

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on Thurs 16th Feb 2023 at 7 pm at The Cross Forfar

Present:

Community Councillors: - T. O'Brien (Tob), Graeme Clark (GC), (JM) Eleanor Feltham (EF), Kathryn Patullo, (KP), Robin Wardhaugh (RW), Dave Gardner (DG), Angela Gilles (AG), Jacqui Garvin (JG), Marley Hunter (MH) and Ian Dickson (ID).

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus Councillors: - Cllr Linda Clark (LC), Cllr Ian McLaren (IM), Cllr Lynne Devine (LD) and Cllr Ross Greig (RG)

Others; -

1. Welcome and Apologies – MH welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from James Grey-Cheape (JGC) and Police Scotland.

2. Minutes from previous Meeting: The minutes from the previous meeting agreed proposed by Ian Dickson and seconded by Dave Gardner.

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: Nothing raised except correction of name from Marley Laurie to Marley Hunter, agreed.

4. Chairperson's Report: This months chair was Marley Hunter and she welcomed everyone to the meeting. MH said that the community council would be looking at picking up to 5 issues or themes to work on during the next year and beyond. This would be discussed later in the meeting.

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report: Emails were sent out about the new NP4 planning guidelines and that hopefully there would be training happening soon. Also to note if anyone had any questions or needed training on being a community councillor to contact secretary who will endeavour to get some training set up by Angus council.

6. Treasurer's Report: Dave Gardner is now the treasurer and will work with TOB to get the bank sorted. Agreed again by community council for Thomas O'Brien to be sole signatory for all banking until the new treasurer is sorted.

7. Police & Fire Service Report: None

8. Local Councillor Update: Cllr Lynne Devine working with the schools, wardens and the police to try and deal with the issues Of youths around the town. Big issues with drugs, drink and vapes. the kids are now hanging out at the town centre and the Reid Park. A lot of vandalism at community Garden Polytunnel damaged and trees uplifted. Problems with intimidation of youth workers and wardens. the age range seems to be kids have missed the transition into secondary school due to COVID. Parents need to take some responsibility for their children's actions. **EF** Ask can parenting orders and Asbos not be used against these children. Councillor Clark Set children's panel is used for these issues. Need to remember that the children are the victims as well. This can be an issue for children and need to let them know that certain activity can spoil their life choices in the future. **JG** Said what is there for them to do? the kids are bored with nothing to do And also Kids do not have respect for authority. The kids need to be engaged with non-confrontational and treated with respect. Parents are engaging, but some not. Kids need somewhere to go. **Cllr Devine** been working with Angus alive and Macmillan on a new Project and using a room at the

Library for services and privacy. Also meeting teachers at the schools as vice convenor of education, lots of outdoor activity going on. Even though there are strikes, the staff are still committed. Cost of living roadshows taking place in Angus various agencies involved. **Cllr LD** Reminder about the Strang's. Mortification fund, This gives out funding for white goods, flooring, etc.

Councillor Linda Clark – spoke about the poverty situation and how dire it is across the county and beyond. Volunteer sector are very helpful, in helping people who find themselves facing decision's on whether to eat or heat, these services are solely needed. As deputy Provost attending golden weddings and 100 birthday celebrations, meeting new citizens coming into Angus and being made Scottish citizens, proud to be the representative for the Angus people and seeing the joy on people's faces at various events. Have found that housing issues and mental health issues are coming to the fore in the past month or so.

Councillor Ian McLaren- Mentioned about Forfar Loch and the work being done, hopefully once the demolition and the paths are completed the area will look good again with the warmer weather coming in the spring.

Councillor Ross Greig- Mentioned complaints about traffic and speeding around the town especially at Gowanbank. Working with Police on getting pop-up Police on the side of the roads to try and stop the speeding. Also working on getting a 40mph limit all the way out to Rescobie loch on the road to Montrose.

ID asked about the old Peacock's store and the blocked pavement and why it is blocked off making people walk in the road. It was answered that it was an issue with the owner of the store and not the council as it was to do with roof repairs, **TOB** said why a lane for pedestrians could not be made for safety. **Cllr LC** mentioned the state of the steps and path leading up to Asda from the town, these need repairs asap. Again this is down to the store and not the council.

9. Forfar CC- What do we want to do? -MH said that rather than just react to situations that come up, it might be better for the community council to pick themes or issues to work on which are manageable with the limited resources the CC have and the number of people on the group. Also a need to consult with the public on the themes and issues we may work on. Discussion took place on what themes or issues the community council will concentrate on in the upcoming year or so. Some of the things brought up were. **Cllr LC** said it is important that the public are listened to and involved where possible with both the community council and Angus council.

ID suggested a litter picking group and to get the public involved. **GC** asked what the emergency services are doing about the flooding issues and what there are doing around resilience. **Cllr LC** said the resilience team can used for different things and that different things are ongoing with poverty issues. It was noted that if anyone had questions for either the Police or Fire service they should be raised so they can be noted on the minutes and **TOB** can send them to the relevant agencies. **DG** said that the community council needs to engage more and in particular use social media to do this. **AG** said she would be happy with signposting the information and also to try and engage with younger people. **EF** said that signposts, benches and bins would be good for the Forfar loch area so visitors and locals can make better use of the Loch and surrounding area. **JG** raised issues with disability access around the town and local area. The issues are with the state of the pavements, either not wide enough, uneven or accessible enough for wheelchair users. Other problems such as going around the loch, you can not access all areas with wheelchairs etc. There are not safe routes to some parts of the town e.g. town centre to Orchardbank and no signposting of facilities. **Cllr IM** suggested a map to show access to various parts of the town.

After further discussion the 5 themes/issues would be as follows.

- i. Friends of Forfar Loch group (may extend to Reid park).
- ii. Consult with the public about the loch and other areas.
- iii. Disability access, issues and rights for the town.
- iv. Engage with younger people.
- v. Resilience group to look at flooding etc.

10. AOCB –

i. Allocation of Football pitches – ID asked who was responsible for the football pitches and the booking of them. There is a problem most times after games of football for there to be discarded plastic tape used to hold socks up and litter included a large amount of plastic water bottles. Can the people who book these not be made to clear up the rubbish or be refused bookings in the future. **Cllr LD** said she would look into this.

ii. Tree planting at Forfar Loch – RW asked on behalf of the Forfar open garden if fruit trees could be planted and a small area be used by the open garden to expand their current location to grow vegetables. At the moment the area is to be returned to grass land and may be used for the play park extension, a few new trees are planned.

iii. EF- had been in touch with Sean Maxwell from housing to attend a meeting to talk about housing policy in terms of building. Other suggestions for people to attend future meetings were someone who deals with resilience, NP4 planning, Police, Fire service and disability access officer.

GC mentioned a call from the company proposing a solar farm in Forfar, there maybe a chance of a community fund being set up.

11. Subgroup updates:

- I. **Quarry (Lairds)** As Angela Gillies is on the group as living in the area it was agreed that she would take over from Eleanor Feltham as community council rep along with Robin Wardhaugh. No meeting planned at the moment as work has slowed due to fuel costs etc.

12. Planning Applications: Discussion on planning application 22/00859/FULM any comment from community council to be sent to EF to put on application

13. Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thurs 16th March 2023 at 7 pm (19.00) in the cross meeting room Forfar unless advised otherwise. **The chairperson will be Robin Wardhaugh.**