

INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 17th June 2024 at Lethnot Hall

Present: Gus Leighton (Chair), Claire Wilson (Minute Secretary), Graham Dallas, Kate Skene (Planning Contact), Alan Budge (Treasurer) , Cllr Beattie and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Dick Robertson, Cllr Nicol, Cllr Scott and Police Scotland.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The minutes were proposed by Kate Skene and seconded by Alan Budge. 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. Gus read out the report at the meeting which included the local crime figures. 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. The local Police are struggling to attend ICC meetings due to their shift pattern. A request has been made to look at the date of the ICC meetings so that Police attendance would be available. It was agreed to discuss this at the AGM in November.

Planning and CNP Report

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

- General Purpose Shed at Barrelwell – already an old shed on site of proposed build. New Shed it was felt would be an improvement – agreed no comment required by ICC.
- Careston Castle – Kate was working her way through the 109 documents associated with the application. It is thought that as Careston Castle is a listed building there is unlikely to be any issues with the application.
- Solar Panels at Newtonmill – it was agreed that no comment was required from the ICC for the proposed plan.
- There are various applications for the Newtonmill site – it was agreed that none of them require comment from ICC.

Treasurer's Report

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Opening Balance | | £650.83 |
| Hall Hire Lethnot Hall (June meeting) | - | 25.00 |
| Secretary Fees (June) | - | <u>50.00</u> |
| Closing Balance | | <u>£575.83</u> |

Angus Council confirmed that £50 was included in the grant to be used to buy Remembrance Wreaths. This amount does not cover the full cost of 1 wreath and ICC currently supply 2 wreaths (one at Edzell and one at Tarfside). This arrangement may need to be reviewed.

Gus stated that due to the amount of the Angus Council Grant to the ICC, to allow them to run their meetings and business, it would need to be discussed at the AGM whether they could financially continue to hold 9 meetings a year.

SSEN Transmission East Coast

This issue is ongoing.

Gus attended a meeting at Stonehaven regarding the proposed new pylons. It is planned to push out letters to Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council, Local Councillors, MSP's and MP's

regarding the proposal and also concerns re: lack of biosecurity measures. The current paperwork from SSEN and Balfour Beatty does not meet the current biosecurity standards. Gus will forward the draft letter to the ICC members when he receives it.

Recurring items

Whishop Burn Bridge

No update.

Edzell Muir

A meeting had been held on 4th June 2024 which was attended by local councillors, ICC Chair, representatives of the Flood Group, Deputy Chief Executive of Angus Council and representatives of the Legal and Parks Department of Angus Council to discuss the proposed plans for the Muir. Gus compiled a report regarding the meeting, and this has been placed on the Edzell Facebook Page. It has been proposed that a hedge is planted inside the current wooden barriers which would need protection from wildlife initially. Gus had sent an e-mail chasing the Parks Department to get the hedge in place as soon as possible. He has been asked by the Council desist from "chasing" the Parks Department on this issue.

There are currently two caravans on the Muir (outside the height barrier) and two tents pitched at the edge of the football pitch. The campers/travellers have lit fires and burnt the grass beside the football pitch. There is also litter strewn around the caravans and tents. Angus Council and Police Scotland are aware of this situation. Cllr Beattie stated that an Angus Council representative will be out to speak to the travellers tomorrow.

There had been a confrontation between local residents and the caravan residents on the night the first caravan was parked. Police Scotland were contacted on the night. Cllr Beattie stated that all firsthand evidence should be noted and sent to communityenforcement@angus.gov.uk so all the issues were recorded to help build a case.

Concern was expressed that some of the comments on the Facebook Page were not helpful in the villages cause to prevent a large and prolonged encampment happening on the Muir and in fact might make the travellers more determined to gain access.

Shaking Bridge, Edzell

Cllr Scott had sent an update via e-mail. She has been in contact with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the repairs to the bridge. It is thought that the bridge requires more extensive repairs than first thought, although she has not been given the report on exactly what these repairs are. She will provide an update when she receives it.

Proposed Crossing of Edzell High Street

The only response that Kate had received was that the crossing was not required. This will now be removed from the Agenda.

ICC Facebook Page

This suggestion will be put on hold at the moment and revisited later if required.

Inchbare

Westwater Bridge

No update. The repair is out to tender.

Lethnot

Potholes

Many of the potholes have now been repaired. Cllr Beattie stated that there is 1 million pounds extra being allocated to the roads budget and an additional ½ million was also added this year. A cycle event is due to take place in the area in August and concern was raised regarding the road conditions and risk to the cyclists. Cllr Beattie confirmed that the event organisers and Angus Council were currently in communication regarding the event.

Glenesk

Former Tarfside School building and grounds

Dalhousie Estates have been given contact details for Cairngorm National Park and it is thought that ICC has no further support to give at this time. This item will be removed from the Agenda until further assistance/advice is required.

Ward Councillors' Report

Cllr Scott has sent an update (see Shaking Bridge). She also sent an update on the former Inglis Court site in Edzell. She has enquired as to why the Heras fencing is still round this site and has asked that work is undertaken to make the area safe and remove the fencing as it is unlikely there will be any building on this site before at least 2027. She has been advised that the Affordable Housing Team will investigate options to tidy this area up, make it look more presentable and safer to walk on which will allow the fencing to be removed. She will update ICC as and when she hears what these options are.

Cllr Beattie gave updates throughout the meeting and also spoke about the Improved Housing Plan. The empty housing level within Angus Council area is not thought to be as high as initially thought. The high level was thought to be due to double reporting of empty premises as there are several different teams reporting on the empty housing. This situation is now being reviewed.

He also spoke about the new glass recycling plans and encouraged everyone to submit their suggestions online for proposed sites for the glass recycling bins in their areas.

Cllr Nicol has written a letter to ICC to state that he will no longer be attending ICC meetings (see Attachment 1). The ICC Chair has contacted Cllr Nicol to apologise for any offence he may have caused.

Brechin Healthcare Group

The BHG have now moved to their new premises at 24 Clerk Street, Brechin. It is all on the flat and parking will be easier.

They continue to provide footcare and hearing aid services on their usual days and a number of service providers are coming back having found that their clients appreciate the friendly environment which outweighs the minimal rental charge. They are always ready to help people when modern technology is not readily available to them and recently helped a user, who is not online, to set up a direct debit with their electrical supplier.

With more space they are able to host groups and continue to develop their work towards supporting those with dementia. They are gathering a growing number of photos and stories from the area's past. This has stimulated a lot of interest at recent Farmers' Markets and the Brechin Pageant. They will also be attending the Bikes and Trikes event on 6th July.

Although the BHG were unsuccessful in the latest round of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing funding, they are still working towards addressing the isolation and loneliness experienced by all ages within the area.

The BHG will be holding open days to allow local folk to pop in to see them and to let them know what they would like to see in place, and anyone is welcome to come in on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings when the premises is open.

Correspondence

Bi-annual meeting of Community Councils with Angus Council

Gus and Dick attended.

GDPR Officer for ICC

All Community Council's within Angus should have a Data Protection officer as per Scottish Government. Currently the minute secretary has covered the role, but it is now required to be a member of the Community Council. Again, there was no volunteer to take on the role.

Airfield of Britain Conservation Trust

A plaque is to be erected in the village to commemorate Edzell Airfield II which was situated on the outskirts of Edzell.

Stracathro Church

A request has been made for the ICC to send a letter of support on a proposal to make the Stracathro Church into a Community Hub. Gus will contact the sender and compile a letter of support.

Action: Gus

Edzell friendship agreement with Sauze d' Oulx

Correspondence had been received asking for a letter of support from the ICC regarding better public recognition of the friendship agreement with the town in Italy which was set up several years ago. Most of the attendees at the meeting were unaware of the agreement. Gus will compile a letter of support and contact the sender.

Action: Gus

AOCB

Rental of Glenesk Folk Museum

It was agreed that the August meeting of ICC will be held in the Masonic Hall at Tarfside due to the rental cost of the Glenesk Folk Museum. The cost of the Museum rental is out with ICC's budget. Claire will arrange to book the hall.

Action: Claire

Future of ICC

Gus informed the meeting that he will be standing down as the Chair of the ICC at the AGM in November and may well step down from the ICC altogether. Gus stated that he was tired of "fighting" with Angus Council and felt that the Community Council was not listened to as the "voice of the local residents". Kate also voiced that she may stand down at the AGM also.

Claire is also standing down as the Minute Secretary. She stated that she would continue until November if required but would step down earlier if a replacement could be found.

Gus expressed concern that the ICC may fold in November due to lack of members. Gus suggested that a post should be made on the Edzell Facebook Page. Alan will post a notice on the page.

Action: Alan

Gus thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting: Monday 19th August at Masonic Hall, Tarfside, Glenesk

Approved on 19th August 2024

Gus Leighton

Attachment 1

Dear Inveresk Community Council

As you are aware my health has not been great, and I continue to receive treatment. Thankfully, I am improving, however this is a slow process. I have throughout continued with my duties as a Councillor.

I attended the meeting at Angus House yesterday and again the Chairman, Gus Leighton could not help himself in having a dig at me at the end of the meeting. I have put up with, for want of a better word his continual swipes at me. Many of these swipes over the last term and this one have been personal and political, this is disappointing as Community Councils are supposed to be apolitical, however I do not feel the chairman adheres to this. I am aware that the chairman emails Cllr Beattie due to what I feel is the chairman's political leanings and very rarely contacts the other ward Councillors.

After his dig at me yesterday, it has been on my mind since, I thought after a good night's sleep I'd be able to shrug it off however this is not the case and I have woken up this morning still angry and upset by this.

I have therefore taken the decision to no longer attend Inveresk Community Council meetings. Should there be a change of chairman I will of course attend. I will however continue to help you all if required and I will continue to support my constituents.

It is unfortunate that now two ward Councillors will not attend Inveresk Community Council meetings due to the attitude and behaviour of the chairman. The Brechin & Edzell ward has four Community Councils. We have a good relationship with the other three and our input is not only welcomed but appreciated which results in productive relationships, I do not feel I have the same relationship with Inveresk due to the attitude of the chairman.

As stated above I will continue to work for and support my constituents and want the best for my ward.

Please ensure that this correspondence is in the next minutes of Inveresk Community Council.

Regards

Gavin

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 |