

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on Thurs 17th Feb 2022 at 7 pm at The Stag Forfar

Present:

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

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus Councillors: - Cllr Lynne Devine (Cllr LD)

Others; -

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

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

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: : JM mentioned Taylor St and the new development , he said that there were still issues with the junction between Taylor St and the new access rd. to the development incl speeding safety issues. LC said that the speeding is a police issue. BB gave feedback on his request about freeports from Angus council economic department . BB said that the person from the department did not know about the proposal but would get in touch with colleagues from Dundee. GC mentioned the paths around the loch being blocked by trees and also some flooding, he asked if these issues were going to be dealt with as this may effect visitor numbers to the loch and to Forfar. LC says this needs to be sorted as permanent damage may be done to the paths or scarring to the areas next to the path. GC said also that there is a need to get the potholes filled. KP asked if people could not be allowed to chop up the trees themselves to be used in wood burners etc. This may be a good suggestion. Cllr D said that the sign at Peacocks had been fixed/removed. The issue with empty properties is landlords ask for too high a rent, however so the properties may be empty for some time.

4. Chairperson's Report: LC looking to get a stall at the Angus farmers market to help promote the community council and maybe get some new members. Issues around the town again with litter, try and get a litter pick set up and hopefully members of the public will come along. LC talked about receiving scam phone calls around money being spent on your bank card. LC said that Police were very helpful in dealing with the situation and important that the message gets out to people re scam call, also important to report them. EF said that the calls can also be reported to trading standards and KP said she had received one, there followed a discussion about various types of scams and about the importance of the public being made aware of all the different types. If anyone is ever unsure cancel the call and contact bank etc.

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report: Correspondence sent out about Fly tipping consultation. Litter picking equipment now been received and ready for use, either by CC or other groups.

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

7. Police & Fire Service Report: No report, Police report usually received after meeting, anything to be raised send to Secretary who will pass on to Police.

8. Local Councillor Update: Cllr LD spoke about the toilets at the loch and trying to find a location/premises for a pami toilet. LD said she had approached Aldi but had heard nothing back yet. Spoke to Scottish water about the equipment being moved and that there is now a solution to the sewerage issue. Also spoke about the new Alzheimer's centre (for early onset dementia) at the Strathmore cricket club, it has been decorated and new staff have been appointed to run it. They are awaiting furniture and will be open 3 days a week Tues, Weds and Thurs. Following on from these hopefully new ones in Arbroath and Montrose will open as well. The centre has been funded by the lottery for 14 months. Hopefully other agencies such as welfare rights will get involved. LC said there was a similar centre called forget me nots in Banchory and was very well attended.

At the council meeting Carnoustie golf club was discussed and how it can be funded going forward and to keep it as a Open championship venue, There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour and the committee are looking at a new strategy and to see if old system of community wardens could be brought back. New Agri centre opening at the Mart in Forfar funded by Tay cities deal to look at new innovations. New housing has been approved for Taylor St next to early learning centre, it will affordable part buy type, also new social housing (housing association) to be built in Lour Rd on old market garden site. LC said there had been reports of workmen fitting new smoke alarms not being let into some council houses can this be looked at. BB said if new housing is to be built in Lour Rd then the problems of drainage should be looked at and a fix be part of any new house building as otherwise issues will arise again re flooding. , EF said need to object at planning stage. Cllr LD said budget for drain clearing has been increased, KP mentioned drains in South St needing cleaning.

9. AOCB:- Re fly tipping consultation EF said it was a bit bland and LC said disappointed in the way it was sent out and does not go far enough. EF spoke about response to comments on Guild homes planning application about the community council and what our response should be. Decision to send a letter to Guild homes noting our unhappiness about the comments.

BB spoke about the proposed changes to the wording of the community council role profile. BB said the wording would help take some of the pressure off about what issues community council should get involved with. Wording changed to proactively act on very issues and to choose what issues they act on. EF said that community council need help with administration and leaflets etc. The community councils are under funded and under resourced. BB said that in France there are 380 local council areas compared with 32 in Scotland, some areas are very small villages, and they control all the local money and services. Maybe this model could be used in Scotland.

10. Subgroup updates:

All meetings cancelled till covid restrictions are over.

11. Planning Applications: See appendix 1

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.