

INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 16th October 2023 at Inglis Hall, Edzell

Present: Gus Leighton (Chair), Claire Wilson (Minute Secretary), Judith Gallacher, Kate Skene (Planning Contact), Ann Johnston, Dick Robertson, Cllr Beattie, Cllr Nicol, and 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Alan Budge (Treasurer), Cllr Scott and representative of Police Scotland.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved following addition of account details now forwarded from the Treasurer. The minutes were proposed by Kate and seconded by Judith. 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

Three applications for the Inveresk area.

Two new houses at The Green, High Street, Edzell (South of the Glenesk Hotel). An objection has been submitted to the Council due to potential for felling of the well-established trees within the plot.

Alterations to the Manse at Careston – no comment required from ICC.

Lochty, Menmuir – restoration and extension to building – no comment required from ICC.

Cairngorm National Park

There are plans to restore some of the peat areas at Invermark.

Aberdeenshire

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

Mearns CC now expect this to get the go ahead.

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance	£1292.12
Payment to secretary (September and October meetings)	- 100.00
Payment for Inglis Hall (October meeting)	- 30.00
Payment for Menmuir Hall (September meeting)	- <u>22.50</u>
	<u>£1139.62</u>

Alan has still to send the audited accounts 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.

There have been reports of hare coursing in the St Annes and Barrelwell area. The residents had reported to Police at the time of the suspected crime but had no response. Gus will discuss this with Police Scotland. **Action: Gus**

There will also reports of speeding within the Barrelwell area. It was requested that speed restriction signs were posted in the area. Gus will raise this with Angus Council. **Action Gus**

SSEN Transmission East Coast

Upgrade to existing pylons

The reinforcement of the pylons bases is completed in the ICC area and work on upgrading the lines will commence.

Balfour Beatty have completed some local community projects and Gus will send a thank you to them. **Action: Gus**

Proposed new Line of Pylons

Gus is meeting with David Doogan (MP) on 20th October to discuss alternatives to the pylons. Gus is also in contact with SSE in particular relation to the risk that the electromagnetic fields from the lower upgraded pylons would expose to children.

Recurring items

Access to Edzell Muir

Discussion regarding the recent encampment on Edzell Muir and the inconvenience to local residents. Various solutions were discussed in regard to barriers or restricted access to all campers. It was suggested that a survey was sent round the village although Cllr Beattie and Cllr Nicol both stated that the numerous contacts from the public, they have regarding the encampment, showed the opinions of locals so no need for survey. There was also a discussion regarding the whole of the Muir being considered a public recreation area. Gus is to meet with Angus Council's Depute Chief Exec and local Councillors on 2nd November 2023 to explore various ideas.

Correspondence has been received from a resident regarding allowing camping on the Muir for a fee. This was discussed at a previous meeting of the ICC and residents of Edzell in attendance at the meeting did not wish to see that happening. Also if a community group took on responsibility there was no way to "police" this and would risk any member of the public who took on the role to abuse and they would have no legal entitlement to charge.

A member of the public praised the Council on their cleanup of the Muir following the encampment.

Resilience

The application for the grant has been agreed and the 4 hubs in the ICC area to provide equipment. The plan now was to recruit volunteers to man the hub which would open during a long period (12 hours) of power outage. The money from SSEN is expected before December.

Flood Prevention in Edzell

A spokesperson from the Flood Group gave an update on plans for the Muir to be used as a holding area for water and install French drains.

It was suggested that Balfour Beatty may assist if Dalhousie Estates and the Council agree to the proposal. It was suggested that a level survey should be performed of the area however a level survey of Edzell has been done after the first flood in 2013.

It is thought there may be a blockage in the Whishop Burn past the Golf Club. Gus will contact Dalhousie Estates to ensure they check the burn and remove any debris/blockage. **Action: Gus**

Whishop Burn Bridge

Judith has meeting with Balfour Beatty and the Church (who own the ground the bridge is on) regarding liability. It is hoped to reach agreement and the work to be completed as soon as possible.

Inglis Hall

It is thought that a sub-group of EVIS will take on the running of the hall and a meeting is happening this week to discuss.

Potholes in carpark across from Edzell School

The potholes have now been fixed by Balfour Beatty at no cost to Angus Council. This will now be removed from the agenda.

Shaking Bridge, Edzell

The area is still awaiting repair which is to be completed by Aberdeenshire Council.

Inglis Court

It was acknowledged that it would take until 2026 for building work to commence on the site. However, it is hoped that this delay might allow for better housing plans to be drawn up as the current plans are for housing that is unsuitable for modern living. The area is currently overgrown, and the Council have agreed to send out a team to tidy it up.

Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust

The charity will arrange for a plaque to be placed at The Cottage, Edzell in recognition of the airfield which was sited on the outskirts of Edzell village. As The Cottage is some distance away from the site of the airfield, Gus will write an explanatory piece for the DD9 booklet once the plaque is in place.

Little Brechin

Speeding Traffic

A site meeting was held with the ICC Chairperson, Cllr Beattie and some of the local residents. It will be 2025 before a final decision is taken by Scottish Government regarding the 20 mph sites within Scotland. A speed survey has been arranged for Little Brechin and Cllr Beattie stated that there were no official signs available from the Council showing children playing in the area, but residents could erect their own signs on their property. Dick to look into the need for signs. **Action: Dick**
They are also looking to put double yellow lines at the old phone box area to prevent people using it for parking.

Soft verges Forthill to Balrownie

There have been large gouges made at the side of the road due to heavy machinery pulling into the verge. These are not always visible, especially in wet weather, and would cause difficulties if a car pulled over into one of them. This was reported to the Council and hardcore had been placed in these areas quickly.

Ward Councillors' Report

Gus read out a statement from Cllr Scott (see attachment 1).

Cllr Nicol is attending various meetings including the development standards relating to planning and also the Full Council meeting. He also stated that he had asked Angus Council and AngusAlive to continue the responsibility for running Inglis Hall, but this request has been refused.

Cllr Beattie spoke regarding the new recycling scheme planned for Angus and the need for the adjustments. He explained that the changes were due to the way recycling is now being processed, and the changes were happening at this time, in Angus, as there was money available from the Scottish Government and this will mean that the cost of the extra bin will not fall to Angus Council and its residents. There will also be more glass recycling points across the region. Additional information is available on Angus Council website.

There was a discussion regarding removal of bins at Pirners Brig, Edzell during the autumn/winter months due to fly-tipping. Cllr Beattie confirmed that Cllr Scott was dealing with this situation and was encouraging the Council not to remove them as the area is busy all year round.

Correspondence

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

Glenesk Trust AGM -this meeting will be held on 25/10/23. It is hoped a member of the ICC or a representative on their behalf will attend.

Angus Community Development Conference - this is being held on 25/10/23 at the Reid Hall, Forfar. The programme will support community groups to successfully form a sustainable group, plan their projects, apply for funding and deliver their aspirations. The conference is open to all community groups and organisations.

Brechin Healthcare Group

The BHG are in the process of looking for new premises as their current building is up for sale. The group can use The Glebe meantime if required but as there is only one room available it limits their activities.

AOCB

Remembrance Wreaths

Alan will order 2 wreaths 1 for Edzell – Claire will lay on behalf of the ICC and Gus will ask Ken Goddard to lay the Glenesk wreath on behalf of the ICC.

Action: Gus/Claire

AFTERNOTE: Ken has agreed to lay the ICC wreath in Glenesk.

November meeting (AGM)

Following discussion at the meeting it was agreed to change the venue of the meeting to Menmuir Hall, as it is the AGM confirmation needed before the time to allow advertisement. Claire will cancel Inglis Hall booking and contact Menmuir Hall to see if it is available and advertise the meeting once the location is confirmed.

Action: Claire

Bins at Pirners

Discussed at Councillors Report.

Gus thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting: Monday 20th November 2023 at Menmuir Hall (AGM)

Attachment 1

Councillor Update - Inveresk Community Council – 16th October 2023

I would like to clarify several rumours that have been circulating Edzell with regards to the encampment on Edzell Muir. I have received many emails, all of which I have responded to and have seen many comments on local social media pages.

Never have I called anyone racist. At the meeting of Inveresk CC in June at Lethnot Hall, the Chairman of the Community Council spoke as he stated on behalf of the

village. Both Cllr Beattie and I found the language used to be unacceptable and we both challenged the use of such language. I explained that Gypsy/Traveller is a recognised ethnicity under the Equalities Act 2010, Cllr Beattie reiterated the same. I pointed out that the use of such language could be deemed racist, hate speech and discriminatory. I also pointed out that he did not speak for all the villagers, and many would be horrified to hear him use such language on their behalf. I stand by my comments to the chair, if we did not challenge the tone and language used then we would be complicit. I stated that racism has no place in civilised society. The Chairman continued, he spoke to me in a manner that was inappropriate, and I left the meeting stating that I would not return. There is no duty for Councillors to attend Community Council.

The anonymous flyer was delivered round the doors which was full of complete and utter rubbish. As I hope you are now all aware, "Adverse Possession" is an English legal concept and cannot happen here as the owner of Edzell Muir is known, Dalhousie Estates.

Angus Council has a duty to provide services and support to the Gypsy/Traveller community during any unauthorised encampment in Angus. In the case of this encampment, this support has included the provision of toilet facilities and household waste collection. Council officers assess the needs and implement these measures **not** Councillors. Councillors do not know the needs of individuals on the encampment, this is private and an operational matter that Council officers deal with.

Sadly, many residents believed the contents of the flyer and many of the emails that were sent were abhorrent in the tone and use of language. Clearly these were sent in a highly agitated state after reading the flyer. The flyer was reported to Police Scotland.

Many emails, and social media comments have accused Councillors of being "inept", "useless", "inactive" etc. This has been incredibly upsetting as encampments as explained to many are a legal matter. Eviction proceedings were raised by Angus Council in August, once the legal threshold had been met, these decisions are taken by legal and officers, not Councillors. The eviction was contested, as is everyone's legal right and the court granted two extensions, during these extensions no eviction can take place. Councillors are not given details as to why the eviction was contested as again, this is a private matter. The only route to remove an unauthorised encampment is through court proceedings.

Noting the recent post by a resident on behalf of the Chairman where he stated regarding the encampment "their rights appear to have superseded those of Edzell residents, when considered by Angus Council". This statement is wholly wrong and misleading. Angus Council has acted lawfully, the case has been in the court, Angus Council must abide by the ruling of the Sheriff.

We will be working with council officers to prepare for the future. The chairman of Inveresk CC has been invited to meet with the Deputy Chief Executive, officers and the three Councillors, this is an opportunity, which it is hoped will be accepted. It is

important that we hear the thoughts of all residents. I would like to assure you that your concerns are taken seriously but the Council must act within the law. I am aware that this has been upsetting for many residents, I am in no way seeking to minimise this, however, hate breeds hate and hate must not win.

On advice I could not attend the Inglis Memorial Hall open day for safety concerns. Who could ever imagine a time where it might not be safe to go to Edzell. I really do hope that we can move on from this. I would like to thank the many residents who have sent me supportive emails and messages.

Please feel free to contact me if you have anything further you would like to discuss on CllrScott@angus.gov.uk

Regards

Jill

Issues unable to be resolved fully by ICC 2023

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Date Removed from Agenda</u>
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 20th November 2023

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