

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on Thurs 18th May 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),), Dave Gardner (DG), Angela Gilles (AG), Jacqui Garvin (JG).

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus Councillors: - Cllr Linda Clark (LC) and Cllr Ross Greig (RG)

Others; -

1. Welcome and Apologies – Acting chair Graeme Clark welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies from Robin Wardhaugh (RW), James Gray-Cheape (JGC), Ian Dickson (ID) and Marley Hunter (MH)

2. Minutes from previous Meeting: Minutes from previous meeting agreed, proposed by KP, seconded by AG.

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: GC gave an update on the active travel plans for cycle paths between Forfar and Kirriemuir and the feasibility study done during April 2023. There were 4 options and there are over 60 pages on the report. However, there are issues with all 4 routes.

Option 1 – was to use the old railway between Forfar and Kirriemuir, this is a good option as it is fairly flat and free of traffic for the most part. Potential cost of this is about £5m due to land issues and parts of the line have been filled in.

Option 2 – Main Rd to Kirriemuir this would need upgrading of the footpath and is dangerous as it is close to the traffic.

Of the other options the 1 to use the back roads to Kirriemuir has issues with some hilly sections the extra distance, cost of this option around £1.8m.

4. Chairperson's Report: Acting chair GC spoke about the role of the community council, and we need more members if we are to do more work in the community.

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report: TOB spoke about the Sustaining Choices programme and an update on this. We had put in a note of interest, however due to the fact that Angus council had carried out a study already it was felt that we should work with them instead. TOB to contact Angus council about active travel study. TOB attended the bi-annual meeting of community councils in Angus. Topics included governance of community councils, Communication and Engagement, Handling complaints and funding. TOB passed on the information about a climate change event taking place at the cricket club in June. More details to be passed on.

6. Treasurer's Report: DG and TOB went through the process at the bank and all the paperwork has been completed so there are now 2 signatories on the bank account. This years accounts are being audited and will be produced at the next meeting.

7. Police & Fire Service Report: None. Cllr Greig suggested that either youth members or the special s attend the meetings however the Police are struggling with volunteers at the moment. Something to look into.

8. Local Councillor Update: Cllr Greig:- Is still working on the speed limits at Gowanbank and Rescobie loch. Council looking into these, Cllr Greig asked for any data on how many accidents there had been on

this stretch of road. A F.O.I request was put into the Police. This revealed 126 accidents in this area. He is looking into setting up a petition with the local community. He spoke to Chief Inspector about Police attending the community council meetings and the need for positive engagement with the community. He attended a group exercise with Police Scotland Fire service Scotland and other agencies at Brechin. Met the local Inspector and looking to set up a meeting with Inspector and community PC's.

A discussion followed about Police numbers and manning levels in various areas of Angus and how this affects crime etc. Cllr Clark said there are issues contacting Police via email and in person. Complaints received re road signage and them being covered by foliage or in a poor state of repair, this needs to be sorted by the roads department.

Cllr Clark:- She mentioned the work done at Forfar loch and the landscaping carried out by the contractors. There are still issues with vandalism to do with the fencing around the area being worked on. Some of the fence posts have been ripped out. She said that due to COVID-19 young people feel disassociated with the world. This might be one of the reasons for the continued vandalism and trouble around the town. She said we need to look at ways to try and alleviate this. A discussion followed on the role of the Police in this and the public reporting issues. Public need to report to the Police and not just put a post on Facebook and also to get a reference number for the report so any follow up can take place.

9. AOCB – AG mentioned issues with buses being cancelled especially at short notice and TOB said they need to look at when buses get cancelled as early morning and early evening are when most people are using them to get to and from work so these should not be cancelled. AG said issues with the routes and the number of buses on those routes. There will be funding issues moving forward with the subsidies as these are not sustainable for the local councils and there is no requirement for them to do this. TOB suggested that the community should run the bus service such as done in the Western isles and in other parts of the world. GC said we need a forum with the bus companies, the council, and the community.

AG mentioned 2 meetings on the 20th May and the 24th of May at S-Mart supermarket about what people think about Forfar and what they would like to see happening in and with Forfar in the future to do with various things such as transport and climate change to name a few.

10. Subgroup updates:

- I. **Quarry (Lairds)** No issues to report, but moving on to stage 2, report to follow.

11. Planning Applications: EF mentioned a leaflet she got from SSEN re a pylon upgrade and a public meeting in Westmuir and Tealing. No correspondence received by community council.

12. Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thurs 22nd June 2023 at 7 pm (19.00) in the cross-meeting room Forfar unless advised otherwise