

**INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at Menmuir Hall**

**Present:** Gus Leighton (Chair), Claire Wilson (Minute Secretary), Judith Gallacher, Kate Skene (Planning Contact), and 1 member of the public.

**Apologies:** Ann Johnston, Alan Budge (Treasurer), Dick Robertson Cllr Beattie, Cllr Nicol, and representative of Police Scotland.

**The minutes** of the last meeting were approved. The minutes were proposed by Judith and seconded by Gus. The minutes will be posted to the Community Council website and sent to Angus Council and the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for distribution. **Action: Claire**

**Planning and CNP Report**

Two applications for the Inveresk area.

Installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic array and ancillary works at Stracathro Hospital (23/00518/FULL) – it was agreed that no comment required from ICC.

Erection of 2 agricultural buildings at Balrownie (23/00569/FULL) – these shed would be hidden by the buildings already on site so it was agreed that no comment was required from ICC.

There was a discussion regarding a communication mast planned for The Waggles in Glenesk. It had already been agreed by ICC that no comment was required as any improvement with communication was a benefit to the residents of Glenesk.

*Cairngorm National Park*

There are plans to restore some of the peat areas at Invermark. No update at this time.

*Aberdeenshire*

Glendye Windfarm proposal: see [www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx](http://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx). No recent movement on this but a watching brief will be kept.

AFTERNOTE: Mearns CC now expect this to get the go ahead.

**Treasurer's Report**

Alan sent the account update after the meeting.

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>1,472.12</b>
<b>Secretary Fees (July and August)</b>	<b>- 100.00</b>
<b>Glenesk Folk Museum hire (August meeting)</b>	<b>- 50.00</b>
<b>Lethnot Hall hire (July meeting)</b>	<b>- 30.00</b>
	<b><u>£1,292.12</u></b>

Alan to update whether the accounts have been audited and sent to the Council.

**Action: Alan**

**Police Report**

The Police Report had been distributed to all the Community Council members before the meeting. Gus read out the report which included the crime figures for the Inveresk area and continued encouragement for people to join their neighbourhood watch scheme.

## **SSEN Transmission East Coast**

Gus is in constant contact with various MPs and MSPs to ask them to speak to the department of energy to revisit the proposed plans regarding the overhead lines planned for Angus and the Mearns.

Webinar due to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> September. It was suggested that one of the residents of Inchbare who attended the public meeting was asked to attend as none of the ICC members in attendance could attend the webinar. **Action: Gus**

## **Recurring items**

### Access to Edzell Muir

Cllr Nicol sent in an update via e-mail regarding the unauthorised encampment on Edzell Muir and the legal process which Angus Council were undertaking.

Angus Council started legal action to regain possession of Edzell Muir at the beginning of August. This was based around the size and impact of the encampment at that time, which numbered around 20 caravans and vehicles.

The action is being defended on behalf of some of the occupants of the site. At the most recent calling before the Sheriff on 6 September, the case was continued for a further 4 weeks and will next call on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

A welfare visit of the site was undertaken on 14<sup>th</sup> September and there were 4 caravans which remained on site (also one trailer/tent presumed abandoned).

Until a decision is made by the court, Angus Council officers will continue to visit the site regularly and offer services and support to the occupiers to ensure their welfare needs are met in accordance with the Councils policy and Scottish Government guidance on the management of such unauthorised sites. Angus Council and Councillors continue to answer enquiries from local residents surrounding the encampment and work to mitigate wherever possible any impacts for the surrounding community.

Cllr Beattie's report received after the meeting confirmed the court case in October.

He also passed on that any groundworks designed to prevent access to the Muir could not be undertaken to target any specific group but rather to prevent unauthorised access by all. Any protection would have to be seen as both proportionate and non-discriminatory.

Gus informed the meeting that Balfour Beatty have offered to help clean up the site, if required once the unauthorised camp site is gone.

### Resilience

Gus has applied for £6237.06 to furnish the 4 resilience hubs for the ICC area (Edzell, Lethnot, Little Brechin and Stracathro). Decision regarding his application should be made at the end of this month.

EVIS are to find people to staff the hub in Edzell which they hope will still be at the Inglis Memorial Hall. Lethnot and Little Brechin are also to find staff for their hubs. No update from Inchbare regarding the staffing of their hub.

### Wishop Burn Bridge

Balfour Beatty currently are in discussion with Dalhousie Estates regarding the replacement of the bridge.

### Inglis Hall

EVIS are holding an open day at the hall to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hall on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. It is thought that a sub-group of EVIS will take on the running of the hall.

### Potholes in carpark across from Edzell School

Kate confirmed that the potholes in North Esk Road have been repaired.

The poor state of the carpark across from the school continues despite being reported to the AccessLine several months ago. Balfour Beatty was contacted by Gus regarding assisting to repair the issues and their response was positive.

### Shaking Bridge, Edzell

Deterioration of the bridge was reported to the AccessLine. The area has been assessed and is the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council and has been passed on to them by Angus Council. Gus has also contacted Cllr Carr (Aberdeenshire Council) to report the same.

### Little Brechin

#### Speeding Traffic

Gus is to hold an onsite meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September at 1800hrs with Cllr Beattie to discuss the residents concerns. A local agricultural company confirmed that they tell their tractor drivers to go 20-25mph maximum whilst passing through Little Brechin and it was agreed that larger vehicles always seemed like they were travelling quicker than they were. However, it has also been reported that there are more children out on the roadway than previously.

### Lethnot Road Closures

Gus reported that the signs are showing incorrect information, and the road will only be closed for hours not days at certain points. He is chasing the company to ensure the correct information is noted.

### **Ward Councillors' Report**

No councillors were at the meeting to report.

Cllr Nicol sent a report regarding the unauthorised encampment on Edzell Muir (see Access to Edzell Muir).

Cllr Beattie sent a report post meeting also with an update regarding the unauthorised encampment in Edzell (see above). He also spoke about the full meeting on Angus Council on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/committees/angus\\_council/angus\\_council\\_7\\_september\\_2023](https://www.angus.gov.uk/committees/angus_council/angus_council_7_september_2023)

There were a few items he drew attention to:

- Long term Financial Planning Framework which sets out the Council's financial strengths and weaknesses. There is only one category out of six which the Council is described as weak and this is expenditure, this is largely due to demand pressures, energy costs, lack of flexibility (ring-fenced budgets) and inflation.
- Adoption of a Budget and Communication Plan – a particular focus of the plan is communication, and a variety of methods will be used to make this as accessible as possible. Likewise, engagement activity will use a range of methods (in line with the Communication, Engagement and Consultation Policy) to maximise participation by communities across Angus.

Kerbside Recycling Service will also be reviewed. The papers will be public domain in the next week.

They will be available at:

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/committees/forthcoming\\_council\\_meetings](https://www.angus.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/committees/forthcoming_council_meetings)

This will likely result in a change to how recyclable materials are collected. This will bring Angus Council in line with the rest of Scotland. It is likely that residents will be provided with an additional bin to facilitate the separation of paper and card from plastics and metals. Glass will need to be recycled at local recycling points and the number of these will increase to support this. Overall, this will be paid for by the Scottish Government and will save the council up to almost £500k per annum in revenue costs.

## **Correspondence**

*Complaints procedure for Community Councils* – this will be discussed at the AGM (November) and amendments made to the constitution if required.

*Council Budget meeting via Teams on 21/9/23 at 1900hrs* – Claire has forwarded on the details for anyone who wishes to attend.

*Disabled Parking Spaces* – it will be an offence to park in disabled bays without a blue badge.

*Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust* – The charity wish to honour the civil airfield used in the 1930's within Edzell. They wish to erect a memorial in the area. Gus is in contact with the charity.  
*Edzell Arch calming measures* – work will commence next week at installing a temporary priority system at the Arch to prevent it being struck again. It will also, hopefully, reduce the speed of the vehicles entering the village.

## **Brechin Healthcare Group**

Dick was not at the meeting but had sent a message to state there was no further update since the previous meeting.

## **AOCB**

### Community Council Members

Gus has spoken to Pamela who has struggled to attend due to personal reasons.

It was discussed using virtual as well as face to face meetings. It is not possible to utilise both methods due to the lack of connectivity at the outlying halls.

Ann Johnston has confirmed she will step down at the AGM in November. She is actively looking for a resident in the Inchbare area to take over from her.

Membership will be discussed at the AGM (November).

### Hall Booking

Claire informed the meeting that Angus Council will not confirm their meeting at the Inglis Hall in November due to awaiting a decision in running the hall from the end of October. Gus has provisionally booked Lethnot Hall in case the Inglis Hall is not available.

### Inglis Court Demolition

Judith asked if there had been any update regarding construction on the site of the former Inglis Court. This site is now very overgrown with weeds with no sign of any movement on it despite the urgency to demolish the building.

Gus will contact the Council/Councillors for an update.

AFTERNOTE: The 21 new homes will not be built on the Inglis Court site until at least 2026/2027.

### Cairngorm National Park Communities Meeting

Gus is unable to attend but will contact Patrick Ford (former ICC member with interest in CNP) and Tony to see if either/both would attend on behalf of the ICC.

### Scottish Land Commission Way Forward meeting

Judith to attend.

**Action: Judith**

### Bonhard Flooding

The area at the end of Bonhard, Edzell has started flooding again despite remedial work happening. Judith will contact the AccessLine.

**Action: Judith**

Gus thanked everyone for attending.

**Next meeting: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 @ 1930hrs in Inglis Hall, Edzell.**

**Issues unable to be resolved fully by ICC 2023**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Date Removed from Agenda</b>
Speeding in ICC area	20mph now in Edzell with buffering zones. Rumble strips placed on either end of High Street when entering Edzell. Traffic island sited at north end of village to aid school pupils crossing. VAS signs sited in Inchbare. Buffering zones at either entrance to Inchbare on main B966 road. Pop up Police made available to use at Edzell and Inchbare.	Removed from Agenda – January 2023
West Water Bridge	Temporary barriers in place. Awaiting permanent repair to wall	Removed from Agenda March 2023
HGV through Edzell Arch	No update from Aberdeenshire Council regarding changing junction at Northwaterbridge. Amendments to traffic flow through Arch awaiting to be approved and commenced.	Removed from Agenda June 2023
Connectivity in Glenesk	Mast to be erected for improved internet connectivity. Phone lines to be repaired following storm damage.	Removed from Agenda June 2023
Additional bins at Tarfside	CNP was to be contacted regarding supplying additional bins at camp field (Tony requesting)	Removed from Agenda June 2023

**Approved on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

.....