

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on Thurs 16th March 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).

Minute Secretary: - None

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

Others; - Mark Armstrong (MA) Depute Chief Executive Angus council, Tony Walker (TW) Forfar sailing club and Hamish Menzies (HM) member of the public.

1. Welcome and Apologies – R. Wardhaugh welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Mark Armstrong for coming along to talk about the IWMD. Apologies from James Gray-Cheape, Marley Hunter and Ian Dickson.

2. Mark Armstrong Depute Chief Executive, Angus Council. IWMD (International Workers Memorial Day) Memorial presentation. MA explained that the council along with union partners and young people from the community have been working on this after agreeing to sign up to recognise the day after the Scottish government chose to do so. The group agreed to mark the day (28th April 2023) this year by building a memorial bench and planting a tree garden. Forfar as the county town was chosen as the location. Pupils from Forfar academy and members of the unions have worked together to design the bench, the words that will go on the plaque and the tree garden. Pupils were asked to come up with various locations that the items could be placed. The group consulted with the other pupils and 5 locations were shortlisted which must be areas already looked after by the council to keep costs down. Two sites were picked from the 5 and this is now complete. MA told the meeting that the 2 locations were.

1. The Forfar community campus
2. Balmashanner monument.

MA said the group would like the community council views on which would be the best location to choose. A discussion between the people present took place around each location considering ease of accessibility, mobility issues and maintenance. Also, vandalism was mentioned as a factor if Balmashanner was chosen. GC asked if other locations were suitable, MA said that other areas had been but ruled out by the group. Cllr Clark said as an ex-youth worker it was important to respect the views of the young people even if she did not agree with the options suggested. MA said that the group were trying to keep a cohort to keep the youths involved and have ownership of the project in the future. After the discussion it was agreed that the Forfar community campus would be the best location. The chair thanked Mr Armstrong for his time, MA invited the community council to attend the unveiling and dedication ceremony on the 28th of April 2023.

3. Minutes from previous Meeting: Minutes from previous meeting agreed, proposed by Eleanor Feltham, and seconded by Kathryn Patullo

4. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: GC attended the active travel session with Angus council about the routes being proposed to promote walking and cycling in Angus. The 1st area is the Brechin to Montrose and different options were put forward. One was using the old railway line which could tie in with the Caledonia railway society extending their track for the steam trains. This appears to be the best option on the table. The Forfar to Kirriemuir routes were also discussed one of the options has safety

issues as it runs along the main road to Kirriemuir from Forfar. Another option is using the old railway line again, but this has issues with undergrowth, parts of the route been back filled and land ownership. GC said that we need these routes and also need a safe option to get to Dundee from Forfar. It was noted that there could be issues with funding as some of the routes would need a lot of work to bring them back into use. EF said that there is an official path from Padanaram but at the moment part of it is blocked due to a fenced off dog exercise area.

The meeting of the resilience group was postponed due to Angus council staff having to deal with an emergency. It was agreed that TOB, GC and AG would attend as community council reps at the next meeting due to numbers attending. Other community councillors would get the chance to attend any follow up meetings.

5. Chairperson's Report: Acting chair Robin Wardhaugh had nothing to report but thanked everyone for making the meeting run smoothly.

6. Secretary Correspondence/Report: TOB reported the following that had been sent out: Active travel routes survey, training courses for councillors, online sustrans workshop 29th March, NP4 training 22nd April, community council engagement survey and the cotton of lownie solar farm presentation at East and Old church on the 29th march. TOB reminded community councillors to read the What's on newsletter as this is helpful for the community councillors to get information.

7. Treasurer's Report: Nothing to report, year end accounts to started shortly.

8. Police & Fire Service Report: None. It was agreed to send a letter to the Police Inspector for some one to attend the meetings.

9. Local Councillor Update: Cllr McLaren:- Reported that the path works at the Loch had now been mostly finished, a few problems to iron out with some flooding and fitting of new lights he will speak to Graham Dailly. Need to sort issues with the double yellow lines at Robertsons terrace and outside Best wishes shop as these should have been removed when new car spaces were put in Castle St. Issue with the pavement outside old Peacocks is being looked into, there should be a clear fenced off pedestrian lane to allow people to get past.

Cllr Clark:- Housing and vulnerable people have been top of her list of issues in the last month. The housing system in place is not the best but it is the fairest way to allocate housing. Issue with poverty and house insurance , people need to know that an option to get a good price is available from the housing department. There are concerns still around litter but good to see local groups helping to fix this. Issues still with fuel poverty but good to see the local churches etc offering warm havens for warmth and food. Issues with Doctors and getting appointments and especially with dentists at the moment and NHS treatment. Good to see allotments and green spaces being used to grow food, RW mentioned that the Forfar open garden is looking to expand from its base in Craig o Loch Rd.

Cllr Devine:- Mentioned the EV charger at the Myre is still a mess, the company have not been back to fix it, council officers have got an idea to fix the issue. Re football pitches from previous meeting and litter etc, council say that it is in the rental/lease agreement not to leave litter behind, people renting the pitches will be reminded of their responsibilities when booking. The Reid hall is now back open and hopefully will start to be booked again by the community etc. Took part in litter picks and up to 30 people attend different locations. Attended various meeting including Burnside school, lots of work done by staff to get the kids back into the school. Issue reported with people not using the well being centres at the churches etc.

Cllr Greig:- TOB raised an issue with dog fouling and the number of fines given out which is extremely low. Cllr Greig said he had spoken to the dog warden , parks, and communications to try and get the message

out about not letting your dog foul public places such as pavements, parks, and cemeteries. Hopefully this will do something about the problem this also includes litter. Using communications to get the message out to people. There has been a change in legislation about dogs on leads in parks etc. JG said there is a big problem with dog fouling in the town centre, housing schemes and the cemetery. Need to start a campaign to call people out to pick up their dog mess. EF mentioned that the rules of use of the loch and parks management is not published at the loch. EF spoke to the warden who said it is published in Arbroath. HM said that parents should be held responsible for their children's actions to help stop the vandalism in the parks and loch. TW asked what is being done about the issue of the youths causing problems in the town. It was noted that there is a group of various agencies working to try and do something about this issue. JG said that a pool league for youths was about to start in the back room of the Queens hotel to try and give the kids somewhere to go, it is awaiting a licence and will run 6-10pm on Monday's.

10. AOCB –

Cotton of Lownie/Kingsmuir solar farm planning. 2 members of the village from Kingsmuir area attended the meeting looking for advice on what they could do to object against the proposed solar farm (23/00011/PAN) development at cotton of lownie. EF mentioned that there were 6 planning constraints (***contrary to development plan (structure or local plan), appearance (design, materials etc), Traffic, parking or access problems, Residential amenity (noise, overshadowing, overlooking), Drainage problems, and effect on setting of listed buildings or character of conservation area***) that can be argued against, and these are the best way to engage so the objections will be considered by the planning officers. TOB said they could form a working group to gauge local opinion and have a public meeting to get other local people to engage and see if there is a majority who wish to object. EF talked about some of the issues of solar farms such loss of food producing land, damage to soil and wildlife. There are also environmental concerns such as contamination and risk of dangerous chemicals in the air in case of a fire. EF said that the community council can put in an objection, but this must be within the rules and have evidence to back up and comments. , and the community council may vote in favour, or it may not. EF said the community council can help with getting information about the development and help the community to set up a working group. A discussion followed around the pros and cons of solar developments and the location of these types of developments. TOB said it was important to concentrate on the facts and not to be too emotive. RW thanked the members of the public for attending and bringing this to our attention, if any further help is required the community council can be contacted and will do its best to help.

TW from Forfar sailing club gave an update on the clubs plans to build a new club to accommodate the new Skiffs that have been built. The original plan was rejected so now the plan is to put in for a 2-storey building on current location and knock down the garage and build a new one to house the Skiffs. The community council are happy to help where it can with this worthwhile project.

11. Subgroup updates:

- I. **Quarry (Lairds)** No new update.

12. Planning Applications: See appendix A

13. Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thurs 20th April 2023 at 7 pm (19.00) in the cross-meeting room Forfar unless advised otherwise. **The chairperson will be Dave Gardner**

Appendix A

PLANNING UPDATES 16TH MARCH 2023

- 1) **22/00859/FULM 216 HOUSES GUILD HOMES**
Target Decision Deadline 8th May
- 2) **19/00707/FULM WESTFIELD** Traffic requested updated traffic assessment to include committed developments at Orchardbank.
- 3) **Solar Farm Suttieside and battery storage**
Mr Richard Murray offering virtual Zoom meeting to members.
- 4) **Cotton of Lownie Solar Farm 23/00011/PAN** Public consultation Wed 29th March East & Old Church between 14.30 and 19.00.
- 5) **23/00077/FULM**
Craignathro Farm solar farm 8.81 HA (any comments)
- 6) **Information** — Crematorium at Duntrune decision approved.
- 7) **Scot Gov** — Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan Consultation date extended to 09/05/23.