

INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024 at Inglis Hall, Edzell

Present: Gus Leighton (Chair), Claire Wilson (Minute Secretary), Kate Skene (Planning Contact), Graham Dallas, Dick Robertson, Cllr Beattie and 4 members of the public. Inspector McGaughay was in attendance to give the Police Report but had to leave after this due to being on duty.

Apologies: Alan Budge (Treasurer), Ken Goddard, Cllr Scott, Cllr Nicol.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The minutes were proposed by Gus Leighton and seconded by Dick Robertson. 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.

House at Menmuir – pre-application for a new house at Coe, about a mile west of Lochty Farm on a little used road. There are no details of the proposed house which will be partly hidden by a hedge no comment required from ICC at present.

Shed at Little Brechin – comment submitted by ICC re: concern of increased traffic on road due to building of shed. The applicant was in attendance at the meeting and confirmed that the shed was for storage of equipment and therefore would not increase traffic on the roads.

Treasurer's Report

Alan was not at the meeting for an update.

He continues to try to move Inveresk Community Council to internet banking.

He 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. Inspector McGaughay attended the meeting to introduce himself and to discuss the Police Report. Sgt Brown has retired, and a new Sergeant has been recruited to post and will be based at Brechin police station.

There was a discussion regarding higher crime figures in the report (report was generated before the recent crimes occurring in Edzell village) however it is thought that this is due to the crime figures being for the Brechin and Edzell area and not just pertinent to the Edzell area as before.

There was also a discussion regarding the recent crimes occurring in Edzell where a car was stolen, and various items were stolen from other vehicles in the village. Inspector McGaughay reminded the meeting that it is important that vehicle and homes were secured at all times. The crimes are currently under investigation.

SSEN Transmission East Coast

This issue is ongoing.

Gus explained that the problem is not with SSE but with ESO which drew up the distribution plan for the National Grid. There are 2 groups in the area active on Social Networks (Angus Pylon Action Group and Save our Mearns) regarding the proposed "super" pylon. Gus is aware of other groups (e.g. in East Anglia) who want the new OHL proposed there changed to subsea cables which won't ruin the countryside, and they believe will also be a cheaper solution.

Mairi Gougon (MSP) was to raise this matter with Dave Doogan (MP) at a meeting on 12th January, but it is unknown if this meeting has taken place. Dave Doogan has reportedly been trying to meet

with Paul Wakeley of ESO to have the plan, submitted to the UK government in July 2022, revisited to incorporate more offshore subsea cables or even Energy Islands in the North Sea – Oil rig-type structures with sub-stations on top to act as hubs for several offshore windfarms and send their output onwards by subsea cables to various countries, including the UK

Recurring items

Edzell Muir

Flood Prevention Scheme plan is being taken forward. Council engineers are due to undertake a survey of the area. Cllr Beattie will chase an update. **Action: Cllr Beattie**

Flood Group is in discussion with Dalhousie Estates re clearing ditches further out of Edzell to help reduce flooding.

Resilience

Lethnot Resilience Hub has its equipment and volunteers in place.

Little Brechin – currently no update.

Inchbare – Equipment at hall but no update on volunteers. Graham Dallas will inquire for an update.

Action: Graham Dallas

Edzell – Gus has contacted EVIS but currently no update, but it is thought that the Flood Group may take on responsibility for staffing the Edzell Hub.

Glenesk – Ken is preparing an application for funds for kitting out a hub in Glenesk.

Gus obtained funding to equip the Hubs from SSEN. He applied for the grant because the Hubs are required and the SSEN funding stream was the only option known to him, and advised by Angus Council's Resilience Team. Using this money, and asking Balfour Beatty to undertake various jobs around Edzell is in recognition of the disruption caused by them during preparatory works for the upgrade of the existing OHL (e.g. closing roads). Gus has not "sold his soul" to SSEN or Balfour Beatty and is still very opposed to the proposed new OHL of giant pylons (SSEN's East Coast 400kV) hence his on-going dialogue with both Dave Doogan MP and Mairi Gougeon MSP.

Whishop Burn Bridge

Judith Gallacher has agreed to continue liaising with Balfour Beatty in the planned erection of the new bridge. It is thought that this might have to be delayed due to the weather.

Shaking Bridge, Edzell

The area is still awaiting repair which is to be completed by Aberdeenshire Council. Gus has contacted Cllr Carr for an update but has yet to have a reply.

Bonhard Flooding

Ditches have been dug to try to alleviate the flooding and flood signs are in place.

Menmuir

Catherthun Bins

The bin at the Catherthuns has come away from its heavy base and are now prone to being blown over in the wind causing rubbish to be strewn over the area. This has been reported to the AccessLine and Cllr Beattie will chase an update. **Action: Cllr Beattie**

Little Brechin

Speeding Traffic

The four signs have still to be erected. The area by the phone box has still to have yellow lines painted in it to prevent it being used as a lay-by. Parked cars in this area cause an issue when large vehicles are trying to turn. There was a lengthy discussion regarding children playing in the road area and

their “road sense”. It was noted that although Police Scotland no longer routinely attended schools to promote road safety this service could still be requested by the school.

A member of the public reported that the lollipop attendant at Edzell did not wait for a safe gap in the traffic when crossing children but just “stepped out”. It was difficult and unsafe for agricultural vehicles to stop quickly especially when carrying livestock. The member of the public has reported this to Police Scotland and Gus will speak to the Head Teacher at Edzell Primary School regarding this and the road safety talk.

Action: Gus

Ward Councillors’ Report

Cllr Scott sent a report via e-mail regarding Pirners Bridge. The bridge that was swept away and the ground belongs to Dunlappie Estates, and it is not thought that the bridge will be replaced at this time. The picnic area is leased by Angus Council and the steps down to the river are not thought to be required due to the bridge no longer being there. Claire will contact Cllr Scott to confirm that she means the steps down to the river from the picnic area. Cllr Beattie will also contact Parks if required.

Action: Claire

Cllr Beattie gave an update on the planned upgrade of the playparks within Angus (Duriehill Road, Edzell and Tarfside parks to be upgraded in the ICC area). This upgrade is possible due to Scottish Government money.

There was a discussion regarding the woodchips at Edzell Muir playpark being washed away and clogging drains in Lethnot Road after episodes of flooding within Edzell.

Kate also asked why there were barriers around play equipment on Edzell Muir. Cllr Beattie will enquire.

Action: Cllr Beattie

Cllr Beattie also spoke about the current budget for Angus Council. The Council currently need to make a two million pound saving every year for the next 5 years.

Although not in the ICC area the Brechin Bridge being closed causes disruption to the residents of the ICC area and Cllr Beattie explained that one of the pillars of the bridge is undercut by 80% and this makes the bridge unsafe to be used. Work is commencing soon, and bridge should be back operational hopefully by end of February.

Correspondence

Nil

Brechin Healthcare Group

The BHG are still in the process of looking for new premises as their current building is up for sale. The Jenner Centre is still running successfully with the footcare getting busier every month. The hearing aid service is also expanding, and they are exploring the possibility of offering ear syringing. This will require Trustees to be trained.

Other services have returned to use the facilities (Hear Me counselling, Communities Team and Justice System team)

BHG are intending to do a second memories session at St Drostan’s Court in Brechin. If this is successful it is planned to expand this service over the Spring/Summer.

AOCB

Nil

Gus thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting: Monday 19th February 2024 at Inglis Hall, Edzell

Approved on 19th February 2024

Gus Leighton