the bikes of the paper boys/girls in Forfar.

8. Local Councillor Update:

Cllr IM- Talked about Castle Street and the ongoing works to upgrade the footways and put in the new parking spaces, the works will take up to 4 weeks. LC asked if the CCTV camera was up and running yet, IM reply yes outside the florists in Castle street and 1 in Little Causeway. JH asked about the new parking in Castle st. Cllr IM said that it had been agreed at committee a while ago to put new spaces including disabled parking and loading bays for the shops. Double yellow lines to be removed and 1 hr parking allowed.

Cllr LD- Mentioned the new meeting centre for people with Alzheimers and their carers that is being set up at the Strathmore cricket club, architect working on making the building more accessible, looking at furniture and taking on workers. Please share information about this worthwhile project. LC said this is an excellent idea and is needed in the community. JH asked about the sign at the former Peacocks store that had come down during the recent high winds and was causing a hazard both for pedestrians and householders living above. Cllr LD said it was the responsibility of the building owner and not the council, council having problems getting the owner/agent to clear up the mess.

9. AOCB

BB mentioned the disabled door at the Post office again and that he had reported it. EF asked BB if he had got anywhere with the freeport situation, BB said that he had not heard anything back yet from Angus council's economic department.

LC asked if CC thought it would be a good idea to have a stall at the farmers market to try and get the message about the CC and what we do and try to get more people interested in joining as a member.

10. Subgroup updates:

All meetings cancelled till covid restrictions are over.

11. Planning Applications: ML asked if any developments were in the local plan, LC said that there were 2 developments within the local plan and that the CC look at all of these applications and that it is a big issue if there are not in the plan. LC said people need to comment on these developments as they can affect infrastructure, school numbers (distance and capacity), medical provision and traffic amongst others.

EF said the Westfield development (Scotia and Muir Homes) had been ongoing since 2013 but no consultation other than an initial outline had taken place. There has only been 1 application on the planning site since 2019 but this has had no public consultation as yet. (There will be an online meeting on the 25th Jan 2022). Update on 19/00707-Full this was put on hold. EF said that 5 objections are needed for the application to go to a full council meeting, otherwise the decision is made by the planning department of Angus council.

GC said that he was not a fan of online meetings/presentations via teams or Zoom as there seems to be issues with either the content or the connection not working. Face to face meetings are always the best option as plans can be seen more clearly and studied better. BB asked if CC could ask the developer for a face to face meeting. Tob said he would ask the developer at the meeting. EF mentioned comments on the

planning site about CC not commenting on certain applications, EF will check and email any that we may have missed as this is an important issue. The issue with comments will be raised at the next meeting re a response to them. ML mentioned the possible application for a Domino's pizza shop on St James rd; it was noted that there were some objections already on Facebook. If the application goes live then CC will make a comment if required. ML said she had put questions to Guild homes regarding the Strathmore Fields development about what the plans were for sustainability and renewables; she thought the reply was not very good to the questions asked (these can be seen on the planning website). JH said he thought there were issues with developers not explaining things very well or not putting enough information out for the public.

12. Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thurs 17th Feb 2022 at The Stag Forfar at 7 pm (19.00) unless advised otherwise.