

Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting on Thurs 20th February 2025 7 pm at The Cross meeting room.

Present:

Community Councillors: - Robin Wardhaugh (RW), Jacqui Garvin (JG), Graeme Clark (GC) and Tom O'Brien (Tob)

Minute Secretary: - None

Angus **Councillors:** - Cllr Ian McLaren (Cllr IM) and Cllr Lynne Devine (Cllr LD)

Others; - Lorna Bruce (LB) and Gwen Wood (GW) attending as potential community councillors.

1. Welcome and Apologies – RW welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Lorna Bruce and Gwen Wood to were looking to be community councillors. Apologies from James Gray-Cheape and Dave Gardner.

2. Minutes from previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and proposed by RW and seconded by TOB.

3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting: Lynne Devine gave an update on old phone boxes at the cross. She has contacted BT but they are saying that they are in a listed building area and so will not remove them. Community council to send a letter to them requesting removal as they are damaged with no phones in them, broken windows and no doors. They are becoming an eyesore and a danger to people with the sharp edges where there are no windows etc. LB said that Tannadice had used there's for use as a defib station but not an option as the boxes are regularly vandalised. JG asked about the trees being removed from Balmashanner and the cost of doing this. Cllr LD said the cost of this was part of the money to be used to do up the path network around that area and open up the monument to be seen from Forfar.

4. Chairperson's Report: RW spoke about the proposed Cossans solar farm development and the latest consultation taking place on Feb 28th from 1pm-7pm at Padanaram village hall. Also mentioned the last chance to attend the final consultation event by SSEN on the pylons being proposed for the area. This is the last opportunity to get information before the route is put out to the planning application stage. RW said that Kingsmuir now had a defib at the hall and would like to ask the community council for a donation towards it. A vote took place and it was agreed to give a donation once a formal request was received in writing.

5. Secretary Correspondence/Report. New batteries and pads already obtained for existing defibs and looking at cost of new defib and cabinet. CPR training equipment also obtained for training to be arranged in the future. Secretary raised the issue of a new group potentially being setup to look at the issues and facilities at Forfar loch, there is about £150,000 pounds to get some new equipment for the play park and this could lead to the group looking into improving the rest of the country park. A discussion followed around who would lead this group and what it would involve. This would need other people from the community as well as the community council and a meeting is being setup by communities worker Jennifer Anderson to look at what can be done in the area as well as decide what equipment to put into the playpark.

6. Treasurer's Report: There being £6154.90 in the bank £2000 which is resilience funding to buy equipment for the defibrillators and source a new one for the Restrenneth, Pitreuchie and Easterbank area of Forfar. This has to be spent by end of March 2025. Monies paid out for remembrance parade wreaths.

7. Police & Fire Service Report: Monthly Police report to follow the meeting.

There was an online meeting with the Fire service to look at the new strategy and discuss a national memorial for firefighters lost in the line of duty. A discussion took place around the fire service and the work they carry out in the community which is vital, such as fire alarms and detectors and replacing chip pans with safer equipment. Also the work they do with the schools and young people about the dangers of fire raising and driving safely to avoid deaths.

8. Local Councillor Update: Cllr LD- Has been working with colleagues on the budget proposals coming up soon. Working with the transport group to look at 20,30 and 40mph speed limits around the villages. JG asked why Police do not check these speed limits, it was mentioned that Police Scotland do not enforce 20mph limits. Virgin media doing a lot of work around the area which has caused a few complaints from residents about the work and the damage to pavements etc. She attended the 1st meeting of the new housing committee and was pleased that Forfar open garden were given permission to take on the land to the rear of Reid hall to start a new open garden. Pleased that the old gates would be reused at the new location. At housing committee it was decided to put up the rent for council housing by 5.2%, a new improvement plan was put forward and hopefully this will improve the housing situation moving forward.

Cllr IM- Spoke about the improvements to the outside of houses and the cladding works taking place, which will help to insulate homes which will help to hopefully bring heating costs down. He has received a lot of complaints about speeding in the town and the state of the holes in the roads, this is being looked at, but reminds people they need to report any major problems with the roads to the council.

9. AOCB: Lorna Bruce and Gwen Wood both expressed interest in joining Forfar community council. Lorna Bruce will be co-opted on at March meeting, however Gwen Wood lives outside the Forfar area but was given the details of Letham community council which covers the area she lives in. He mentioned the exhibition about improvements to Castle St at the VAA coming up. Also a lot of the plastic bins have been replaced with metal ones due to the amount of the bins being set on fire, hopefully these metal ones will be better.⁷

10. Subgroup updates:

- I. Quarry group (Lairds) RW spoke to Lairds about why the quarry group were not consulted about the changes to the lease for the quarry. They apologised for not speaking to the group and will inform the group of any changes etc in future.

11. Planning Applications: No new major planning applications this month.

12. Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thurs 20th March 2025 at The Cross meeting room Forfar at 6.30 pm (18.30) for general meeting unless advised otherwise.