

INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 20th May 2024 at Stracathro Hall, Inchbare

Present: Gus Leighton (Chair), Claire Wilson (Minute Secretary), Dick Robertson, Kate Skene (Planning Contact), Alan Budge (Treasurer) , Cllr Beattie, representative of Police Scotland and 11 members of the public.

Apologies: Ken Goddard, Graham Dallas and Cllr Nicol.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The minutes were proposed by Kate Skene and seconded by Dick Robertson. The minutes will be posted to the Community Council website and sent to Angus Council and the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for distribution.

Action: Claire

Police Report

The Police Report had been distributed to all the Community Council members before the meeting. The Community Police Scotland Representative read out the report to the meeting which included the local crime figures.

A successful event was held at The Cottage, Edzell on Wednesday 3rd April where the Police, Fire Service and Trading Standards were in attendance. It is hoped to have further events in the future. There have been reports of salmon poaching on the North Esk River. Community Police Officers have been working with the Water Bailiff to patrol the area.

Community Police Officers have been attending the local schools to promote road safety. The pupils also carried out speed checks with the Community Police Officers on the nearby roads.

There are motorists who are not adhering to the priority system at the Edzell Arch. The Arch is now single file to protect the structure and priority is given to vehicles leaving the village. It is unknown the reason for this issue as there is adequate clear signage.

A member of the public commented that there are people going round the barriers on the Shaking Bridge at Edzell which has been closed due to damage following the storms last year. The Community Police Representative confirmed that he had been down to the bridge recently and more secure barriers had now been erected.

Former Tarfside School building and grounds

Tarfside School has been closed for several years due to lack of pupils. Gus and Ken have met with Simon Ramsay of Dalhousie Estates to look at possible suggestions for using the building and grounds. Ken had discussed some suggestions with local residents

1. Demolish the buildings and build affordable housing on the site – it was thought that this was not a good plan due to the lack of employment in the Glen and also the lack of public transport.
2. Change the building into a Bunk House which could house showers, more toilets and perhaps a small shop which could stock some items for the campers/locals like long life milk etc. Potentially cabins could also be built in the grounds to provide glamping facilities. It was also suggested that the building be used as a Hub to run and support the wild campsite which is in the field at Tarfside. It was suggested that the Cairngorms National Park may be interested in advising/assisting with such a project, so Gus has given Dalhousie Estates a contact for the National Park.

Planning and CNP Report

Kate Skene gave a report for the applications for the Inveresk Community Council area.

- Peatland Restoration in Glenesk – no comment required.

- Extension and alterations at Kingsknowe, Edzell – no comment required.
- Conversion of Maule Memorial Church, Glenesk to residential property – no comment required.
- Several applications had been made for Newtonmill House and associated buildings – no comment required.
- Shed at Cairncross, Glenesk. Building will not be visible from the road – no comment required.

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance		£480.83
Hall Hire Inglis Hall (3 meetings)	-	90.00
Hall Hire (Stracathro Hall)	-	40.00
Secretary Fees (2 months – March and May)	-	<u>100.00</u>
		£250.83
Angus Council Grant Money	+	<u>400.00</u>
Closing Balance		<u>£650.83</u>

Alan stated that the Council Grant is only to be used for the running of the Community Council and should not be used to donate to any causes/charity. ICC have given donations in the past to local good causes, and it was confirmed that these monies had not been donated from grant money.

Alan also stated that the cost of Remembrance Wreaths could also no longer be covered by the grant. Gus will contact the Council to question this decision. **Action: Gus**

AFTERNOTE: Council confirmed that up to £50 can be claimed back for wreaths.

SSEN Transmission East Coast

This issue is ongoing.

Gus is attending a meeting tomorrow (21/05/24) with other Community Councils affected by the proposed power lines and pylons (Phase II).

There is concern regarding the lack of biosecurity in place especially for Angus and Mearns which have very fertile agricultural land. There is a disease in potato crops which can easily be spread by foot fall and vehicles driving through the agricultural land. No biosecurity has been noted in the previous SSEN works carried out during the upgrades of the lines in the area. It is thought proper bio-security measures will add a large cost to the proposed OHL plans.

Gus plans to meet with Mairi Gougeon shortly to discuss the lack of biosecurity with the proposed plan.

Recurring items

Resilience

Lethnot equipment and volunteers in place. No update on the other hubs being organised with volunteers at this time.

Item to be moved to the unresolved list until any update from the other hubs.

Whishop Burn Bridge

Work should hopefully commence shortly. Judith Gallacher (former ICC member) continues to work with Balfour Beatty to complete this project.

Edzell Muir

One of the barriers to prevent access to the Muir has been vandalised recently but it is thought the barrier has now been repaired.

The Edzell Flood Group are keen to continue with the planned water holding area at the North of the Muir to avoid the flooding which occurs on Lethnot Road and Church Street. Currently there are

barriers which are erected on the roads to hold back the water during any flood. This has currently been successful in holding back the water from these areas but directs the water back into the Whishop Burn and also down the High Street which increases the water levels at Dunlappie Road and causes additional flooding there.

Angus Council have been in discussions with Dalhousie Estates who currently lease the Muir to Angus Council regarding restructuring the lease, but it thought that these discussions are at a “stalemate”.

The Council have had a hydrology and recent survey report done on the Muir, but the Flood Group have yet to see the reports. Cllr Beattie will contact the Flood Group and assist them in attaining the reports they require, if possible.

Action: Cllr Beattie/Flood Group

There was a discussion on the requirement to clear the ditches in the vicinity of the Muir and proposed banking required to assist with holding the flood water on the Muir.

Cllr Beattie addressed the meeting regarding the resident’s concerns of the lengthy stay of unauthorised encampments which have happened in the last few years on the Muir. Cllr Beattie explained the procedure the Council take for managing these unauthorised encampments and he explained that last year the travellers had submitted a counter action to the eviction notice and the court proceedings kept being postponed and that is why the encampment was able to remain on the Muir for such a long period of time. The encampment moved on before the proceeding could take place in court. Cllr Beattie also left copies of Angus Councils policy for the management of unauthorised encampments of gypsies/travellers for people to take and read for themselves. Cllr Beattie also spoke about the misinformation that was being spread in the area (letter sent last year to some local residents and more recently suggestions that a meeting with the Chief Executive and Cllr Scott was to take place on the Muir regarding the travellers).

Cllr Beattie explained that the Chief Executive of Angus was new in post and was visiting all the Council areas with the local Councillors to discuss the issues which were arising. As soon as Gus heard of the intention for people to meet on the Muir, he checked what was actually happening and issued a statement to be posted on the Edzell Facebook page. This explained the actual intention of the Chief Executive’s visit to the Brechin and Edzell Ward.

Cllr Beattie voiced his concern at the mistreatment Cllr Scott and her family (including her children) have endured (and continue to endure) regarding this issue due to the misinformation being spread. After a lengthy discussion a resident asked if it would be possible to have a public meeting with the Chief Executive of Angus Council to discuss the issues the encampment brought to the village. Cllr Beattie will take this suggestion forward to the Council and will report back with the answer.

Action: Cllr Beattie

Shaking Bridge, Edzell

It is thought that Aberdeenshire Council have performed a survey on the bridge, and it is not thought to require major work to repair. Alan thought that the bridge may require more work than thought as it looks like at least 3 of the 4 support wires have been washed away. Gus will ask Cllr Carr if ICC can see a copy of the bridge survey.

Action: Gus

Proposed Crossing of Edzell High Street

Kate had composed a survey and sent it to the Community Councillors but had only had one reply

ICC Facebook Page

Kate has suggested having an Inveresk Community Council Facebook page where information can be posted. The comments can be turned off on the page so it would not need to be “managed” on a frequent basis. It was agreed to take this forward, and Kate will set it up and monitor it.

Action: Kate

Little Brechin

Speeding Traffic

The signs have now been erected. Police have been monitoring speeds in the area when able. This item will be removed from the agenda.

Inchbare

An Active Travel submission has been made to improve/create pathways around Inchbare. There has been no update whether the submission has been successful. This item will return to the agenda once an update is received.

Lethnot

Correspondence has been received from a visitor to the area regarding the bridge at Craigendowie Farm which was extensively damaged in last years storms. This is preventing access to areas as the only alternative is to use private estate tracks. Gus informed the meeting that work had now commenced on the bridge. Claire will update the visitor with this information. **Action: Claire**

Potholes

The Lethnot Road from Edzell is in poor condition with various potholes. These have been reported to the Council.

A member of the public also reported the poor road condition at the junction of the Edzell to Menmuir road at Tigerton. The member of the public has reported this issue to the Council. They will forward on the photos of the road and Gus will report via Brechin Library and also ask Cllr Beattie to escalate to the Roads Department. **Action: Gus**

Ward Councillors' Report

Cllr Beattie had given his updates on any issues in the area throughout the meeting.

Brechin Healthcare Group

The BHG have been unable to come to an agreement with Angus Council regarding the planned move to a premise the Council manage, so they have agreed to a private premise lease meantime to allow them to continue their services.

Correspondence

Bi-annual meeting of Community Councils with Angus Council

This is to be held on Tuesday 28th May at 1800hrs. Gus and Dick are planning to attend.

Westwater Bridge

A resident has requested an update on when the repairs to the Westwater bridge, Inchbare will commence. Claire had contacted the AccessLine for an update but has received no response. Claire contacted the Councillors and has had an update that the repairs are currently out to tender. Claire has updated the resident.

Non-standard Housing

A request has been received asking for information and advice regarding a former Council property at Durie Place, Edzell (now for private sale) which is of non-standard build. The ICC is unable to advise on this issue and directed the requestor to contact a surveyor or solicitor who would be better placed to assist.

GDPR Officer for ICC

All Community Council's within Angus should have a Data Protection officer. There were no volunteers for this post at present.

Road Conditions for Ride the North

This cycle event is to take place in the Angus area in the summer. The road conditions in the ICC area, that the bike route follows, are in poor condition. Gus has made the Roads Department aware due to the concerns of the cyclists' safety.

Teams Training for Planning Appeals

This event will take place on Wednesday 12th June at 1800hrs. Kate will consider attending.

AOCB

Rental of Glenesk Folk Museum

Claire informed the ICC that she had provisionally booked the Glenesk Folk Museum for the August meeting but had been quoted £70. It was agreed that this costing was out with the ICC budget . Claire will ask Ken if there is another venue in Glenesk that could accommodate the meeting for a lesser cost and will let the Glenesk Folk Museum know the reason for not holding the meeting there. If a suitable venue can not be found at a reasonable price, the August 19th meeting will be held in Lethnot Hall.

Action: Claire

Gus thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting: Monday 17th June 2024 at Lethnot Hall

Approved on 17 June 2024

Gus Leighton (Chair)

Unresolved Issues by the ICC 2024

Unresolved Issue	Comment and date removed from Agenda
Resilience Hub	Lethnot Hub – equipped and staffed. Edzell, Inchbare and Little Brechin have equipment available and will require to organise premises and volunteers. Removed from Agenda May 2024