

Letham & District Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on: 18th April 2024 at 7.30pm in Letham Feuars Hall

Present: Wendy Cameron, Karen Smith, Isobel Sword, Sandra Macrae, Cllr Nicoll, Gail Smith, Karen Kose, Tracy Andrews, Debbie Dallas – also Alan Cant & Alison Towns

Via Teams: No-one

Apologies Cllr Cowdy, Cllr Shepherd, Police

Absent Mhairi Dickson, Cllr Fairweather, David Lumgair

Amendments to previous minutes:

- None

Approval of Previous Minutes: proposed by: Sandra

seconded: Karen S

Matters Arising:

- **Police** – report was emailed to committee members – included 9 crimes recorded (increase of 7 from previous report): 1 general assault, 1 sexual assault, 1 dishonesty, 1 fire-raising
- **Cosgrove Award** – Nomination forms to be available for collection from the Book Shop. Request for nominations to be completed promptly with a closing date of Friday 14th June – decision will be made at Community Council meeting in June

Action: Isobel to print nomination forms and put information in to 'In the Pict-ure'

- **Litter** – Wendy thanked the members of the Community Council for their participation in Annual Litter Pick – 30-40 bags of rubbish were collected
- **Funding** – Alison and Alan attended the meeting to share the plans of the Paths Group – they are hoping to get funding to improve the paths and drainage. They suggested approaching Angus Climate Hub and Paths for All. They want to select 1 path to start with (behind Mossburn, between Auldbar Road and Guthrie St) and improve the path and the drainage. The work will mainly be completed by the Paths Group, although they will also ask for volunteers. Root 1 have been approached for support but not got back to the group yet. The

materials needed will be piping and gravel. Karen S offered to ask at her work about the gravel. Isobel suggested making a flyer to send to all households and also used for the funding application. Alison suggested waiting until after the first path improvement project is completed so that residents understand what they aims of the group and the results will be. After the first path is complete the group will have more understanding of the costing will be for the funding application. Alison shared that the previous request for volunteers in the village only had 4 new people come along – this had been shared on FaceBook although most of the Community Council were unaware of the previous request. Karen S asked if the Village Lottery Fund have stopped filling in pot holes – if so could the 'Paths for All' fund be applied to for pavement improvements. Alison requested a letter from the Community Council requesting that the land behind the council houses next to the Back Burn (between Auldbar Road and Watson Street), which is owned by the Council, be allowed to be maintained by the Paths Group – the plan is to see this area cared for possibly with natural planting and they hope to have the backing of the Community Council (and also the Feuars Committee)

Action: Alison to draft a letter to the Council for Wendy to approve and sign

Action: Paths Group to get prices for materials needed and let the Community Council know

- **Defibrillators** – Cllr Cowdy sent information regarding putting a defibrillator on the outside of Jubilee Court saying that there is no council money to pay for this. Sandra shared that she is now the Chair of the newly formed Jubilee Court Committee. It was suggested that if the Community Council purchase the defibrillator would the council pay for just the installation and ongoing power supply costs – Cllr Nicoll to find out about this. This is what happened at South Esk Sheltered Housing Complex in Ferryden so there previous action of this happening. All maintenance of defibrillators is done by Community Council members. Wendy had emailed Davidsons to ask about a defibrillator on the outside of the Pharmacy with them paying for the ongoing power supply but not heard back yet. There is a concern regarding the ongoing cost of the power supply each year so Karen K looked it up and found that the running costs of an outside cabinet is between £2-£3 per year. Karen S suggested that a 'Thanks' should be sent to Bruce Craik of Forfar Albion who donated £371.61 from 'Forfar Albion 2003' to specifically install a defibrillator in Craiche. Bruce has approached the owner of the building he rents to get permission for installation and ongoing power supply. Bruce has requested publicity, wider than just a 'thanks' to him, so information will be put into 'In the Pict-ure'.

Action: Cllr Nicoll to find out if council will install and provide the power supply for a defibrillator on Jubilee Court if purchased by Community Council

Action: Isobel to write a note of thanks for Bruce Craik and Forfar Albion 2003 to be put into 'In the Pict-ure'

Correspondence:

- Emails – Isobel has requested that all members of the Community Council read the emails that are sent out. Wendy suggested that everyone 'read and respond'. There has been a survey sent by SCDC (no one was sure what/who this is) but this can only be completed once you are logged into your Angus Council account so not user friendly, nor anonymous. Cllr Nicoll will feedback to Lynne Halley, instigator of the survey, concerns regarding the barriers to engagement – ironically the survey is regarding levels of community engagement

Action: All members of the Community Council read the emails that are sent out

Action: Cllr Nicoll to feedback to Lynne Halley regarding access to survey

- Data Protection – Isobel has received emails regarding data protection and the Community Council being registered – it has been suggested to have a 'data protection officer' but Isobel & Wendy don't think this necessary. Isobel confirmed that no paperwork or personal details of committee members are kept in the Feuars Hall

Treasurer Report:

Footpath Account: £4028.9

(now less £261.07 for the mower insurance)

Defibrillator Account: £2213.34

Community Council Account: £255.16

(payment has been made to Church Hall and Isobel for refreshments from Cosgrove Award)

(receipts for Cosgrove Award refreshments still to be paid)

- Karen S shared that the accounts for 2023/2024 were completed on 31st March – now need to be audited and submitted to the Council
- Isobel confirmed that the Community Council are subscribed to 'Parish Online' at a cost of £120 (£100 + £20 VAT) – still waiting on invoice being sent ready for the June renewal date

AOCB:

- Wendy asked if there is a Community Council FaceBook page – as there isn't she will ask her neighbour to set one up using the Community Council email

Action: Wendy to organise a Community Council FaceBook page through help from a neighbour

- Blood Pressure Machine – there was a discussion regarding the blood pressure monitoring machine at the Jubilee Court Health Centre and the consensus was it would be good to have this being used more, especially when doctors appointments are hard to get. Karen S is a member of the PPG at Ravenswood Surgery, Forfar, so will ask at the next meeting if they would support increased use of the machine in Letham

Action: Karen S to discuss the blood pressure machine at the next Ravenswood PPG meeting

- Isobel discussed that following the litter pick there was a meeting at 'The Greens' to discuss their continued use. There needs to be a system where the capacity to hold more water is increased. The stone bridge at The Den is now the first point that hold the water. There needs to be a licence from SEPA to do any work on the burn. There needs to be a plan drawn up for how to manage the water from the burn.
- Green Water has been running out of the old Chicken factory – is smelly and makes the path unusable so pedestrians have to walk on the road

Action: Cllr Nicoll to raise this with Environmental Health

- Green triangle of land at top of East Den Brae – this is owned by the Council but the closest resident, who may have a 'right of servitude', chased some children off from playing there

Action: Cllr Nicoll to seek confirmation of the rights of the resident and ask Council to make contact with them with an outline of what their rights are

- David previously raised concerns regarding the crossroads at Bractullo Mill Farm and The Gask where the water runs down the road – Cllr Nicoll has found out that this is on the list for improvement but as no homes are being impacted it is not a priority. Cllr Nicoll has been told that regular improvements are being made.

Planning:

- Solar panel Plan – Community Council has put in a letter of objection and 3 further Community Councils have backed this. There has been a change to the proposed fields being used but the plan has not been passed yet. Gail shared paperwork including a map of the proposed land to be used.

Close:

Wendy thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.14pm