

**Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting on Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom.**

**Present:**

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

**Minute Secretary:** - None

**Angus Councillors:** - Cllr Ian McLaren (Cllr IM) and Cllr Colin Brown (Cllr CB)

**Others;** - Members of the Public: Dave Gardner

**1. Welcome and Apologies** – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Jim McMilian (JM) ,James Gray-Cheape (JGC) and Cllr L. Devine.

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

**3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting:** Committee asked for Forfar loch to be added as an agenda item to look at plans to improve the area. GC said that Forfar loch used to be bigger and this causes problems with drainage. Need the paths to be repaired and cleared of tree debris and work done to improve the bridges. Council may need time to do this . Forfar should be proud of the loch and efforts to promote its use should be taken to make it a nice place to visit.

EF said that community council were aiming to have a stall at the Forfar farmers market on April 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm to advertise ourselves and try and recruit new members. Will need some literature for the stall, Tob to arrange.

**4. Chairperson's Report:** The chair said she sees a lot going on round the town with various developments taking place and that the old leisure centre is to be demolished. There are still issues with the paths around the loch and with fly tipping opposite Aldi. Spoke about the new fly tipping bill going through Scottish parliament and hopefully this would help with these issues going forward. The bill is needed and hopefully people will get behind it. As mentioned in matters arising may be a group such as “friends of Forfar loch “ could be started with various groups to look at improving the loch and what people might like to see there. Funding will be needed for this. Dave Gardner said that it was a great location on our doorstep and should be used for educational and nature activities. Chair spoke about the new toilets being built at the loch and was looking forward to them being open, shame no PAMIS toilet but hopefully one could be put in the town centre. RW asked re ground opposite Aldi and if CC could do anything, LC said not until bill gets passed. GC said national bill is needed as there are problems around loch Lomond with tipping in laybys etc. Need CCTV etc and people to report issues. GC said that zero waste Scotland may be able to help, GC to contact them for CC.

**5. Secretary Correspondence/Report:** Various correspondence sent out to with free period products, Tay cities park and choose strategy, Angus living well survey and winter resilience funding details. Information on training materials also sent out.

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

**7. Police & Fire Service Report:** No reports.

**8. Local Councillor Update:** Cllr IM due to technical issues unable to report. Cllr CB said that the budget over the next 5 yrs. is going to be very difficult to balance Cllr IM concurred on this. See appendix A for Cllr LD comments. Cllr Brown mentioned the battery farm at Whitehills and the issue with the application being allowed he was against it, The battery farm is too close to a school, hospital, playground/sports field and there are concerns over safety however these fell on deaf ears, green credentials should not be used when they are so close to urban areas.

#### **9. AOCB**

RW mentioned styles and paths that require work done on them around the local area, to be looked into. Forfar community council are holding a coffee morning at Legion Scotland on sat 26<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am – 1pm in aid of the conflict in the Ukraine, all monies raised to go to the Red cross.

#### **10. Subgroup updates:**

All meetings cancelled till covid restrictions are over. Forfar loch and Pamis toilets to be added to this section.

**11. Planning Applications:** Extension to Lemon tree nursery proposed looking to use part of the old army unit. No objections.

EF spoke about the new NP4 planning rules and how they will effect local plans moving forward. When the new changes come in the Angus local plan will no longer be in effect. It will be replaced by NP4 framework plans. There will be 5 action areas and Angus will be in with Tayside, Glasgow , Edinburgh, Ayrshire and Loch Lomond and Trossachs. There may be chance of being put in with Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray etc ( this may be better as we are similar to these areas rather than the big cities etc. Nothing specific for Angus though. Angus council response to this has said that the report is too complex and will override local plan. There is limited reference to Angus and that the action areas need to be looked at again. Planning officers not getting guidance on the document. A discussion followed about the NP4 and planning issues, concerns about local plans as local knowledge may be lost as well and not enough input from locals as it will be a far reaching plan. Issues over food growing and making sure building is stopped on arable land. Need to look at brownfield sites and re-use of old buildings and repurposing them for other uses. Issues about infrastructure and services not being given more weight when planning looked at in rural areas.

**12. Date and time of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thurs 21st April 2022 at The Stag Forfar at 7 pm (19.00).

#### Appendix A.

- Everything is being done to clear trees around the Loch, but there's such a lot to do and not a big team to do it.
- There are going to be temporary signs for the Caravan Park at the entrance to the Loch.
- Resurfacing the paths round the loch are on a list of CWSR (Cycling, Walking, Safer Routes) priorities and hopefully it won't be too long for this to be addressed. We've had an email from one of the organisers of the Park Run regarding this, so I'll be following this up.
- Nothing from Aldi, but I know officers are looking at an across Angus plan for changing places toilets.