

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on Thurs 21st April 2022 at 7 pm at The Stag Forfar.

Present:

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

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus Councillors: - Cllr Lynne Devine. (Cllr LD)

Others; - Members of the Public: Marley Laurie (ML) and Dave Gardner (DG) PC Scott Anderson Police Scotland (SA)

1. Welcome and Apologies – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Brian Batson, James Gray-Cheape, Jim McMillian and Cllr Ian McLaren.

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

3. Police & Fire Service Report: No fire report. Police report presented by PC Scott Anderson a new community officer has taken up post. A new initiative has started to help stop hate crime. NO MORE HATE CRIME Police trying to promote it and to point out that it can be reported anonymously. During the Last month 422 calls were received in the Forfar area. 25% of these calls are of a criminal nature the others are of a non criminal nature. In group 1 calls which are the most serious there was 1 serious assault and 19 crimes of fraud. More details can be found in the monthly police report. There are plans in place to put more resources into combatting rural crime as this as been increasing. Cycle crime was mentioned by GC and LC particular of electric bikes, SA said that there had been a rise in cycle crime nationally but he did not have local figures, he would try to find out. Cllr LD mentioned she had had reports of noise from the caravan park wardens, however SA said that the Police had only received 1 call directly from the caravan park. Extra patrols will be carried out at the country park now the lighter nights were here. Patrols are to be carried out around Forfar loch area on cycles and the Police will speak to the youths. EF mentioned that the signs on the doors of the new toilets had been damaged, SA said that extra patrols and CCTV would be a deterrent. ML said that kids on off road bikes were going around the old quarry at balmashanner hill, SA said any issues can be reported and that people need permission from the landowner to use bikes on private land. EF mentioned loud motorbike at Kirrie hill and the fact it was weaving in and out of people and equipment on the hill. EF asked about issue with a 9 yr. old child who had been seen starting the engine of a vehicle and was unaccompanied at the time, SA again any issues should be reported to the Police and can be reported via the form on the monthly report. PS Anderson was thanked for his report and left the meeting.

4. Muir Homes Presentation: Nicola Cowan-Hill (NCH) and Andrew McCaffety (AM) were at the meeting with an update on the Westfield development on behalf of Muir homes. They reported that this development was in the local plan and half the site was Muir homes and the other half was Scotia homes which they could not comment on. The application was first put in 2019 and a master plan was submitted in 2020 as part of the development and hopefully the plan will go to Angus council committee soon for approval. On the planning site it seems as if nothing much is happening, however reports from SEPA, Scottish water and council reports on noise and roads have been done. Also work on the ancient monument plan has been carried out. On the back of this work the plan should now meet the council guidelines and alleviate any concerns they may have had. The original plan for 175 houses has now changed to 134 as a row of house along side Glamis Rd have been removed from the plan. The plan now moves into the statutory body stage and hopefully this will move things along, and the building can start.

The PAN has been re-issued so that Angus council will act on the plan and Muir can make a start and any appeals can be made against any comments etc. The plan shows both roads in case there are any issue about pavement's etc. Cllr LD asked if this would cause any issues with the core path through the site, NC said there would be no effect to the core path. LC asked if a set of plans could be placed somewhere so the public can get to view them. NCH said that this would be beneficial and hopefully an empty shop window could be found to do this. ML asked if there was an allocation of parking spaces for visitors and for electric car charging points in the plan. NCH said this was up to Angus council roads/parking department to decide if these should be part of the plan permission. ML asked about affordable housing and what this would be either for social rent or low-cost ownership model. NCH said again this was down to Angus council to set the type and style of affordable housing to be built in the plan this must be 25% of the total homes. EF asked about the type of heating to be fitted in the new houses, would it be air source, or underground source heating and whether use of solar panels would be used. NCH said it would be air source as underground is not as reliable now and solar power may be looked at but there are issues with some types of panels now. Tob mentioned passive heating, NCH said that at the current time the cost of this type of design for housing is still too expensive but will be looked at in the future. TOB asked about how factors outside the control of the developer may affect the plan things such as health and education provision in the town, particularly in that area. NCH said this was up to the council but if a new school or medical centre were needed then a contribution would be asked for from the developer towards the cost of these facilities. ML asked about shop provision and 20 min neighbourhoods. NCH said that the development met the guidelines for the distance to the local shops, Tob said that it was not an easy walk however. No provision in the plan for new shop and a discussion followed about local neighbourhoods and using vehicles less, it was said that it can be exceedingly difficult to attract a business to open in a new area as no guarantee it would be viable. There will be an online public meeting on the 18th May more details to follow. NCH and AM were thanked for attending the meeting and their presentation and for their answers to our questions. They then left the meeting.

5. Matters Arising: GC said he had spoken to Zero waste Scotland and a scheme called Dumb dumpers was mentioned. GC said that he was asked to fill out a form to return to Zero waste Scotland and they would be in touch with Angus council. EF said the farmers market stall had to be cancelled as EF had a family emergency and as there were not enough other people to staff the stall it was agreed to not go ahead. EF will look to get another date arranged.

6. Chairperson's Report: Not much to report that had not already been said, however good to see a return to face-to-face meetings as these were better than zoom or teams meeting.

7. Secretary Correspondence/Report: TOB asked for the groups permission to contact the social supermarket and angus food bank re the free period products scheme being put out via community councils and that there was a small grant of £200 to us for advertising and promotion of the scheme, this was agreed by the group. It was mentioned about the new style fire alarms and difficulties in getting them fitted and the misinformation about them. Comments were made that battery operated ones can be fitted, mains wired do not have to be fitted if each alarm is connected to all the others that is all that matters and that if you can connect a tablet or computer to the Wi-Fi then you should be able to connect them up.

8. Treasurer's Report: Nothing to report other than accounts about to be audited for the year ending 31st March 2022

9. Local Councillor Update: Cllr Devine reported that new signs for the caravan park are to be put up to point people to the correct entrance.

10. AOCB: TOB proposed Mr Dave Gardner to become a cop-opted member of Forfar community council and this was seconded by LC, all agreed to welcome Dave Gardner as a new member of Forfar community council.

KP mentioned the new toilet at the loch and that the lock for the key was too high for someone in a wheelchair etc. to access. It was explained that the toilets were to be open during the day and were not part of the radar key scheme for disabled toilets. The toilets will be locked at night, times of opening can be found on Angus council website.

11. Subgroup updates:

i. Forfar loch: A new sub-group to look at what can be done to improve the facilities and paths around the loch. Name suggested for the group to be "Friends of Forfar loch." We will be looking to involve other groups around the loch such as the cricket, rugby and sailing clubs. Cllr LD said that FAN was not running their "Fun around the loch" event this year due to lack of interest. TOB said that Tony Walker from the sailing club would like to be kept informed of the group going forward. LC said that we need to improve things as a lot of kids get shown about nature around the area. DG said that the loch is a jewel in the crown of Forfar and should be better utilised, we need to use social media to put out the message to reach more people. We should have public litter picks and may be speak to the ranger about hooking up with her volunteer group. A discussion followed about the resources at the loch and the lack of investment by Angus council, TOB mentioned the issues the community council faced when trying to get the crazy golf back up and running, there is also the pitch and putt. Any ideas can be brought to the next meeting and hopefully we will have some sub-group meetings soon.

12. Planning Applications: EF spoke about the St Margaret's church development (22/00225) plans to knock down the old church and build a new one. These are re-submitted plans as the old planning permissions were nearly out of date. There may be issues with the style of the building and re-use of the old stone from the demolition as it is in the conservation area. EF gave update on Guild homes appeal; Angus council have until 29th April 2022 to respond, and the public can respond by 6th May 2022. Environmental health raised an issue re noise and the area is not in the plan and the noise is against WHO regulations on noise. EF will keep CC updated on the appeal.

13. Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thurs 19th May 2022 at The Stag Forfar at 7 pm (19.00) unless advised otherwise.