

## **Letham & DISTRICT Community Council**

**Note of meeting** (NB last one before election)

Held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, 7.30pm

Held at, The Feuars' Hall & TEAMS

**Present** Graeme Fraser (chair) Isobel Sword (secretary) Karen Smith (treasurer)  
Sandra Macrae, Julie Wright, Wendy Cameron

**Also Present** Cllr. Serena Cowdy, Cllr. Louise Nicol, Cllr. Shepherd, David Lumgair

**Apologies** Lorraine Brachi, Jennifer Brown, Cllr. Fairweather

NB. Mhairi Dickson unsuccessfully tried to join on TEAMS

1. **Minute of previous meeting approved**
2. **Matters Arising**
  - **School Exclusion zone (now called Letham School Friendly Zone)**  
Following the meeting with local residents, Angus Council has delayed the start of the trial until January, when hopefully the trial will be amended in such a way that local residents will be happy to comply the scheme.
  - **Funding Application**  
Application has been unsuccessful, (placed on the reserve list)
  - Silting up under the stone bridge, in the Den is due to be removed at the start of September.

## **Items for discussion & inclusion in minute to ensure the ongoing Community Council is aware of all the issues which Letham & District Community have been involved with.**

**Letham & District Community Council is responsible for;**

- Community Council bank account – grant from Angus Council. (for administration)  
Recently funding has been provided for equipment which allows for the meetings to held as “hybrid” meetings. It is hoped that this will attract members (& participation) from the wider “district” (NB Office 365 licence is currently the secretary’s personal licence. The broadband is currently paid for by Letham Feuars’ Committee this may no longer continue)  
It is hoped that this equipment can be available for IT sessions dealing with security.
- **Letham Paths Account,**  
(Fairly healthy\_at present with thanks to Friockheim Health Centre for a generous donation and several local people who give a donation annually)
  - maintaining the paths equipment,
  - insurance for the ride on mower, (insured through Angus Council, contact Alison Frew)
  - ensuring the ride on mower is registered with the DVLA (zero registered) Currently registered under the name of Letham Feuars’ Committee because Gammies registered it from new and the Feuars’ Committee paid for it.  
co-ordinating with the Paths Volunteers.

- Ensuring the maintenance and accessibility of the strip of land, in The Den, bequeathed to Letham & District Community Council for public use.
- Letham & District Community Council is a member of Scotways, in recognition of one of the founding members of Letham & District Community, James Cosgrove, who was active for many years ensuring that paths were kept open and used (all over Scotland) but especially around Letham.
- The Cosgrove Award, which the Community Council can make is named for James Cosgrove. The Community Council holds an award ceremony and social event if the award is made.
- The Defibrillator Account (also in a healthy state, at present, again thanks to a generous donation from Friockheim Health Centre)
  - Ensuring the three defibrillators are maintained. (Batteries and pads need to be changed every two years whether they have been used or not. Last changed 2020, at the start of the first lock down)
  - The new national mapping system to identify where defibrillators are now requires a named individual to register and ensure they are checked)
    1. In the Pharmacy. 2. In the Keystore. 3. In outside cabinet / letterbox for 15 The Square (code for access)
  - In the past training has been co ordinated through the CC, (St. Andrews, at cost and through Heartstart (free)
  - Wendy Cameron has offered to take on responsibility for the defibrilaators.
- Health

Up until the “lockdown” some members of the Community Council had been active over good number of years as members of a steering group set up to design greater access to health care through the development of the Letham Health Centre. We were able to get funding for various pieces of equipment such as the blood pressure self-monitoring equipment which is sited in the centre and connected to the various GP surgeries in the area (sadly the lockdown seems to have interrupted this service)
- Park Improvement Fund

The Community Council holds a small fund which was raised, informally by a local group to help with improving the Park.
- Policing

Until the pandemic Community Council meetings were regularly attended by a local Community Police Officer. The Community team also held regular informal surgeries for people to raise concerns or seek advice. Sadly, this has not happened for the last two years.  
PC Suzie Starke has now moved on from the Community team
- Graeme Fraser reported the existence of an online alarm system between local farmers/ landowners, alerting the group to suspicious activity.
- Planning

Members have been involved with virtual meetings, including a pre consultation meeting over the proposed Jubilee Park development. Hopefully an open pre consultation meeting will be held at some point for residents to be able to make comment.

- Dog mess, a recurring complaint, led to the Community Council inviting the local primary school to hold a competition to design suitable signs. Three designs were chosen (by age range) and the three winning designs made into professionally manufactured signs. One placed near the school, one at the entrance to the Park and one at the entrance to the Greens.
- **Funding**  
The Community Council has been successful, in the past, in obtaining funding for various expensive projects, the original ride on mower and the replacement footbridge in the Vinney Den are two examples.

Recently we have not been so successful missing out on the Town Centre funds and just now sadly have received news that the recent application has been put onto the “reserve list”

This recent application was for funding towards being able to record, map and publicise the many paths and green spaces we have around the village. Also, to fund essential safety repairs to one of the paths and to ensure that the path which the Community Council owns is properly marked out. Paul Clarke, Angus Council Countryside Officer has begun updating the map of paths (some were missed when the core paths plan was carried out) He has recommended that the Community Council enter a partnership with Angus Council, so that the OS map can be used to record and publicise the various important features in the area (such as all the rights of way and the position of the defibrillators etc.)

Paul Clarke also recommended that The Community Council work with the Officer (and Councillors) involved with developing safe, active travel routes.

### **The ongoing problem of the unadopted roads in Letham!**

The recent unhelpful protestation by one very vocal local resident that the Feuars’ Committee “chose” to stop being “The Roads Authority” when the Feuars’ Committee became a registered charity (the charitable aims had to be clarified to meet the charity test, the mention in the constitution from 1805 that “one moiety (probably half!) from the rent of the mill” could be used towards roads did not meet the charity test! There was no “roads authority” in 1805 or tarmac or motorised vehicles)

These “unadopted roads” can more realistically be viewed as simply a Public Right of Way...Sadly since Tayside Region put tarmac on them (1995) some have been regularly used inappropriately by drivers and viewed as part of general road system, leading to many potholes developing making them very unpleasant for all users.

No one is required to maintain rights of way, not the landowner, the council, or the general public. The Local Authority, however, (as the roads/ traffic authority) can impose traffic restrictions on a right of way if there is a safety issue with traffic.

If all the unmaintained roads in and around Letham were designated “no through roads for vehicles” (access only) then they could become part of the safe, active travel area. Hopefully they could then be included for consideration towards funding for signs and some suitable repairs to the surfaces.

Funding through Paths for All could be applied for!

### **Treasurer**

Community Council Account. £804.41

Defibrillator Account. £1,641.04

Letham Paths Account £4,069.61 + £100 donation

(invoices still to come, Cosgrove Award brass plaque and Shield)

NB brass plaque now full

- **Election of new Community Council (inaugural meeting due October 2022)**

Discussion regarding members willing to continue

Copies of forms distributed.