Letham & District Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on: 20th March 2025 at 7.30pm in Letham Feuars Hall

Present: Wendy Cameron, Karen Smith, Isobel Sword, Gail Smith, Karen Kose,

Tracy Andrews, Debbie Dallas, Cllr Cowdy, Cllr Nicoll, Cllr Shepherd,

Cllr Cruickshanks,

Via Teams: David Lumgair

Apologies Sandra Macrae

Absent Mhairi Dickson, Police

Amendments to Previous Minutes:

• It is Mhairi Dickson, not Isobel, who needs to arrange a meeting with Paul Clark and the Roads department

- The defibrillators have all been bought through St Johns
- The road near Central Motors is an unclassified road

Approval of Previous Minutes: proposed by: Karen S

seconded: Karen K

Police Report:

- Wendy shared that in February there were 35 calls and 7 crimes recorded 1 x dishonesty and 6 x road traffic
- 'Cuppa with a Cop' Cllr Shepherd advised that due to poor attendance this is no longer happening – Isobel shared that 'Warm Spaces' meetings will continue as 'Cosy Cuppy' through the summer months and the Police, and others, could be invited to these – Friday afternoons, 1.30-3.00pm in the Church Hall

Matters Arising:

Meeting regarding Footpaths –

Cllr Cowdy to contact Mhairi Dickson and Paul Clark and find out what the situation is

Action: Cllr Cowdy to contact Mhairi Dickson and Paul Clark and arrange a meeting

Defibrillator updates –

Karen S has heard from The Feuars that they have concerns with the defibrillator / additional heating supply being in the cupboard as it may impact on the building insurance

Karen S has had the following information from Alan at St John's Ambulance:

Hi Karen - Just FYI the data logger shows that the lowest temp inside the box during the past week was 5.8C on Tuesday. At the start of the week the BBC was forecasting that the lowest temp in Letham would be 1C so the box seems to be providing reasonable protection. While we didn't have had any sub zero temps during the test period it does look like the temp in the box would probably drop below 5C if the there was a bit of a colder snap so a heater would really be needed. Given the result hopefully it wouldn't have to work too hard or cost too much to run. Please let me know what the tenants say. Cheers Alan

Hi Karen - clearly I am not an expert or qualified in any way to give advice on Lithium batteries and what follows is general information available online and from the operating instructions for the iPAD SPR produced by the manufacturer. I asked CHAT GPT if devices with the type of battery used (Lithium Manganese Dioxide) are safe to store indoors got the following response:-

Yes, devices with lithium manganese dioxide (LiMnO₂) batteries are generally safe to store indoors, as long as they are stored properly. LiMnO₂ batteries are a type of primary (non-rechargeable) lithium battery known for their high energy density, stability, and safety compared to other lithium chemistries.

Why Are They Safe?

- ✓ **Stable Chemistry** Lower risk of overheating or combustion.
- ✓ Non-Rechargeable Design Reduces risks associated with overcharging.
- ✓ Widely Used in Consumer Electronics Found in cameras, smoke detectors, medical devices, and military equipment.

Safe Indoor Storage Tips:

- ✓ Store in a Cool, Dry Place Avoid heat sources and direct sunlight.
- ✓ Keep Away from Metal Objects Prevents accidental short circuits.
- ✓ Do Not Store in High Humidity Areas Moisture can degrade battery performance.

- ✓ Keep Away from Children & Pets Small batteries can be a choking hazard.

 As long as they are not exposed to extreme heat, moisture, or physical damage, devices with LiMnO₂ batteries are safe for indoor storage.

⚠ CAUTION

• Battery Pack Precautions

- Do not subject the battery pack to serious physical impact.
- Do not attempt to open or break apart the battery pack.
- Do not let the battery pack come into contact with open flames or hot objects.
- Do not short-circuit the terminals of the battery pack.
- · Keep out of the reach of children.
- If any leakage gets in the eye, immediately clean the eye with water and consult with a doctor.
- Do not store the battery pack under direct sunlight.
- Do not store the battery pack in a wet or very humid place.
- Comply with local regulations when disposing of the battery pack.
- Do not destroy or incinerate the battery pack.
- Never attempt to recharge the disposable battery pack.

The temperature survey has been completed and shows that an additional heat source is needed – St John's will not permit the purchase of a new defibrillator unless the cupboard is heated ion winter

Karen S shared on the WhatsApp group example photos of the signs that Astute can make – the cost would be approximately £153+VAT for 3 signs – 400x400mm for the Square and 700x300mm for signs to go on posts

Suggestion was made to use the old phone box in the Square as an alternative location – Karen S will contact BT to enquire about the feasibility of this

There will be a meeting on Thursday 27th March at 11am with Rachel Rodgers at Jubilee Court to decide where the defibrillator is going to be located – Cllr Nicoll will also attend this meeting

Isobel asked the Councillors present if permission is needed from the Roads department to put signs on lamp posts indicating the locations of the defibrillators – Cllr Shepherd asked for exact locations for the signs then he will ask

Action: Karen S to gather feedback on signs and contact Astute

Action: Karen S to contact BT regarding using the old phone box

Action: Cllr Nicoll to attend the meeting at Jubilee Court

Action: Exact location of signs to be shared with Cllr Shepherd who will then ask Roads department about whether permission is needed

Vinney Place Access –

Cllr Cowdy advised that nothing can be done by the Council as the property has been sold. The details of access should be on the Deeds and home owners should have been made aware by their solicitor. To access the information from the Land Registry of Scotland will have a cost (approximately £35) and it was agreed that the Community Council could support this. Gail will feedback this information to the resident

Action: Gail to feedback to the resident who contacted her

Treasurer Report:

Footpath Account: £3088.35

Defibrillator Account: £3150.05

Community Council Account: £2273.33 £2000 belongs to CLEAR – Wendy

advised that this will be spent by 28.03.25 and receipts will be sent

to Karen S for payment

Less cost for external

microphone/speaker – receipt to

be given to Karen S

The Data Protection Registration Fee with the ICO has come in and will be forwarded to Lynn Hally, Angus Council, as it is paid by the Council

Cllr Shepherd advised that the money from Angus Council to Community Council's will be increasing by about 50%

Planning –

David shared that there are no issues / applications

Parking on Auldbar Road – at the planning meeting for the extension to the Craft Shop there was no concerns as there was unrestricted access – however, photos shared at this meeting showed the road outwith Craft Shop opening hours. Isobel shared that there has been parking on the pavement but no tickets given out. Cllr Cowdy will suggest that a person from the Council come and see what the issue is on Auldbar Road during Craft Shop opening hours. Debbie shared that the highway code says no parking within 10m of a junction and traffic is parking much closer that this to both Guthrie Street and Drummie Road junctions

AOCB:

Flood Risk Assessment at The Den – Isobel shared that before she was flooded she had put forward a complaint to Angus Council regarding a lack of flood risk awareness. Andrew Brown was the contact. Some work was done to land owned by Community Council. Isobel informed the meeting that she will personally submit a further complaint. A flood risk assessment is needed to be able to apply for funding. Mrs Jolly has written to Andrew Brown regarding the dangerous tree. Isobel spoke to 2 paths volunteers and they dealt with the trees/branches that were obstructing the path. Cllr Cowdy shared an email from Andrew Brown to say that the contractors have been on site to deal with some trees but not the overhanging one as this will require other equipment. Andrew Brown has said that an independent flood risk assessment will be undertaken and Cllr Cruickshanks has offered to liaise with him and get the date for this being completed.

Action: Cllr Cruickshanks to liaise with Andrew Brown and get the date for the flood risk assessment being completed

Action: Cllr Cowdy to feedback to Mrs Jolly

SEPA – Isobel shared that there is a meeting at Forfar Fire Station on Thursday 27th March at 6pm to discuss 'run off' and the risk to properties

Community Council meetings – David suggested that all members of the Community Council should be seated round the table

Cllr Nicoll shared an update on the water on the C51 road near to West Lodge – the work will be completed in the new financial year but no exact date for this at present

Cllr Shepherd shared that the sign at the Blairs Road/ Dundee Street crossroads that needs renovating will be done in approximately the next month

Blairs Road Traffic Calming measures have been installed – currently not effective but might not have been completed yet. Cllr Shepherd will investigate this and whether there has been consultation with residents

Wendy shared that there has been a question about the Cosgrove Award – the Village Hall have offered the use of the hall for free for the presentation – a new plaque is needed. Nomination forms will go out in April – Isobel will share information on Auld Letham FaceBook page

Close: Wendy thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.54pm

DONM: Thursday 17th April 2025