

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on Thurs 22nd June 2023 7 pm at The Cross meeting room Forfar.

Present:

Community Councillors: - T. O'Brien (Tob), M. Hunter (MH), Graeme Clark (GC), Eleanor Feltham (EF), Kathryn Patullo Robin Wardhaugh (RW), and Ian Dickson (ID).

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus Councillors: - Cllr L. Devine and Cllr I. McLaren.

Others; -

1. Welcome and Apologies – Ian Dickson acting chair for this meeting welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Dave Gardner (DG), J. Gray-Cheape, J. Garvin and A. Gillies.

2. Minutes from previous Meeting: Proposed by KP and seconded by EF.

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: Members attended the Climate change meeting at the cricket club. 15 people in total. Group exercise took place and discussion took place around what people were interested in. Topics were biodiversity, sustainability. It was noted that people thought that action was needed and not talking shops all the time. ID to request a copy of the mins of the meeting.

Discussion took place around pylons after the community council held two meetings in Padanaram hall. The 2 meetings were well attended and a lot of concerns were raised by local people. A meeting is to be arranged with local MP, MSP and SSEN. MH said that these upgrades are needed and that progress happens, burying the cable is 4-6 times more expensive than pylons. Community council to gauge more opinions from the public before issuing a statement.

4. Chairperson's Report: no report as no permanent chairperson.

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report:

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6. Treasurer's Report: End of year accounts okayed by all. It was suggested by TOB that we need to spend the grant money or we lose out on the next year's grant funding. M.H said we should have a laptop for use by the community council. Also expenses should be claimed by community councillors if applicable.

7. Police & Fire Service Report: None, Police report will be sent out once received.

8. Local Councillor Update: Cllr Devine There is still a lot of vandalism around the town especially in Boyle park and the Myre ground. There is a new fund to replace the old leader funding that was from the European Union, hoping some of this will be spent on youth work. A motion was passed in the council chambers about disposable vapes to try and stop young people from smoking them. Need to stop children from vaping as it is bad for their health and also there are health and safety issues with disposable vapes not being recycled correctly. This problem has caused some fires which are very hard to put out due to the type of battery used in these vapes. Cllr Devine attended the climate change meeting and was at the sod cutting ceremony for the new school at Monifieth. Also was at Forfar gala day, this was well attended and went well. KP said that some seating placed around the Myre would be good for the more elderly rather than the straw bales used on the day.

Cllr Ian McLaren: Reported that there will be a lot of temporary traffic lights over the coming weeks as essential repairs will be carried around Forfar. This may lead to some gridlock. Chapel St will be blocked for

11/2 days so no access. Castle St needs the road repaired, some of it has been done. The lights at the old leisure centre on the paths and by the caravan park should now be working. He spoke to traffic enforcement about blue badge holders parking on double yellow lines and blocking drop kerbs and the tactile paving for blind and partially sighted people. Parking across these is not allowed as it makes it unsafe for people to try and cross the road.

9. AOCB: The Andrew Smyth was mentioned and whether it should be brought back in some way and maybe renamed. Community council to look into this and ID to speak to Gordon Ewing about an object for use as an award. MH to look into other forms of trophies etc as awards.

It was asked by KP what was happening with Forfar upcycling and the Angus farmers market. Information to be obtained for the next meeting.

GC asked about tourism in the town and what was going to be done about attractions for people to come here. It was said about the crazy golf and the pitch and putt no longer being there and what could be done to get them back, maybe the community could do this. Other things said were to use the pitch and putt as a foot golf area to attract people as it is easier to play with kids and parents etc than proper golf. Problems again with the toilets this time with the drains. The old tennis courts have been handed back to the council and are a common good asset so any costs to remove them will come from the common good fund. Maybe the skate park could be extended and made as big as it was supposed to be the first time round.

10. Subgroup updates: None

11. Planning Applications: Next stage of appeal for Mark Guild development and Cotton of lownie meeting in July. Westfield development about to be re-submitted.

12. Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thurs 17th August 2023 at The Cross meeting room at 7 pm (19.00) unless advised otherwise.