

Letham & District Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on: 19th September, 2024 at 7.30pm in Letham Feuars Hall

Present: Wendy Cameron, Karen Smith, Isobel Sword, Gail Smith, Karen Kose, Tracy Andrews, Sandra Macrae, Debbie Dallas + Julie Wright & Susan Eason

Via Teams: David Lumgair

Apologies Cllr Shepherd, Cllr Cowdy, Cllr Nicoll, Mhairi Dickson, and Sergeant Gary Miller (Police)

Absent Cllr Cruickshanks

Amendments to Previous Minutes:

- Footpath account balance should have read: £540.16 – previous minutes changed in preparation for submitting to Angus Council

Approval of Previous Minutes: proposed by: Karen K

seconded: Karen S

Matters Arising:

- **Community Council Footpaths –**

Isobel phoned Thorntons Solicitors and requested a meeting for herself and another representative from the Community Council – no date arranged as yet. Isobel shared that the Council have started to repair the retaining wall at the side of the path near the bridge at The Den. The Bridge Engineer has assured Isobel that there is money set aside for a full flood risk assessment. Once the assessment is done The Community Council and/or The Feuars' Committee can apply for funding for any works that need done working with CLEAR. Isobel contacted Paul Clark regarding the signage but not yet heard back from him. Mhairi has visited Isobel and discussed the paths and now she is going to try and organise a meeting with Paul Clark, the Roads Department representative and also possibly a Planning representative – they will also discuss the un-adopted roads in Letham and register them as part of the Paths Network so funding could then be accessed to maintain them. Isobel requested others join and use the 'Parish Online' website and Karen K agreed to join this

Action: Isobel to Thorntons and confirm date/time of meeting with them

Action: Isobel to chase up Paul Clark and ask him to register all the community paths with CROW (Catalogue of Rights of Way) and then install signs

Action: Mhairi Dickson to arrange a meeting with Community Council representative, Paul Clark, the Roads Department representative and also possibly a Planning representative

- **Craft Shop Application –**

The letter of objection was submitted. The Feuars have asked to join forces with the Community Council. An anonymous letter was received by a number of groups / residents requesting the reinstatement of the Green Roads / Rights of Access in Letham, in particular those bordering the Craft Shop. David reported that the applicant has submitted a letter from the Village Hall which is an old letter referring to a previous application. David said there is no date for the full planning committee at Angus Council but the application will go before them due to the objections. Isobel suggested a joint meeting with The Feuars.

Action: Wendy to confer with The Feuars and set a date for a joint meeting

- **Defibrillators –**

Karen K has set up the Crowd Funding site and already 49% of the total has been raised. Karen K received a message from a 'London Hearts Charity' worker offering discounts on equipment or money – she will contact them to get more clarification on what they are offering. There was discussion regarding locating a defibrillator at The Village Hall or Bowling Club. David suggested the South Wall of the Village Hall as being suitable. The Scouts have previously done fundraising for a defibrillator on The Scout Hall but it may be more appropriate to combine funds and put one near to The Village Hall. Karen S shared that the defibrillator from The Book Shop has been used and so new pads and battery need to be ordered at a cost of approximately £195. HeartStart training has been arranged for 14th November in The Village Hall – most spaces already filled (Book Club = 9, Yoga Natalie = 1, CLEAR = 1 and Sandra = 1). The plan is to repeat it again later in the year

Action: Karen K to contact 'London Hearts Charity' worker

Action: Karen K to speak to Aaron / Paul, Letham Scouts, regarding combining funds and purchasing 1 new defibrillator

Action: Karen S to organise the new pads & battery for the Book Shop defibrillator

- **Constitution –**

Wendy requested that everyone read the constitution in preparation for the next meeting, which will be the AGM, as this needs to be submitted to Angus Council by 31st October

Action: All committee members to read the constitution before the next meeting

- **Digital Phone Switchover –**

Isobel has had an email about all phones being switched over to digital. BT will give equipment to those without to help this process

- **Planning & Budgeting –**

Angus Council have a participatory budget that can be applied for but the Community Council are not at that stage yet

- **Planning –**

David shared that the triangle of land next to the new Central Motors is being cleared. David hasn't seen anything come through in respect of planning.

Action: David will phone Andy Henderson to ask if he knows anything about the plans for this land

- **Correspondence –**

Isobel shared email invitation to go to an operational meeting of all Community Councils to be held in Brechin – Isobel will attend

Treasurer Report:

Footpath Account: £3300.89

Defibrillator Account: £2225.63

Community Council Account: £540.16

AOCB:

Woodlands / Tree Felling –

Julie and Susan attended the meeting to share concerns regarding the tree felling undertaken at Cotton of Gask and the implications for the badgers / red squirrels. The tree felling stopped during the breeding season but is due to start again soon, however, the badger setts are still there. Susan shared that Scottish Forestry have requested a proper ecological survey be completed before felling restarts. Cllr Cowdy is aware of this issue and is working with the Forestry Commission to ensure things are done properly. David shared that the landowner is complying with the rules. Susan shared that she is not wanting to stop work that is needed being done but that the wildlife needs to be respected. Julie asked if the Community Council were informed of the tree felling and Isobel and Wendy both confirmed that they weren't. David suggested that whoever issues the felling licences should advise when this is to be done and the restrictions. Susan thanked the Community

Council for allowing her to bring this to the attention of Letham residents via the meeting minutes

Chicken Factory –

Karen K raised concerns about the fluid that is still running out of the old Chicken Factory – the stream is now getting wider

Solar Power Farm at Lownie –

They have now appealed the planning application rejection so this has gone to the Scottish Government

Notice Boards - Sandra shared that the costs she has had indicate £4000-£5000. Isobel suggested waiting until all the Rights of Way are registered so that this information can be included. Isobel had an email from another firm that does boards to get additional quotes.

Action: When all the information is agreed the Community Council will seek multiple quotes for boards

Caravan –

Karen S raised the issue of a caravan parked in Redford on the road – doesn't seem to be there temporarily, rather seems to be owned by a resident. However, there are no lights on it

Action: Isobel to contact the Councillors about this

Blood Pressure Hub –

Karen S shared the email she has had from the Practice Manager at Ravenswood Surgery regarding the BP Hub and the self-operated machine. This said that Lour Road Surgery have been trying to get one for their own practice, however the IT governance on this has now taken about a year and still nothing so they have decided to move away from the idea. Also Practices felt that it did not work very well prior to Covid; patients had problems putting their details into the machine and they would call their practice for help which was not always easy given that they were in a different building. In addition, Access to the site now could be an issue as it is not always manned. Due to these issues the Practices felt that there was little to gain from going forward with putting it back into operation at a remote site, especially as the IT governance around this seems to take forever. Karen K suggested that if it is doing nothing in Letham then can it be given to Lour Road Surgery. Gail confirmed that it has been used recently in Letham

Dunnichen Straight –

Wendy has been contacted by John Fairlie as he has been unsuccessfully chasing Neil Crask, Roads Supervisor, about a drain on the Dunnichen Straight that has been removed but not reinstated – this will cause flooding. There are also problems with the kerbs at Cotton of Lownie.

Action: Wendy to contact the Councillors about this

Close: Wendy thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.29pm

DONM: Thursday 17th October 2024 - **AGM**