



**Aberlemno and District  
Community Council Meeting  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, 7.00pm  
Aberlemno Village Hall**

	<p><b>In attendance:</b> Community council members: Russell Bruce (RB), Isabelle Davies (ID), Lynn Bruce (LB), Jacqui Thornton (JT) Local councillors: Gavin Nicol (GN) Police representative: PC Nick McKendrick (NM)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Councillor Jill Scott (JS), Councillor Chris Beattie (CB), Angus Council: Sandra Livingston (SL)</p>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome, housekeeping, attendance and apologies</b></p> <p>Russell Bruce opened the meeting at 7.10pm, thanked all attendees for coming along and introduced the community council members, local councillor and Police Representative.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Minutes from last meeting</b></p> <p>Isabelle Davies proposed the approval of the minutes from the last meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, and this was seconded by Lynn Bruce.</p> <p><b>Action</b> The minutes will now be made available on the Aberlemno.org website.</p>	<b>JT</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Matters arising from previous minutes</b></p> <p><b>Action</b> At the April meeting Chris Beattie agreed to ascertain when the barrier repairs will be completed at Netherton and the Brechin junction. As Chris was not present, no update available on this action.</p>	<b>CB</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Secretary's report and correspondence</b></p> <p>Actions from the last meeting</p> <p>1. <u>Defibrillator at Farnell Village Hall</u></p> <p>The British Heart Foundation (BHF) offers funding opportunities for public access defibrillators (PADs) to community groups. They also have resources to help train your community in CPR with their free online CPR training tool, RevivR.</p> <p>Applications to receive a fully funded defibrillator will open in <b>October</b> to eligible community groups.</p> <p>To apply for funding, you must be applying on behalf of a community group. Some examples of groups they accept are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• church organisations and other places of worship</li> <li>• social clubs</li> <li>• parish councils</li> </ul>	

	<p>To be eligible for a funded defibrillator you must also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keep the defibrillator outside in a cabinet which does not need a key or code (it must be accessible by anyone at all times)</li> <li>• be able to provide an electricity supply so that the defibrillator is kept at the right temperature in cold weather to protect it from damage</li> <li>• have a clear need for the device (e.g., be in a busy location or where a PAD is not within 200 metres)</li> <li>• be committed to train the local community in CPR using our free online RevivR training.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/defibrillator-funding-for-community-groups">https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/defibrillator-funding-for-community-groups</a></p> <p><b>Action</b> When the funding applications open in October Jacqui Thornton will take this forward, including ascertaining the ongoing maintenance requirements and funding (Scottish Ambulance Service and Aberlemno Church would be useful to speak to about this as well).</p> <p>2. Oil theft alert and information – posted on website and Facebook</p> <p>3. Approved minutes from the April meeting posted to the website along with the draft minutes from the June meeting, AGM and Special meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>The main correspondence since the last meeting has been information from a variety of sources for passing on to the residents of our district. The Aberlemno.org website and Aberlemno Facebook page are kept up to date on a weekly basis including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary Angus Action (VAA) bulletins</li> <li>• Planning application listings</li> <li>• Human Rights Bill for Scotland Consultation</li> <li>• Summer Fun - Angus Council have been working with local partner organisations, to create a range of fun, free/affordable activities for children, young people and families during the summer holidays.</li> <li>• Community Climate engagement events run by Angus Council during July</li> <li>• Current consultations</li> </ul>	<b>JT</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's report</b></p> <p>The treasurer's report can be found in Appendix 1 of these minutes.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Planning report</b></p> <p>Recent Planning Applications:</p> <p><b>23/00390/PPPL</b>  Planning Permission in principle for replacement of a house with a house.</p> <p>The Community Council had no comments on this proposal, accepting the principle of replacement, but may have comments on the detailed application.</p>	

	<p><b>23/00310/FULL</b> Regeneration/redevelopment of a brownfield site including demolition of steading building, erection of 8 dwellinghouses and ancillary works   Mains of Farnell Steading Farnell.</p> <p><b>Comments</b> Steading certainly appears beyond repair and presents an unattractive potentially dangerous appearance. Brownfield redevelopment in accordance with Angus Local Development Plan and Scottish Government National Planning Policy Framework 4 in retain to downfield land, rural housing etc. Would seem to be well screened.</p> <p>Not convinced, however, about whether all the site is brownfield (though appears to form a self-contained site, retain existing trees and be primarily garden round.</p> <p>Accessibility / 20 minute neighbourhoods - not really met.</p> <p>Site access acceptable to roads.</p> <p>Scale, design and materials good and reflect local setting.</p> <p><b>Action</b> It was agreed not to object but to raise questions re accessibility, number of properties and road access / safety.</p> <p>In addition, it states that the Community Council were consulted on 19<sup>th</sup> July however this was not the case as the weekly list was only received on 21<sup>st</sup> July – this will be fed back for amendment, along with a request for the Community Council comments about all planning applications to be reflected on the access site.</p>	<b>ID</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>SSEN East Coast 400 kV Phase 2</b></p> <p>Please see Appendix 2 for the updates from the SSEN East Coast 400 kV Phase 2 meetings attended by the Community Councillors.</p> <p>The Community Council thanked Lynn Bruce for submitting the consultation feedback on behalf of our area and everyone involved in attending meetings and providing feedback.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Local Community Policing Area Report</b></p> <p>PC Nick McKendrick provided an update from the July Local Community Policy Area report which included:</p> <p><b>Text Message Scams:</b> We are increasingly receiving reports of people being asked to send money to scammers alleging they are family members in financial trouble. A text message is received from an unknown number stating they are a relative who has had to obtain a new number and in need of help. They are then asked to send money to the scammer via various means. Please always make contact through normal channels with any relative/friend who appears to be</p>	

	<p>contacting you requesting assistance. You will usually find they are okay and not responsible for the request for assistance.</p> <p><b>How to spot an investment scam:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You're contacted out of the blue by phone, email or social media about an investment opportunity</li> <li>• You see ads within your social media feeds, sometimes celebrity endorsed, offering high returns on investment</li> <li>• You're pressurised into making a decision with no time to consider the investment</li> <li>• You're offered a high return on your investment with apparently little or no risk</li> <li>• You're told the investment opportunity is exclusive to you</li> <li>• If you believe you've fallen for a scam, contact your bank immediately on a number you know to be correct, such as the one listed on your statement, their website or on the back of your debit or credit card and report it to the police by calling 101.</li> </ul> <p><b>Speeding and dangerous driving:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC McKendrick confirmed that the only reports of speed or dangerous driving recently have been from Inchbare. It is important that all instances are reported to the policy via 101 or e mail. This should include the date, time, location and vehicle details (and photos where possible).</li> <li>• PC McKendrick took an action to look into getting training for a group of locals to use a speed camera gun which would be lent to Aberlemno for use. Anyone caught speeding would then receive a warning letter from the Police. He does a similar initiative in Brechin with school children holding the speed gun – perhaps Aberlemno School might want to be involved with this in Aberlemno.</li> </ul>	<b>NM</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Road Safety</b></p> <p>Since the last meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023:</p> <p><b>Aberlemno:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed of all types of vehicles – still an issue.</li> <li>• Coach companies running trips to view Stones – only visit if time allows on their schedule. Booking confirmed for 19/09/2023.</li> <li>• Full audit of road safety – still no progress with dates despite being discussed and minuted at the February, April and June community council meetings – Asked that PC Nick McKendrick take this forward.</li> <li>• Solar speed signs – e mail sent to Walter Scott, Roads at Angus Council. Reminder sent 31<sup>st</sup> July.</li> <li>• Placement of end of restriction signs – e mail to roads at Angus Council requesting a review and site visit – reminder sent 31<sup>st</sup> July.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>It was suggested that all future e mails to Angus Council are copied into our local councillors.</p> <p><b>Netherton:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridge repair – included in the e mail to roads at Angus Council requesting a review and site visit – reminder sent 31<sup>st</sup> July.</li> </ul>	<b>NM</b>          <b>LB</b>

	<p><b>Farnell:</b> No reports received.</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Action</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>1. <u>Vibrant Communities Event</u></b></p> <p>Isabelle Davies attended this event on 1<sup>st</sup> August and will share the outputs with the Community Council members. Angus Council Vibrant Communities, in collaboration with Angus Rural Partnership, have commissioned a programme of events for community groups and organisations. The new programme of workshops will help local groups and organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• successfully form a sustainable group</li> <li>• plan their projects</li> <li>• apply for funding</li> <li>• deliver their aspirations</li> </ul> <p><b>2. <u>Water tap at Aberlemno Church</u></b></p> <p>This has not been working for a while now despite it being reported to Angus Council. Councillor Gavin Nicol agreed to look into this.</p> <p><b>3. <u>Aberlemno Village Hall sign</u></b></p> <p>There has been an issue at the Hall whereby the new Village Hall sign has been dug up, the holes filled in and the sign left in the car park. This was reported to the police (incident number is 0830 02/08/2023) as it is criminal damage.</p> <p><b>4. <u>Aberlemno Village Hall Car Park</u></b></p> <p>The turning circle in front of Aberlemno Village Hall and to a lesser extent, the car park at the Hall are in a fairly bad state of repair. The damage has been progressively getting worse in the main caused the volume of traffic going in and out of the car park regularly following the same route, causing significant potholes and soil/ground movement. There are now concerns about the safety of the users of the turning circle and car park as well as about the Hall's liability should there be an accident or damage to vehicles due to the condition of the turning circle and car park.</p> <p>Whilst this is the Aberlemno Village Hall car park, the users are summarised below in the order of frequency of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* School parents dropping off and picking up children</li> <li>* Visitors to the Pictish stones – cars, coaches, campervans</li> <li>* Hall users</li> <li>* Mobile library</li> <li>* Roads Department</li> </ul> <p>It is also not uncommon for heavy vehicles such as buses to use the turning circle to turn around.</p> <p>The Hall committee has applied for several grants to support the cost of the required repairs, but these have all been rejected to date. However, as this is</p>	<p><b>GN</b></p>

an issue that affects the wider community, not just visitors to the Hall, it was agreed at the last committee meeting to formally bring this matter to the attention of the Community Council.

The actions we are currently considering are:

- Close the car park – this is **not** the action we would prefer to take
- Contact the School and perhaps go along to a PTA meeting at the School to discuss the situation
- Start gathering evidence that can be used to support requests for financial support which could include establishing the impact on all users if the car park was to close eg via surveys
- Engage Angus Council again once we have more evidence about the impact closing the car park would have, particularly on the School
- And once we have more evidence about the use of the car park and the impact it would have on the users if it had to close, start applying for more grants
- Generate ideas for fund raising including:
  - Contacting Historic Environment Scotland
  - Set up a Crowdfunding page
  - Put something about this on our website
  - Approach Lairds in Lunanhead – they could put advertising up to say they supported the works
  - Pull together a potential list of companies to approach along the lines of Lairds
  - Speak to David Milne to make him aware of the situation and to ask if he would make a small contribution towards the cost of repairs

We are just about to put up a new sign at the car park entrance with the correct legal wording for users of the car park doing so at their own risk. And we have also reinstated the previously used disabled parking bay, marking it off with a sign and large plant pots. This will slow down the traffic in and out of the car park, reducing further erosion of the turning circle.

Aberlemno Village Hall Committee would welcome any support or suggestions that the Community Council and residents can offer with regards to this issue.

There was a question raised at the meeting about who has liability if there was to be an accident – this will be considered further by the Aberlemno Village Hall Committee.

**11 Questions From the Floor**

There were no further questions from anyone present at the meeting.

**12 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm in Farnell Village Hall.

Russell Bruce thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

## Appendix 1 – Treasurer’s Report



# ABERLEMNO AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## TREASURER’S MONTHLY REPORT

June 2023 – July 2023

After the last meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, the following has been carried out:

- Community Council Grant of £375 (restricted funds) has been received.
- Venue hire of Aberlemno Village Hall invoices paid and the part payment for the upkeep of the Aberlemno.org website.
- Adding an additional signatory for the CC Bank Account is ongoing.
- Special meeting of CC requested by residents of the district, so hire of Aberlemno Village Hall has been paid for.
- A huge amount of printing has been carried out for the AGM and Special Meeting, so there was a big increase in stationery purchase.

Financial Statement:

A copy should be attached to the Minutes and the Agenda of the last meeting.



## Financial Statement for June – July 2023

	£s
Starting Balance	499.00
Income:	
Grant from Angus Council (Restricted)	375.00
Income Total	375.00
Expenses:	
Restricted Funds:	
Meeting Venue Hire	83.25
Stationery (Special Meeting)	56.24
50% Website Share	104.45
Total Restricted Funds	243.94
Balance Restricted Funds	131.06
Unrestricted Funds:	
Special Meeting Venue Hire	24.00
Total Unrestricted Funds	24.00
Balance Unrestricted Funds	475.00
Balance Carried Forward 31/07/2023	606.06



## Appendix 2 – Updates from SSEN East Coast 400 kV Phase 2 meetings

Meeting at Farm to Table, Westerton Farm, by Laurencekirk - 15 July 2023, organised by Save our Mearns

Introduction and context:

Outline of Pathway to 2039 setting out infrastructure to meet UK and Scottish Government 2030 offshore wind targets (50GW and 11GW respectively).

Accelerated delivery to meet these targets (see imposed) so driven by government.

Points raised:

- Need for storage for when it isn't windy or alternative power source.
- Electricity demand is predicted to double between now and 2050.
- Lack of investment in infrastructure over the past 30 years is exacerbating the problem.
- Grid bottleneck at Scottish / English border.
- 'Due process' - decision to install new line - but discarded other options?
- Protection of prime agricultural land, farm viability and food security does not appear in the documentation.
- No consideration of spread of pathogens affecting potato, daffodil and oil seed rape crops. High value and particularly susceptible to disease.
- Biodiversity rules not being followed to date.
- S37 proposals have to mitigate impacts but sporadic tree planting will not work and prime agriculture land should be avoided.

Report of consultation due to be published in the Autumn.

**Councillor comments** (Councillors will have to consider future planning documents and ancillary works so must retain neutrality until then or will be excluded from the planning process)

- SSEN state 400kV cable cannot be buried (this was challenged).
- Decision will be made by Scottish Government and application will be available for comment.
- Objections may result in PLI (automatic if a Local Planning Authority objects).

**Andrew Bowie MP** - appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Nuclear and Networks) at Department for Energy Security and Net Zero Feb 2023.

Emphasis on need for energy and SSEN flawed process

**Mairi Gougeon MSP** - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands.

Emphasis on need for energy and SSEN flawed process

**Other questions/comments**

- Offshore security - if laying one, should lay more together.
- Has the Scottish Government considered offshore 'energy island' as used by Belgium, Netherlands etc.
- What is being done to reduce energy demand.
- Extent of cables from north to south of the country requires boosting along the route hence all the substations.
- Efficiency of generation in the northern isles for consumption in the south.

## Meeting in Edzell

The meeting was held because of locals' complaints and disruptions associated with the upgrade of the 275 KV pylons to carry 400KV. Pylon foundations are being strengthened, conductors from double to triple and reinsulating. (Given at Brechin and Forfar we were told pylons could not be upgraded to carry additional power curious as to what the difference is between Aberlemno district pylons and those at Edzell). From the start of the meeting, SSEN Project Manager Mr Ferguson had tech issues. Initially the projector wouldn't work therefore they found a small TV to project the PowerPoint presentation. Audience from the middle to the rear of the hall unable to read the screen. There was no PA system which made hearing presentations and responses difficult despite numerous requests to speak up, however he continually reverted to mumbling and back to audience to read his screen. This added to the frustration of the audience with Mr Ferguson having to continually go over what he had already stated.

The issues experienced by residents gives us a clue of what is to come. Residents have highlighted total lack of communication over the project initiation and works ongoing. Advised by SSEN rep there was a public meeting in 2020. This was challenged as mid COVID lockdown, corrected to an online discussion. Many residents were unaware of any meeting. SSEN stated community council should have informed them. This was not received well, response was yet again SSEN abdicating responsibility for their poor consultation and communication. Residents felt it was responsibility of land referencing team to liaise with locals and farmers not community council.

The work yard has increased in size and is expected to remain until 2025. Rerouting of vehicles is not working. It is meant to be a circular route but vehicles travelling in both directions. Manned closure points to allow local access if required. Workers radio between closure ends allowing residents access if no trucks on route, leading to some long waits. Farmers raised concerns about impact on access and harvesting. Balfour Beattie has suggested individual farmers contact them to discuss a work around.

HGV stone carry trucks felt to be travelling at excess speed. Loose chippings coming off trucks hitting houses, significant damage to roads and verges, residents unable to safely walk, some too fearful to leave home to walk dogs during working hours, frightened to let children play outside, one resident reported having been driven off the road with truck failing to stop. The trucks are fitted with driving style monitors, and these are checked when complaints received. To date none have been identified as speeding. Balfour Beattie suggested it may not be their vehicles or contractors responsible for the poor driving through the village. Contractors have been given "Toolbox Talks" about safe travel through the area. Residents were not reassured, as many of these roads are technically national speed limit but totally unsuitable to drive at speed for tipper trucks carrying heavy stone loads or any other vehicle and despite numerous complaints there has been no improvement.

Unlike comments in Courier, it was not hijacked by the anti-new pylons organisations. Yes, they were present and did ask some more general questions and some locals did object. There was a lot of anger, but much was associated with concerns by locals and farmers, road safety, poor communication as well as concerns over safety of these high powered lines on health.

The meeting after around an hour and a half became a complete debacle, multiple conversations, challenging behaviours, with individuals leaving none the wiser to what SSEN and Balfour Beattie intended doing to alleviate concerns but with a verbal assurance from SSEN and Balfour Beattie they will try to do better. SSEN and Balfour Beattie would attend Community Council Meetings if requested.

## Meeting with SSEN on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

This was organised by Forfar Community Council and was attended by Mairi Gougeon, MSP, Chris Beattie, Angus Councillor, Kirrie Landward East Community Council and Aberlemno and District Community Council.

No minutes were taken at the meeting however the following notes were taken to include important statements and issues raised.

The following are SSEN's words to issues that were brought up:

- Pylons – would be 100 meters from houses if needed but trying for 170 meters.
- Seabed – this was not an option as ESO (National grid) has informed SSEN. (This statement is incorrect as ESO has only recommended this).
- Overground – easier to maintain, not so much land take and of course, more financially viable for the GB taxpayers.
- Gas Pipe – needs to be avoided when installing pylons, OHLs and underground.
- Dykes and land (temporary roads – don't think that they will be destroyed – if they are, they would be replaced / repaired afterwards).
- Artificial Intelligence – was used to identify best routes.

It seems that SSEN are not really concerned or listening to anything brought up by residents, landowners etc. Anyone that is concerned about health issues due to Electromagnetic Fields is recommended to use [ofcom.org.uk](http://ofcom.org.uk) or [gov.uk](http://gov.uk). SSEN has not done any research on the impact of EMFs.

The only thing now that can be used by local residents etc is to challenge statements made by SSEN in their booklets, handouts, slides on how the route were decided. Get SSEN to provide evidence that all options / sensitive information was used by themselves and Artificial Intelligence.

Meeting at Reid Hall, Forfar was organised by SSEN as Forfar was missed out on the original information events.

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