

Newtlye and Eassie Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Newtyle Legion Hall on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr Bell, Ms J Buchan, Mrs S Sherriff, Mrs C Matthews, Mrs C McGuiness, Dr J Berg, Mr P Armshaw, Ms G Archer, Cllr R Proctor, Mr D Treffry, Mrs P Small, Mr J Stuart Wilson and Mrs K Band.

Apologies: Cllr McMillan Douglas.

Approval of minutes: Approved with changes by Ms Buchan and seconded by Mrs Sherriff.

'Who Are We'

Mrs Small attended a training event on how we can use social media to promote the work of the community council in a positive way. She shared that in recent months the online behaviour of members is creating a negative perspective of what we do. She shared the need for members to understand their responsibilities and the perception of others when engaging on social media. She also shared the feedback of a recent visitor to our meetings and the roles each of us undertook. Having invited Maggie Sherritt, Angus Council Communities Support Officer, to a previous meeting to try to negotiate our way around some issues this seems to have had no impact so Mrs Small offered to use a different strategy to take this further.

Mrs Small shared that she took on the role of Chair as she believed she had the appropriate skills and qualities of impartiality and a degree in management. She asked if anyone else thought they were better suited to let her know and she would willingly stand down. She invited all members to share their understanding of what the role of our community council was. She asked Mrs Band to hand around paper and pens for all present to do so. While this was happening Mrs Small handed round "Code of conduct for Community Councillors" "The role and responsibilities of a Community Council" "Statutory purposes of a Community Council" and "Disqualification of membership" publications taken from the Scottish Government/Angus Council website and asked that all members read these thoroughly at home. All present shared their understanding and Mrs Small read back all of the statements.

For many years the community council has run very effectively without the need to formalise communications. However, as issues have arisen she feels the time has come to do so and led a discussion around ways to do this and sought members approval to take this forward. She requested a new facebook page with a contact us button, an official email address to enable all communication to be scrutinised if ever this was necessary and that all AOCB be submitted formally. This can either be through the facebook page, by email or for those with no access in writing addressed to the secretary Mrs Band, 9 Monteith Place, Newtyle. PH12 8RL. These can be anonymised in the minutes. She requested that members refrain from making comments on social media about the responsibilities of the community council. She went on to request that following our visit from Maggie Sherritt she would like to reiterate the need to share when there was a conflict of interest when taking things to the CC and then leaving the room to allow the remaining members to discuss the proposal before returning to hear the result of the discussion. Both

councillors shared how this affects their duties and how this takes place. Dr Berg disagreed with this and after a full discussion Mrs Small suggested that in order to allow the meeting to go forward a vote be taken on this issue and will contact all of the members to do so. She asked that members do not drop “this is the responsibility of the community council” or “the community council will do this” on social media posts. If groups wish our support then they should create a proposal and request this to be added to our agenda. With the support of our councillors we will be able to help them to access some of the support that they need to take their proposals forward. However, our role as volunteers and community councillors does not include taking on all local projects and “taking responsibility” for them. If we personally wish to support a project then that is a personal decision and we should declare an interest as discussed when discussing this within the meetings. Groups are very welcome to use our meetings as a forum to share the progress they are making and help keep the community updated through our minutes. Members should not attend meetings on behalf of the community council if they hold a personal interest in the items to be discussed.

Cllr Proctor shared how well the community council conducts its business with our current chairperson at it's helm and that we have many success stories we should celebrate.

We then continued with the general meeting

Matters arising from minutes:

1. Participatory Budget: Dr Berg said there is nothing concrete as to how Sustainability Newtyle will spend the money they received but it must cover the objectives of the original application. He said that there could be the possibility of a pop-up farmers market in the Wharncliffe Hall using local producers. He suggested that the Community Council should set up a table to promote ‘who we are’.
2. Pedestrian crossing/speed in the village/parking in South Street: We still have had no feedback from Angus Council re. any of these issues. Mrs Band emailed Andrea Strachan, but up to date of meeting no reply. Cllr Proctor to chase this up with Craig Hudson.
3. Paths Network: The mandate for the bank has now been sorted and they now have access to the bank account. There AGM is to be held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 in The Legion Hall at 8.15pm and all are welcome. Mr Treffry has still had no contact from Walter Scott.
4. Lighting in the village: There has been no further response re. the lighting.
5. Community Survey: Cllr Bell is going to check with other Community Councils to see if they have ever put out a survey. As there were no ideas brought to the meeting as to what to put in the survey, members present were asked to forward any suggestions to Mrs Band as soon as possible. As was previously discussed Maggie Sherrit from Angus Council will help us compile it once we decide on the content.
6. Street Sweeper: No further forward with this. Mrs Small shared that the issues are two fold, the street is monobloc which contributes to a huge noise as he trundles his barrow along the street but his bins are also in Monteith Place meaning that regardless

- of where he starts he needs to visit our street to empty these. Dr Berg suggested that we ask for him to start his day at different ends of the village each time.
7. Active Travel: There has been no luck in getting an evening session around the survey. Dr Berg thanked Cllr Proctor for getting the project as far as this. Ms Archer refused comment as she shared there is a complaint being dealt with regards this at present.
 8. Litter Picking: Mrs McGuinness applied to The Community Clean Up and Fly Tipping Prevention Fund and has successfully received £300 to buy Hi-Viz vests, litter pickers, gloves etc. Congratulations and well done.
 9. Traffic cone and barrier near the entrance to Ingliston Farm: Cllr Proctor has investigated this, and culvert works are scheduled for April, so hopefully barrier and cone will then be removed, as it has been in place for eighteen months or more.
 10. Water Pressure: Cllr Bell contacted Scottish Water regarding this issue, and they replied saying water pressure has always been high in the area, so they have recently put improved water pressure management in place. Managing pressure better helps reduce the loss of water via leakage and the risks of bursts on the public water network. High pressure can potentially affect plumbing or appliances within customers homes. Pressure monitoring is still ongoing. Could everyone check their stopcocks are fully open as this could also restrict the pressure of water entering your house. Anyone still experiencing difficulties should contact Scottish Water on their helpline number.

Resilience: There is to be a Winter Resilience Teams meeting with Angus Council on Monday 7th March 2022 at 6pm via Microsoft Teams – Dr Berg offered to attend Mrs Small will check her diary and confirm if she can also attend or not.

Hall Resilience: Mr Treffry has contacted Ms Semple in Angus Council regards insurance for volunteers for resilience centre and winter clearing etc.

Mr Treffry has also compiled a draft Emergency Plan for the hall. He also asked about wording around GDPR Mrs Small covered this in recent training and will advise.

Mrs Matthews also told us that a grant application had been sent away today for improvements in the hall for resilience use and explained what it entailed.

A.O.C.B.

The subject of the appalling events in Ukraine were discussed and Cllrs were asked if Angus Council were aware of any help that is being given. They told us that The Scottish Government so far have sent four million pounds of aid. It was also discussed that some of the local churches were receiving and organising items of aid to be sent out.

Mrs Small requested permission to spend funds for new noticeboard to go outside the Legion Hall for Community Council minutes etc. to be displayed. This can also be shared by The Legion Hall for hall events and for information connected to the Resilience Centre. The permission for a noticeboard must be approved by The Legion Hall Committee, before we can go ahead with this. Mrs Matthews will get back to us once she has spoken with the other members of the committee re size and position etc. There were no objections.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 5TH APRIL 2022 AT 7.45PM IN THE LEGION HALL.