

INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 21st March 2022 via Zoom.

Present: Gus Leighton (Chairperson), Claire Wilson (Minute Secretary), Alan Budge (Treasurer), Kate Skene (Planning Liaison), Dick Robertson, Ann Johnston and 1 members of the public.

In attendance: Cllr Myles, Cllr Nicol and Cllr Braes

Apologies: Judith Gallacher, Pamela Cottam and Tony Seivwright.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved following 2 amendments requested by Cllr Myles (clot busting drugs can be administered by Paramedics and can be administered even after 1 hour).

Minutes proposed by Ann and seconded by Dick and will now be posted on the website and sent to Angus Council and the NHW co-ordinator.

Action: Claire

Planning and CNP Report

Three applications have been submitted for the Inveresk area.

Bellfield, Little Brechin – Application for timber built stable block and hard standing – this build will house 2 stables for the resident’s personal use.

Hunthill, Lethnot – Application for extension.

Dalhousie Lodge, Edzell – Application for extension and refurbishment.

It was agreed at the meeting that none of the applications required comment.

Judith has contacted Planning regarding fencing and gates at the former East Mains farm site. The Council will look into this.

Cllr Nicol stated that the Planning Department are down 3 Officers and 1 Lawyer. Cllr Braes stated there was a national shortage of Planning officers and this was causing a backlog.

Aberdeenshire

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

Treasurer’s Report

Opening Balance	£1038.70
Secretary Fee for Nov and Dec	- 50.00
Zoom Fees	- 14.39
Donation to EVIS	- 400.00
Closing Balance	<u>£574.31</u>

EVIS have been in contact and Alan will ensure the cheque with the Guild Home’s donation is transferred to them as soon as possible.

Police Report

Sgt Mustard has been off unexpectedly and promised that a Police Report will follow shortly. This will be distributed to ICC members once received.

It was known that there had been an incident of house breaking within Edzell, but no other details were available.

Recurring items

Speeding within Edzell

Still no VAS data available (despite the Police Report from February having some data. Cllr Braes will contact the Roads Department to remind them to send the data to Gus. **Action: Cllr Braes**

Gus will continue to push for a meeting with Police Scotland, MSP and local Councillors regarding speeding within the area. The Chief Inspector of Angus has stated that she would ensure that Police are represented at such a meeting. **Action: Gus**

At the end of the meeting Alan stated that there had been several comments on the local Facebook Page from residents regarding the continued speeding in the village.

AFTERNOTE: The VAS data has yet to be given to all Angus Councillors. The Roads department then expects action to have the 20mph zones made permanent.

Defibrillator Insurance

EVIS have been in contact and will look at the possibility of adding the defibrillator to the property list of EVIS. ICC would continue to check the defibrillator and replenish any consumables. ICC will await confirmation of this from EVIS.

It was confirmed that the defibrillator at the Edzell Health Centre was being held within the Health Centre until the cabinet on the outside is fixed. The Brechin Rotary (who donated the defibrillator and cabinet) are aware of the situation and are dealing with the repairs to the cabinet.

School Warning Lights

The lights continue to constantly flash at Edzell School and continue to flash at inappropriate times at Stracathro (0615hrs) despite both issues being reported.

Riverside Path

No update as Judith and Tony were not at the meeting.

HGVs through Edzell Arch

Alan has had difficulty in obtaining details for a contact with the local company. However, he has now obtained details so will update with any progress at the next meeting. **Action: Alan**

Stracathro Hospital

Surgical Unit and Theatre have re-opened at Stracathro following a lengthy period of minimal activity due to Covid.

Old Edzell Engineering building at Inchbare

Cllr Braes has contacted planning and to their knowledge the site did not have any conditions connected to it. They were unable to give ownership details.

Cllr Myles will contact the former owner to try to get the details of the person he sold the building to so that the trail of ownership can be followed hopefully until the current owner can be contacted. It is thought that there is little the Community Council can do as the site is private.

Speeding in Inchbare

Traffic calming measures will be discussed once the results of the VAS signs data has been reviewed.

Remembrance Wreath

Ann has been unable to talk to the minister of the Gardner Memorial due to her personal commitments but will discuss the situation before the May meeting **Action: Ann**

Glenesk

Tony and Claire have been in contact with DD9 Connections. If the Estate is happy then the seat will go in the layby at Mudloch. Dick told the Community Council that EVIS had submitted 2 areas for siting of a bench. Brechin Healthcare Group will visit both sites before the decision is made. Edzell Woods have not submitted a suggestion for siting a bench yet.

Ward Councillors' Report

Cllr Myles spoke regarding the local elections in May.

He also attended the opening ceremony (by Shona Robison MSP – Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government) of the Inchbare affordable housing development with the other Councillors this morning. It was noted that there were nearly 500 applications for the housing and Cllr Myles emphasised the need for affordable housing in the area.

Angus Council has held their budget meeting and Angus has the second lowest Council Tax in Scotland. He also commented on poor behaviour by some of his fellow Councillors at this meeting with name calling and personal attacks. He did not feel this was appropriate behaviour for Councillors at meetings.

There have been letters sent from SEN regarding compensation for the loss of electricity due to the recent storms. It is unknown if the loss of electricity requires to be continuous before the compensation will be applied (some people in the area had electric restored for a few hours before it went off again).

Someone had been missing up Glenesk on Saturday night. It is reported that they had been found safe the next morning.

Cllr Nicol had missed the last meeting due to an evening meeting of the Valuation Board re: appointing a new Chief Executive. He has also been involved in the Grievance Procedure meeting of Planning.

Cllr Braes has stated that complaints re: Council Housing issues/repairs has slowed down recently although there is a significant backlog of work to be done within Housing. This is frustrating for the residents. A contractor has now been appointed to take over the current contract which still has 2 years to run (former contractor pulled out).

Cllr Myles then spoke again regarding the event held between Tayside Contracts and local producers at the Strathmore Hall in Forfar regarding school meals. Cllr Nicol added that there is a poor uptake of school meals even for pupils who are entitled to the meals for free. Kate Skene added that she did not think the food was "bad", but the menus were repetitive, and the options offered together needed to be reviewed to allow better choices. Cllr Myles said that the main issue mentioned from a survey held with the secondary school pupils was that the queues were long which meant that the pupils who were at the end of the queue had little choice with what remained.

Cllr Braes spoke about the tight financial constraints within Tayside Contracts. As they are an industrial caterer the focus is on unit price. He felt that it may be difficult to work within their budget if using local producers, but he was very glad to hear those local producers were interested. Cllr Nicol wondered as people's financial constraints were tightened then there may be more take up of school meals.

Ann spoke about Seagreen who are the firm responsible for directing the energy from the wind turbines off the Angus coast to onshore. Seagreen used all non-local companies to assist with this project however there have been recent issues with the companies having financial issues which has meant local companies have been asked to take on the work.

Correspondence

Grit Bin

A grit bin has gone missing from Inveriscandye Road area in Edzell when alterations were made to the road in preparation for the Duriehill development.

Gus has contacted the Roads Department to seek a replacement. The Council are unaware of where the bin may be but will organise a replacement/relocation of a grit bin at their earliest convenience.

Buskhead Bridge

A local newspaper reporter, who had been walking in the area, has sent correspondence to the ICC regarding having to wade through the river due to being unable to pass over Buskhead Bridge. They were keen to publish an article on this issue. The reporter has been put in contact with Ken Goddard who was forming a local resident's group to take this issue forward. Judith (who has had a lot of involvement with this issue over the years) has also been in dialogue with the reporter. The item will be removed from the ICC Agenda but will be updated when information is available.

Angus Council Resilience Grant

This is a scheme to formalise the gritting of pavements by local residents. People would be allocated areas to grit and would get Health and Safety training and would be insured through the Council. Gus has spoken to the local Community Councillors, and it is agreed to continue with the current informal situation at the moment and revisit it should there be a need.

Brechin Healthcare Group

Having thought the Brechin Infirmary project was all but over, they have had contact and meetings with various ministers and MSPs. One of these contacts has been Malcolm Cowie who is the Policy Manager for the Community Empowerment team at the Scottish Government who, although has to be impartial, appears to be supportive of their project. He is attempting to get NHS Tayside to agree to a meeting but there has been no feedback as yet.

They have also sent letters to Lorna Birse-Stewart, chair of Tayside Health Board and Health Minister Humza Yousaf but as yet they have not even received an acknowledgement of their 20th February correspondence.

The group has also had a short meeting with senior members of Angus Health and Social Care Partnership who wanted to know what they did at the Jenner Centre. They also wanted to know how they could assist them with improving services to Brechin, Edzell and the Glens.

The Jenner Centre is continuing to be busy with the Footcare service fully booked until May. The local transport support to various medical appointments has been hugely successful and they are looking at ways of continuing this service beyond end March.

The BHG have also assisted in the supply of two 24hr ambulatory BP monitors. (1 to Brechin HC + 1 Edzell HC). These monitors are important to monitor blood pressure over a 24 hour period.

Cllr Myles was hopeful that the BHG could work along side NHS Tayside to make progress.

AOCB

SSEN Newsletter

Gus gave a brief summary of the newsletter with the main subject being a probable upgrade of the cables on the pylons.

Period Products

This is a project to ensure that sanitary products are available in as many toilets as possible (public, restaurants, hotels, workplaces etc). There was a discussion regarding the suitable points for this in the ICC area. It was agreed that Claire would note the contact details on the minutes, and this would allow local businesses, residents and groups to access this link if they wished.

Link: <https://www.freeperiodangus.co.uk/hey-girls-forms/>

Cycling, walking and safer routes grant

This grant is open again for applications. Judith will apply for the Wishop burn bridge again.

Action: Judith

Inchbare Community Garden

Gus commented that at the opening of the Inchbare affordable housing they plan to have a community garden area. This should encourage local gardeners and schoolchildren to assist with the planting of both flowers and vegetables.

Local Elections

Cllr Myles stated that after 23 years he would not be standing for election in May. Cllr Braes also stated that he would not be standing for election in Edzell/Brechin area this election. Gus thanked both Councillors for their contribution to the Inveresk area.

Gus thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting: No meeting in April

Monday 16th May 2022 @ 1930hrs via Zoom

Issues unable to be resolved fully by ICC

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Date Removed from Agenda</u>
Margie Bridge, Lethnot	BBridge 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. January 2021 - Gus has received a quote for repair of road from Breedons – sent to Roads Dept. February 2021 – Council still maintain surface is adequate and the work unnecessary. Letter sent from MSP to Council in March 2021 – Council maintains road surface adequate. September 2021 – Gus has paid from his own monies to have a sign sited on private land warning cyclists of dangerous road surfaces	October 2020. Returned to Agenda January 2021 with quote. Removed from Agenda-February 2021.

<p>Wishop Burn Bridge/Pathway from Little Brechin to Brechin/Pathway from Westside to Inchbare</p>	<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. Reapplication for Wishop Burn made March 2022</p>	<p>Removed from Agenda – March 2022</p>
<p>Blind Corner at Blairno, Lethnot</p>	<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>
<p>Buskhead Bridge, Glenesk</p>	<p>Courier reporter keen to do article on closed bridge due to having to wade through the river. Directed to Ken Goddard, Judith and Tony. Updates will be put on the Minutes when available.</p>	<p>Removed from Agenda – March 2022</p>