

# Inveresk Community Council

## Approved Minutes of meeting held on 20 January 2025, 7.30pm Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell

**Present:** Anne Matthews (Chair), Anne Dunbar-Nobes (Secretary), Ian Anderson (Treasurer), Amanda Martin (Planning Liaison), Graham Dallas, Polly Day, Dick Robertson, Cllr Chris Beattie, Cllr Jill Scott, Sandra Livingston (Vibrant Communities, Angus Council) and 19 members of the public.

**1. Welcome:** Chair Anne Matthews welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the 19 members of the public to indicate by a show of hands whether their main reason for attending was Agenda Item 7 (Planning application for sub-station at Tealing). As the majority confirmed this to be so, Anne announced changing the sequence of the agenda to bring the item earlier in the meeting.

**Apologies:** Kate Skene, Cllr Gavin Nicol, Sgt Caroline Patullo (Local Community Police)

**Resignation:** The Council noted with regret the resignation of Fi Troughton.

**2. Appointment of officers:** The following were formally appointed as officers of Inveresk Community Council:

- Vice-Chair: Graham Dallas (proposer: Dick Robertson; seconder: Polly Day)
- Secretary: Anne Dunbar-Nobes (prop: Graham Dallas; sec: Polly Day)
- Data Protection: Anne Dunbar-Nobes (prop: Amanda Martin; sec: Polly Day)
- Treasurer: Ian Anderson (prop: Graham Dallas; sec: Dick Robertson)
- Planning Liaison: Amanda Martin (prop: Polly Day; sec: Ian Anderson)

**3. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 18 November 2024:** proposed by Amanda Martin, seconded by Dick Robertson and unanimously agreed.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ian Anderson reported that ICC's accounts for 2023--24 had been audited and authorised by an independent examiner and circulated to the members prior to the meeting. Approval of the audited accounts was proposed by Amanda Martin, seconded by Polly Day and unanimously agreed.

**Agreed for action:** *Ian to forward approved accounts to Angus Council to enable AC to release 2024-25 current year £400 operational grant to ICC.*

Ian thanked previous Treasurer Alan Budge for his help in the hand-over of the accounts and for his work on the ICC over many years.

Ian reported the current balance at £242. He warned that ICC's bank is introducing monthly charges costing up to 12% of its operational grant over a full year. A suggestion was made to change bank. Ian highlighted that ICC's main expenditure is hall hire for meetings. To keep within budget, ICC might need to plan fewer than its usual 9 meetings per year and/or seek venues -- if available -- at lower cost or no cost.

**Agreed for action: Ian to**

- *research alternative banking services and to confer with Sandra Livingston of Angus Council re advice from other community councils.*
- *explore potential no cost/lower cost venues for meetings.*

## **5. Police Report**

Secretary Anne Dunbar-Nobes read out the Community Police report for December 2024. A total of 205 crimes had been recorded in the Montrose, Brechin and Edzell wards, none of which was specific to the Inveresk area. Speeding remains a continuing issue to which police will pay due attention, i.e. issuing warnings and reporting drivers as necessary. Further anti-speeding initiatives will be planned.

The community police representative had been unable to attend ICC's meetings over the past year due to shift-working patterns. ICC's scheduled monthly meeting dates in 2025 now fit better with working patterns so that the police expect their representative to be available to attend at least five meetings in 2025.

## **6. Planning matters**

### **Construction of a substation at a field 500m south west of Balkemback Farm, Tealing: Planning Application 24/00699/FULN**

Chair Anne reported that ICC had received an almost overwhelming volume of emails from residents stating their objection to this application for a new-build electricity substation proposed on farmland near to the existing substation at Tealing. Although the application site is outwith ICC's geographic area, ICC members acknowledged the weight of residents' opinion expressed in emails from individuals and from localised groups of neighbours. Senders of all correspondence had ICC post code addresses.

All correspondents have made the same request: they ask ICC to use its voice on their behalf to represent their views to Angus Council and ask ICC to lodge an objection to the application.

Planning Officer Amanda Martin read a summary of the issues residents cited as reasons for objection. The main reason was that although the application is presented as a single site construction at Tealing, it would bring cumulative impacts far beyond the site location itself and across ICC's geographic area. This is because the proposed substation is a component of SSEN's scheme "Pathway to 2030" with

its intended further construction of new-build steel tower pylons and high voltage overhead electricity lines – i.e. linked infrastructure extensively industrialising the rural environment and landscape of the northern part of Angus including ICC's council area. Residents' objections to the substation hinge on its anticipated damaging impacts upon not only the rural community of Tealing but also affecting the ICC community and others on SSEN's Pathway route and around it. One resident's letter simply asked why a substation was being proposed on a greenfield site and not on 'brownfield'.

No correspondence had been received that took a neutral or supportive stance.

The Chair asked for comments from members. Cllrs Beattie and Scott explained their situation as unable to comment to avoid compromising their role to engage in Angus Council's decision-making process.

Councillor Dick Robertson said that in all his time on the Community Council he had never known an issue bring in so much correspondence from residents.

Members discussed that residents were making a reasonable request for ICC to represent their views to Angus Council and for ICC to lodge its objection to represent community opinion.

Planning Officer Amanda read out extracts from a letter from a resident who wrote on behalf of Angus Pylon Action Group. Councillors discussed the fact that the letter was on behalf of a large group but agreed it was widely known that the group's membership included many people known to be resident in the ICC area. This letter set out details citing how the substation application is in conflict with the principles and policy aspects of the NPF4 and the Angus Local Development Plan.

Members in discussion noted the detail that had been expressed in this letter objecting to the planning application and how it went further in calling for a wider Public Inquiry. It was suggested that ICC could attach this letter alongside ICC's own letter of objection to be considered by Angus Council Planning Team.

**Agreed for action:** *The Secretary to*

- *write to Angus Council Planning Team to lodge ICC's objection to the planning application and attach the detailed letter.*

*Proposed by Dick Robertson; seconded by Polly Day. Agreed unanimously.*

- *write to the Angus MP, constituency and regional MSPs, and Angus Councillors informing them of ICC's decision to object to the planning application.*

*Proposed by Dick Robertson; seconded by Polly Day. Agreed unanimously.*

Correspondence had also been received from residents asking ICC to object similarly to a planning application submitted by SSEN to Aberdeenshire Council (ref. APP/2024/1951: Construction of a substation at Fetteresso/Hurlie) for similar reasons as had been cited for the Tealing application, i.e. that it was a component of SSEN's overall "Pathway to 2030" scheme and that, if approved, it would impact far

beyond the location site by enabling industrialising developments southwards across mainly high grade arable land and through rural environments and landscapes into the northern part of Angus, linking up at Tealing.

**Agreed for action:** *The Secretary to lodge an objection with Aberdeenshire Council re the Hurlie substation.*

*Proposed by Polly Day; seconded by Amanda Martin. Agreed unanimously*

**Removal of existing conservatory and erection of replacement sun room at Woodlands, Little Brechin, Brechin DD9 6RQ:  
Planning Application 24/00725/FULL.**

NO ACTION REQUIRED.

## **7. Correspondence**

**(i) Colt Hill Felling operations.** ICC has been consulted by the landowner's Forestry Manager to comment on plans for clearance of a strip of windblown pine at Colt Hill, north of Edzell village. This strip had been planned for felling as part of the long-term forest plan. Felling and haulage is likely to take 2--3 weeks at most. Plans for restock are a mix of broadleaf trees in shelters to maintain a long-standing windfirm edge. The Forestry Manager has also consulted Edzell Flood Group who had welcomed the opportunity to comment alongside Angus Council.

**Agreed for Action:** *Chair to contact the Forestry Manager re haulage traffic and plans for replanting.*

**(ii) Angus Community Councils Action Plan.** ICC members have been invited to attend an online meeting for all community councillors in Angus on 27 January. It will focus on how community councils engage with their community residents, budgets, and associated issues.

**(iii) Tactran funding for active and sustainable transport.** This funding scheme has been circulated widely across Angus and suggestions are invited for projects including from community councils.

ICC members asked whether the following two potential projects might qualify:

- (1) *Pittendreich to Brechin road:* Polly Day proposed this popular walking route used by people in Brechin, which forms part of the Brechin Path Network, yet has no safe footpath. Cllrs Scott and Beattie pointed out that the need for improving safety on this route has been brought up several times in the past. They undertook to take forward further inquiries but cautioned that there is a long list of requests for footpaths in Angus.
- (2) *Shakin' Brig at Edzell:* Ian Anderson suggested the damaged footbridge at Edzell as a possible recipient of funding. Cllrs Scott and Beattie reported that Aberdeenshire Council is taking the lead on the issue of constructing a replacement bridge, with Angus Council working jointly with them. Because

the bridge is a listed structure, any replacement must match the original and a potential cost of £400,000 had been mentioned. In the discussion, ICC members asked whether the bridge level would need to be raised to provide clearance for the uprooted trees that are frequently swept downstream in times of flooding and which have been the cause of the damage in the past. Cllrs Scott and Beattie undertook to update to ICC on further progress between Angus and Aberdeenshire Councils.

**(iv) Stracathro Parent Voice request for a parking area at Stracathro Nursery & Primary School.** The parent group had written to ICC in mid-January asking to discuss this at the January meeting. Because of the full agenda, the chair suggested the group defer their request to the February meeting.

Accordingly, the parent group have asked for the matter to be considered at the February meeting and they intend to provide written details of their needs for members' information ahead of the meeting. Cllr Scott invited the group to liaise directly with her.

## **8. Ward Councillors' Reports**

**Cllr Chris Beattie** reported that Angus Council's focus is currently on the Council's budget which must be finalised by 27 February. Community Councils are asked to offer views on how Angus Council might make £9.5m savings. The general public can take part in this consultation on the Angus Council website.

**Cllr Jill Scott** reported that she is now Vice-Convenor of the Housing Committee which is addressing the housing crisis in Angus. The budget is the focus of her work at present.

*Questions/comments from Council members:*

- (i) In view of Angus Council's budget shortfall, the annual operational grant to community councils is unlikely to be increased. Given this, could hall fees for CC meetings held in Angus Council properties be scrapped? The Council would then make efficiency savings by avoiding the administrative costs that go with processing invoices and receipts for community councils. Cllrs Beattie and Scott were asked to explore this question with the officers at Angus Council.
- (ii) Dick Robertson asked both Cllrs Beattie and Scott if they would question Angus Council officers and report back to ICC on how Angus Council is allocating grants funding from the Participatory Budget for community projects. Are these funds, which should be ring-fenced for communities, being spent in other ways? It was suggested that Dick could also share the question with other community councillors at the Angus Community Council Action Plan meeting online on 27 January.

## 9. Any other business

**Meeting dates and venues for the year.** ICC intends, if the budget allows, to hold its usual 9 monthly meetings during 2025 and will review this as the year progresses. ICC will discuss and confirm future venues in due course.

### ***Agreed for Action:***

- *Secretary to publish dates of meetings as being every third Monday each month, excluding April, July and December.*
- *Treasurer to book Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell for the February meeting.*

## 10. Questions/comments from the floor

**Westwater Bridge near Inchbare:** A resident commented that the bridge repair appears to be complete following vehicle damage. The replacement coping stone is visually intrusive, potentially distracting motorists. Are reflective strips needed to warn drivers that the bridge is narrow?

**Former Inveresk Community Police Officer, Ricky Martin:** Ricky warmly thanked the Community Council for supporting his initiatives over the years, particularly those relating to his leadership of the Neighbourhood Watch group and the property marking scheme. Ricky now works in the Dundee area as a Special Constable but attended the meeting to wish the newly established Community Council well in its future endeavours.

### **Date of next meeting**

17 February 2025, 7.30pm, Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell

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**APPROVED (following amendment) at the meeting held on 17 February 2025**