

**Inveresk Community Council**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Menmuir Hall**

1. **Present** – Gus Leighton (Chairman), Claire Wilson (Secretary), Kate Skene (Planning Liaison), Alan Budge (Treasurer), Judith Gallacher, Ann Johnson and 5 members of the public.
2. **Apologies** – Cllr Beattie, Cllr Nicol, Dick Robertson.
3. **Welcome** – Gus welcomed everyone to the AGM and meeting.
4. **Minutes of the AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021** were approved as a true reflection of the meeting by Ann Johnson and seconded by Judith Gallacher. These minutes would now be posted to the ICC website and sent to Angus Council. **Action: Claire**
5. **Chairman’s Report** – A draft report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Gus read out his report at the meeting (see attachment 1)
6. **Treasurer’s Report** – The accounts for the financial year 2022/2023 had been circulated to the ICC members prior to the meeting and have yet to been audited and authorised by an independent examiner.
7. **Office Bearers** – Graham Dallas (proposed by Ann and seconded by Gus) and Ken Goddard (proposed by Gus and seconded by Alan) were co-opted on to Community Council. Judith Gallacher and Ann Johnson resigned from the ICC, both after lengthy periods on the ICC. Gus thanked them for the huge contributions they had both made.  
The following office bearers were elected.  
Chairman – Gus Leighton (proposed Alan Budge and seconded Ken Goddard)  
Secretary – Claire Wilson continues in post meantime.  
Treasurer – Alan Budge (proposed Gus Leighton and seconded Kate Skene)  
Planning Liaison – Kate Skene (proposed Gus Leighton and seconded Alan Budge)  
Claire will contact Angus Council to update the details. **Action: Claire**
8. **Constitution** – It was agreed to add a clause to the Constitution stating the Inveresk Community Council will follow Angus Council’s Guidance in regard to any complaints received. Claire will add the addition to the constitution. **Action: Claire**
9. **Next AGM** will be held immediately prior to the normal business meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Venue to be confirmed.

## **Attachment 1**

### **INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL - AGM** **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Again, I must sincerely thank my fellow Community Councillors and our Secretary, Claire Wilson, for their support and selfless efforts over the past 3 years. AGMs during that period have not been held for various reasons including the difficulty of holding them via Zoom when rural broadband connections are so poor. Community Councils are the lowest tier of local government. We are unpaid individuals who give up our time to serve the population within our area. Inveresk Community Council covers the extensive area from the tops of Glen Esk and Glen Lethnot to the A90 with Edzell being its major centre of population. We usually hold regular meetings at various locations in an attempt to cover all areas and maximise access by the residents, though Covid-19 meant that we had to move to online Zoom meetings with associated limitations. We are informed of all Planning Applications within our area and, where deemed appropriate, comment upon them. We have strong links with the Police and with the local Neighbourhood Watch (over 500 strong), using this network to disseminate information quickly and effectively, as appropriate. Ward Councillors who cover our area are regular attendees at our meetings. Anyone can attend our open meetings to raise their concerns. These will be discussed and, hopefully, a pragmatic solution found. This often entails action by one of the Ward Councillors or us taking the matter directly to Angus Council ourselves in an effort to reach a satisfactory resolution. A successful conclusion is not always possible. The Community Council has no power, as such, but does try to influence Angus Council decisions. As appropriate, matters may be taken to an MSP or our MP in an effort to find resolution. Much of our efforts since the 2021 AGM have been in relation to planning applications, road matters and trying to progress several long-standing matters. The establishment of a 20mph zone covering Edzell was such an issue. This was overtaken by events in that Edzell, and some other areas of Angus towns and villages, were made 20mph zones on a temporary basis (initially for 18 months). It is now hoped that Edzell will remain a 20mph zone and indeed that other areas will likewise have their speed limit reduced. There is currently a Crossing Attendant at Edzell PS. We requested that this safety measure was retained after the school building work is completed and have been told it will stay for at least another year. Following on from the big storms of a year ago, we have recently managed to obtain over £6000 of kit to equip 4 Resilience Hubs across the area. Details of these and when they will be utilised will be issued shortly through the Neighbourhood Watch, Edzell's Facebook page and other organs. On planning, we consider all Planning Applications in our area whether these be for a new porch on an existing house or an estate of new houses. The largest planning matter we dealt with in recent years was the application to build 57 houses on the edge of Edzell, north of Duriehill Farm. As a major development, we sought the views of local residents and taking those into account, submitted comments to Angus Council. We also explained how individuals could have their personal views taken into account by Angus Council. Angus Council have since agreed to this development though building work is yet to begin. The demolition of Inglis Court and its replacement with 21 homes for rent was treated the same way.

Despite multiple objections, this building was quickly demolished, and it is now not expected that the site will be redeveloped for another 3 years. The upgrade of the existing line of pylons was decided at Holyrood, so we had no input on that, but we have liaised with the main contractor, Balfour Beatty, who have agreed to undertake various works around Edzell for no charge. The first of these was to smooth out the Muir car park nearest the school. I have been a member of the Inveresk Community Council for over 8 years and became Chairman 5 years ago. Presently, we have a diverse body of Community Councillors with a wide breadth of experience within our ranks but there are currently vacancies on the Inveresk Community Council which we would like to fill. I am acutely aware that we have no-one from the farming sector at the moment I am also aware that we still have no member from the younger element of our area. Community Councillors need only be 16 years of age.