

**Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting on Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7 pm at The Cross meeting room.**

**Present:**

Community Councillors: - T. O'Brien (Tob), Graeme Clark (GC), Eleanor Feltham (EF), Robin Wardhaugh (RW), Dave Gardner (DG).

**Minute Secretary:** - None

**Angus Councillors:** - Cllr Linda Clark

**Others;** - Sgt Caroline Patullo Police Scotland.

**1. Welcome and Apologies** – James Gray-Cheape, Jacqui Garvin, Kathryn Patullo, Marley Hunter and Cllr Ross Greig, Angela Gillies (AG) and Ian Dickson (ID).

**2. Minutes from previous Meeting:** Proposed by GC Seconded by RW

**3. Matters Arising from previous Meeting:** EF mentioned again about drivers entering the exit road to the Forfar Loch parking. Information to be passed to Police and Angus council. TOB to attend area and take photos of the signs to make sure they can be seen from the road and are not obscured from view by trees etc. GC mentioned that there are still flooding issues at caravan park entrance road, drainage needs to be sorted.

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

**5. Secretary Correspondence/Report:** TOB reported on the upcoming bi-annual meeting with community councils and officers from the council. Some councillors will be attending as well. It is a chance for views from all community councils to be put to the council on various topics. TOB to speak about community council forums, a discussion took place about what they were and how they could be used. They are a chance for a Angus wide view of the work community councils do and give an across Angus public view on shared issues. The forum could give views from community councils to council committees amongst other things.

Ongoing pylon consultation, next meeting re new Tealing (Emmnock) substation on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2pm-7pm at Tealing hall with SSEN. A discussion took place about the pylons and associated works and the noise, health, broadband issues etc associated with these developments.

Correspondence received from residents on the proposed Cotton of Lownie solar panel development and response entered on planning application from Community council objecting to the proposed site.

Details of community council survey sent out and people encouraged to fill it out, consultation on Angus active travel as well to look at on engage Angus site.

Forfar sailing club common good consultation taking place for them to get new lease for grounds at Forfar loch.

Forfar common good properties register consultation taking place on engage Angus site.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** Nothing to report no change in bank account, yearly accounts to be done.

**7. Police & Fire Service Report:** No fire report, however community council and the public have been invited to attend a consultation by SFR Scotland at Forfar fire station on Fri 14<sup>th</sup> June 10am-12pm.

Police report Sgt Patullo was welcomed to the meeting, she gave a report on the previous months activities. There were 451 crimes reported in the Forfar and Kirriemuir area with 48 being of a serious nature. RW asked about the increase in shoplifting, Sgt Patullo said there has been an increase in

shoplifting and a lot of it is due to the cost of living crisis but not all. In relation to this there has been an increase in attacks on shop staff, more rural crime and vehicle thefts. Sgt Patullo gave advice about car thefts such as not to leave the keys by the door and maybe invest a cover for the fob to stop them being cloned by thieves. Monthly Police report is published after the Community council meeting. TOB mentioned the 2 broken windows in the roof of the old swimming pool which were not boarded up and people could gain access from these. Sgt Patullo was thanked again for attending and then left the meeting.

**8. Local Councillor Update:** See Appendix A and Appendix B.

Also discussion on void properties and ways to get them back into use more quickly, also need to think of ways to increase the amount of new properties to be built, maybe look at pre-fabs but the more modern self-contained type that are built from kits etc, these are used in Germany and other countries in Europe.

**9. AOCB:** DG suggested that the community council such try to recruit more members by attending markets/gala days etc to promote what we do. Also a leaflet around the area or posters.

**10. Subgroup updates:**

- I. Quarry group (Lairds) No update.

**11. Planning Applications:** See Appendix C

EF spoke about new developments and issues with existing water courses being blocked or the route changed e.g. issue with the Fithie burn in Dundee, also the country roads being flooded by increased water runoff.

**12. Date and time of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at The Cross meeting room Forfar at 7 pm (19.00) for general meeting unless advised otherwise.

## Appendix A

### Report from Councillor Linda Clark Forfar May, 2024

Councillor Linda Clark reported on questions from constituents which are predominantly around housing issues, unsociable issues with neighbours, vandalisms and dog-fouling.

Reports of houses being lain empty for long periods of time especially in the Easterbank area were discussed with the following explanations: Some houses needing very specialist adaptations to accommodate families with pertinent needs including disability, tenants needing extra support and very large families etc. To have these done in a financially and timeously way does take time as contractors' workloads dictate that homes are done in such a way to suit their availability.

A recent contractor working on repairs and voids during and immediately after COVID had gone into liquidation and had left a large backlog of unfinished work. The new contractor is making inroads in a much more satisfactory manner albeit this will take some time. Contractors are not necessarily local which is often problematic but the Council has to make good-value choices to balance the budget and the Housing team like every other, will make the best possible decisions.

Tenemental properties where there are houses in e.g. two up, two down arrangement make for the most suitable homes for the aforementioned requirements. However from the perspective of constituents, this may seem to be not to be efficient. Easterbank has several such properties and once this work is completed this will go a long way to accommodate the tenants who need the specially-adapted homes.

There has been some report of a firm of workers not being sympathetic or polite to tenants where there are large works going on around them, this has been addressed too. However the vast majority of workers are polite and very understanding. New cladding work has started in this area.

Archie's Park is another area where the council has closed up some houses in the plan for renovation and perhaps small families or individuals may be decanted there whilst major works can be done on their homes.

However it is a fact that we don't have the funds to build new homes.

The Pot-holes repair programme is being addressed and folk are reminded to report to the Access-Line every time they come across one. The repairs are done relatively quickly as a result of these reports but sometimes the repairs are patches till the programme for the extensive work is managed. When the heavy rains we now experience, arrive, this work can be washed away. Once again climate change is hitting us where we least expected.

The area around Fiskens, Craig-o-Loch Rd. which necessitated the road being closed due to severe flood damage and other services difficulties, is now open to traffic. There were many complaints about this but the work is now complete on the road with the massive works to the adjacent part of the Loch-park coming on well. Recent good weather has helped here.

Vandalisms, crimes, speeding and other public nuisance incidents are reported to the police. This should continue despite there being the thought that they now have to prioritise their time and manage more serious crimes at a premium.

Dog-fouling seemed to be on the increase in and around our shopping areas and pathways. It has been noticed that little flags are being placed where each area is fouled. It has to be said however that considering the amount of families who exercise their dogs, the vast majority of them are very responsible. There are possibly some animals being allowed to go out on their own and the inevitable will then happen.

Lots of road-works due to necessary work by the Water and Gas Boards and the upgrade of Wi-Fi. These are difficult to cope with at times for people so we need to ensure we can explain the need as best we can.

Nevertheless our recent lovely weather does mean we're using our parks more and enjoying the beautiful flowers tended often by volunteer groups. Volunteer Week is the beginning of June and any community volunteer folk feel should get a mention, please let me know and I'll speak to the Provost so that the individual or small group can have a meeting with him to have a refreshment and receive a certificate.

Ends:

## Appendix B

### Report from Councillor Ross Greig May 2024

Good evening,

My apologies I am not able to make this evening meeting, I, along with other Elected Members have been invited to an event hosted by the Army in Dundee.

Just a brief update from myself in some of the things I've been doing and to report on.

Over and above attending the Committee's I am a member of and meetings of the Full Council, I have been dealing with various housing issues and also two issues people have contacted me about in regards to the registration process when registering a death. I have also helped out with the promotion of our Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate at the recent Arbroath West, Letham and Friockheim by-election. I am very pleased to say that our candidate Jack Cruickshanks was duly elected as Councillor winning 41.9% of the vote share.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> March, I attended the final service at St Margarets Church which was on Easter Sunday. The building has now closed and the congregation have now joined with those at the Lawson Memorial Church. Together they now for the All Souls Church Forfar. I Keep in regular contact with both Rev Maggie and Rev Karen who keep me up to date with what's going on and upcoming events.

The East and Old Parish Church is still as busy as ever and they are still in the process of appointing a new Minister.

As I am sure you will all be aware, former Councillor Colin Brown Passed away. Although I did not know him very well, whenever I happened to bump into him, we would always have a chat. He was always keen to hear what was happening and would always offer any advice he could. I, along with many other Councillors past and present, attended his funeral on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April at the Lawson Memorial Church. The church was absolutely packed full with people paying their respects.

I am pleased to see that the Craig O'Loch road has finally reopened. There is still much investigation work and fixes going on from Scottish Water which I have asked to kept up to date with. I also continue to receive correspondence about the SSEN pylons. Unfortunately I am still unable to give a view on this. I will of course take all of these views into my considerations should I be asked to comment or take part in a vote at a meeting of the Full Council.

With some happier, fun news, I have been in touch with some people who are looking to create an Angus wide Pride event which hopefully, will become an annual event. I was aware of a Kirrie Pride event that took place last year at the Three Bellies Brae Bar in Kirriemuir last year. I spoke with Jenny who had organised the event and congratulated her on how well attended it was. Going forward, I have offered as much help as I can to help make an Angus wide event a huge success.

Should anyone have any specific questions for me, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,  
Ross

## Appendix C

### Planning applications updates - Meeting Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024

#### APPEAL PENDING

22/00859/FULM *	216 Houses east of Garth Farm Revised as below
21/00857/FULM	245 Houses (Deemed Refusal PPA 120-2059-1) Note only for admin purpose

#### PENDING

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 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor extensions
24/00105/FULL	75 Suttieside Road Single storey extension and private water plant
24/00143/FULL	Site storage container Graham Crescent Recreation ground for Forfar Stingers Para Football Club
24/00220/FULL	Replace and enlarge flat roof extension Ellerne Old Brechin Road
24/00234/FULL	9A Slatefield Rise Erect decking area
24/00287/ADV	1 Berrymoss Lane O/Bank Erect signs

**APPROVED**

24/00162/FULL Bunkerhill Crescent Kingsmuir Erect 3 houses and works  
24/00174/FULL Erect sunroom 6 Gowan Rigg  
24/00205/FULL Change of use gym to MOT garage Carseview Road Fitness Hub HQ

**WITHDRAWN**

24/00064/PRIORN Football ground Craig O'Loch Road Mast and sundry works

Notes

- \* Public interest applications
- Change of house designs excluded (Strathmore Fields)
- Retrospective applications excluded

Planning contact- prepared Wednesday 15/05//24