

**Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting on Thurs 7 pm at The Cross meeting room.**

**Present:**

Community Councillors: - T. O'Brien (Tob), Robin Wardhaugh (RW), Dave Gardner (DG), and Jacqui Garvin(JG)

**Minute Secretary:** - None

**Angus Councillors:** - None

**Others;** - Aileen Law (member of the public), Valerie Orr and Leslie Miller both from Cotton of Lonie.

**1. Welcome and Apologies** – Angela Gillies (AG), James Gray-Cheape, , Kathryn Patullo, Marley Hunter, Graeme Clark (GC), Eleanor Feltham (EF), Ian Dickson, Cllr Linda Clark and Cllr Ross Greig.

**2. Minutes from previous Meeting:** Proposed by DG and seconded by RW.

**3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting:** RW still to contact land owner re field and wall in Lour road about ownership and what can be done re the wall and flood damage.

**4. Chairperson's Report:** None.

**5. Secretary Correspondence/Report:** Secretary reported he had attended a meeting along with Graeme Clark with other community councils who are along the route of the new pylon line running from Kintore to Tealing and associated other works. This meeting was to see what community councils are doing and co-ordinate a response to the SSEN consultation and look at ways to get views from the public. A suggestion was a questionnaire both paper based and online. Also attended the public meeting at Forfar community council run by Angus pylon action group (APAG) where various speakers spoke about the consultation. Speakers included MP Dave Doogan and MSP Tess White. There is a lot of public feedback against the proposed pylon line and associated infrastructure. Forfar Community council are gathering information from the public and will prepare a response once a planning application is put forward. Responses to the consultation will also take place if required. Also mentioned Scottish wildlife trust community site, the new friends of Forfar loch group meeting at the ranger station once a month at Forfar loch. Community council have been invited to International worker day on Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April at Forfar campus where the memorial bech will be unveiled made by the pupils.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** Still waiting for action from the bank to approve DG as new signatory.

**7. Police & Fire Service Report:** Sgt Vicki Crichton and PC Scott Anderson attended and spoke about the monthly report on issues in the Forfar and Kirriemuir area. Rural crime and the actions the Police are taking to help and publicise the neighbourhood watch (Rural watch) in these areas and in urban areas. The Police community team have been visiting schools and had talks on internet safety and drug use. Working with 1 school on road safety, the pupils used speed guns with the police and handed out letters to drivers who were stopped about speeding outside schools. It was mentioned about vehicle crime increasing particularly with regards to Ford Fiesta ST models, police advise to report anything suspicious. Some questions were asked about the new hate crime bill. A discussion took place about this and what it means moving forward and how it will affect things.

Member of the public Aileen Law asked about issues with the old swimming pool as pictures were put on Facebook about the inside of it. Also she lives close by and said there were issues with youths getting

inside and being on the roof. She wanted to know what the police were doing about this and also what the owners should be doing to keep the building secure. Police advised to report anything untoward and the council can contact the owner to make the building secure. It was mentioned that it should be reported to the fire service as potentially there could be a danger to life if a fire is started.

**8. Local Councillor Update:** See appendix 1.

**9. AOCB:** Bus timetables were mentioned but as there were no councillors present secretary to pass on concerns about changes to the timetables and in particular rural bus services and getting to Perth for hospital appointments etc.

**Cotton of Lownie solar farm:** Valerie Orr and Leslie Miller attended the meeting to ask if the community council would be willing to support objections to the solar farm and what advice they had re objecting. A discussion took place and various issues were discussed. These include the loss of prime agriculture land, local flooding issues on the road in front of the proposed solar farm, road safety issues with glare from the panels and increase in traffic during construction. Loss of farm land will push up prices of other land in the area which will make it hard for tenant farmers to afford to carry on farming. It will make it harder to rear cattle due to loss of farmland. There are also issues with the route of the cable. Some of the panels have been moved back from some of the residential houses and one of the fields has been changed due to objections but locals feel that other objections are not being considered. Community council will look at the information and decide on a response from planning contact once all members have been spoken too, consensus from those at the meeting was to object to the development using NP4 constraints where possible. Secretary thanked Valerie and Leslie for attending.

**10. Subgroup updates:**

- I. Quarry group (Lairds) No update this month, everything is going well.

**11. Planning Applications:** See appendix 2.

**12. Date and time of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thurs 2024 at The Cross meeting room Forfar at 7 pm (19.00) for general meeting unless advised otherwise.

## Appendix 1

### Councillors Report, Cllr Greig

21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Apologies I am unable to make the meeting tonight, I have been invited to the Service of Union at the Lowson Memorial Church. I, along with Cllrs Clark, McLaren and Devine were invited to Celebration Service with Holy Communion at St Margarets, their final Sunday Service prior to tonight's Service of Union. St Margarets will close its doors on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March this year. Moving forward, they will have a new union as All Souls Church which will offer worship across the new parish in Aberlemno and Letham and at the Lowson building in Forfar. Listed below are all of the events taking place at St Margarets leading up to the closure of the building at the end of the month.

Thurs 21 March Service of union at Lowson at 7pm

Fri 22 March Open Door Café

Sat 23 March Church Pop-in morning [sanctuary visits/coffee morning and pop up open] Holy Week

Sun 24 March Lent 6/Palms and Passion — a service of journey @church

Mon 25 March Cosy Cuppies

Mon 25 March Holy Week Prayers @7pm

Tues 26 March Holy Week Prayers @7pm

Wed 27 March Holy Week Worship @ Wed Worship

Wed 27 March Holy Week Prayers @ 7pm

Thurs 28 March Maundy Meal and Holy Communion @ 7pm

Fri 29 March Open Door Café

Fri 29 March Holy Week/ Good Friday prayers @7pm

Sat 30 March Church Pop-in morning [sanctuary visits/coffee morning & pop up]

Sun 31 March Dawn Service 8am, breakfast from 8.30am & Celebration Service Ilam

#### **Craig O'Loch Road.**

I continue to receive correspondence from residents regarding the ongoing closure of this road. I have requested regular updates from the Director of Infrastructure around this as, In my opinion, this is taking far too long to resolve.

The latest update I received was on Tuesday this week where I have been assured that the Council will again press Scottish Water on progress. I have also written to Scottish Water regarding this and await a reply.

#### **Road End Bin Collections.**

I have been contacted by various households where they have been told that their wheelie bins will no longer be collected from outside their properties due to them being on a Private Road. I have been in touch with the residents concerned and also with the relevant Council Officers regarding this. The Council are sticking to their guns with their policy. This policy was adopted on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013, Report No 341/13. I have been fighting against this and asking for various documents from Officers around these decisions. I am of the opinion that in the cases I am dealing with, these bin collections should resume with immediate effect and have used the Councils Policy and the gaps within it as leverage. Progress is being made with some and less so with others. I will continue to fight these decisions on behalf of residents.

#### **Vennel Swimming Baths.**

This is an area of serious concern for me and I have been contacted by many people around this. I have met with some residents who live in the direct vicinity of the old swimming baths to hear their concerns and to take these to Officers, Police and also Scottish Water. I have been assured by Officers that when the building was sold, all due diligence was observed. I have also been advised that Officers have been in touch with the current owners of the building to ensure that the site is secure so that unauthorised access is prevented.

I have also spoken with Police Scotland Area Commander about this. Police Scotland have also been in touch with the owner of the building and have been offering advice on how best to secure the building to prevent unauthorised access. With regards to the cannabis farm that was discovered, I

have been given information around this by the Police however I am unable to go into detail around this.

What I can say however is that the current owner has been working positively with the Police around this.

I have asked that the former swimming baths are passed with greater frequency by police whilst out and about with the hope that this can act as a deterrent to anyone looking to access the building for any reason. They have agreed to this and my thanks to them for their support on this.

## **Pylons/ Solar Farms**

As you can imagine, I continue to receive many letters and emails around these. I will continue to take all opinions on this matter in consideration should I have to make any judgement on it.

I cannot offer any opinion on any of these matters as this would preclude me from taking part in any debate or vote on the matter.

In addition to the above, I continue to attend all Council and Committee meetings that I am a part of.

Kind regards,  
Cllr Ross Greig

## **Appendix 2 Planning**

### APPEAL PENDING

22/00859/FULM \* 216 Houses east of Garth Farm Revised as below  
21/00857/FULM  
PENDING 245 Houses (Deemed Refusal PPA 120-2059-1) Note only for admin purpose  
23/00304/FULL \* Lour Road 44 Units 44 units  
23/00389/FULM \* Scotia Homes Westfield Loan 117 Units  
23/00393/FULM \* Cotton of Lownie Solar Farm  
23/00469/FULL \* Closure northbound Lochland Junction  
23/00808/FULL Lochside Lodge and 2nd Floor extensions  
23/00761/FULL Lochmill Forfar DD8 IQZ Demolish farmhouse, erect new and Change of use agricultural land to garden ground  
24/00010/FULL 17 Muir Place Extension (re application)  
24/00064/PRIOR \* Football ground Craig O'Loch Road Mast and sundry works  
24/00092/FULL 15 Prior Road Extension  
24/00105/FULL 75 Suttieside Road Sinle storey extension and private water plant  
24/00106/FULL \* Lochside Caravan Park — 3 all weather pitches  
24/00130/FULL 50 John Street Forfar New opening to building  
24/00162/FULL  
APPROVED Bunkerhill Crescent Kingsmuir Erect 3 houses and works  
23/00481/FULL Canmore Lour Steading to residential  
23/00776/MS 2 Westfield Loan (Approval of matters)  
23/00802/FULL Strathmore Hall (Use Vehicle Prep )  
23/00807/FULL Kingston Place Kingsmuir  
23/00841/PPPL Demolish existing house and erect new Bell Place  
23/00855/PAN \* BESS 49.9MW Former gas works Carseview Road  
23/00867/FULL W/shop Queenswell Road commercial garage  
24/00015/FULL 2B Turfbeg Road Erect House change of house position  
24/00016/FULL Replacement dwelling Cranshoe Ballinshoe  
24/00029/ADV 52 Castle Street ATM fascia sign  
24/00047/FULL 12 Falcon Drive change of house design  
24/00057/FULL 13 Dunnichen Road Kingsmuir- demolish garage and house  
24/00061/FULL Erect Shed Lowson Church  
24/00073/PRIORN  
Erect agri building Woodlands Forfar DD8 3TG  
24/00074/PRIORN Erect agri building Bogside Forfar DD8 3TG  
Planning contact- prepared Wednesday 20/03/24