

Inveresk Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on 17 February 2025, 7.30pm
Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell

Present: Anne Matthews (Chair), Graham Dallas (Deputy-Chair), Anne Dunbar-Nobes (Secretary), Ian Anderson (Treasurer), Amanda Martin (Planning Liaison), Polly Day, Cllr Gavin Nicol (Angus Council), PC Martyn Brennan (Community Police) and 8 members of the public.

1. Welcome: Chair Anne Matthews welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Kate Skene, Dick Robinson, Sgt Caroline Patullo (Local Community Police), Cllr Jill Scott

Change of GDPR (Data Protection) Officer: Deputy-Chair Graham Dallas volunteered to serve as GDPR Office taking on the role from the Secretary with immediate effect. Proposed by Ian Anderson, seconded by Amanda Martin and agreed unanimously.

Action: Secretary to inform Angus Council

2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 20 January 2025

An amendment was proposed by Polly Day to add the thanks expressed to the Council by former Inveresk Community Police Officer Ricky Martin. This was seconded by Ian Anderson. *The Minutes with this amendment were unanimously approved.*

3. Police Report, 31 Dec 2024 – 31 Jan 2025

PC Martyn Brennan (standing in for Sgt Patullo) presented the crime figures for the Inveresk area. Of 154 crimes reported in the wider Brechin/Montrose/Edzell area during the past month, only 3 were specific to the Edzell/Inveresk area and all were Group 6 crimes (assaults and threatening behaviour).

PC Brennan reported that speed checks had been carried out that day in Edzell by PC Nick McKendrick. The Chair asked for Police to provide follow-up statistics. PC Brennan stressed that 20 mph speed limits could not be routinely enforced, but that 20 mph *zones*, which have physical impediments such as chicanes and speed bumps, were enforceable and that the Police give priority to 20 mph zones outside schools and where there is a record of accidents. PC McKendrick is currently leading a junior road safety programme at Edzell Primary School.

Polly Day asked whether laws on dog fouling could be enforced on the Caterthuns where the problem is particularly bad (see AOB below). PC Brennan confirmed that fixed penalty notices can be issued with fines up to £100, and evidence from trail cameras can be used to identify the dog owners concerned. This could be a matter to take forward jointly with Community Policing and Angus Council.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ian Anderson reported that ICC's account currently stands at £599.73 following prompt payment of the £400 annual grant from Angus Council for 2023--24. It was noted that no fee was charged by Angus Council for the hire of Inglis Memorial Hall in January in acknowledgement of its booking error.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes -- none

6. Correspondence requiring action

(i) Stracathro Parent Voice: Road safety/ lack of car parking at Stracathro Primary School and Nursery.

[Councillors approved the suspension of Standing Orders at this point in the meeting to enable the Chair of Stracathro Parent Voice (SPV) and others to provide more information.]

In correspondence previously circulated to councillors, SPV had summarised the unsafe road traffic situation at the school site caused by lack of a car park. SPV's letter stated:

“A dedicated **parking and drive-through area** is needed to relieve congestion around the school. To progress this, we seek the Community Council's support in:

- **Visiting Stracathro Primary School and Nursery** during peak times to observe the issues and concerns firsthand.
- **Providing guidance on planning requirements** and the necessary steps to move forward, including speed surveys and assessments.
- **Considering how this proposal fits within Inchbare's broader transport and infrastructure plans.**
- **Exploring any additional support** the Community Council can offer to help ensure a safe and effective solution.

We believe that with the Community Council's guidance and backing, we can work toward a safer and more accessible school environment. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further, as our goal is simply to put a plan in place that satisfies everyone's requirements. Unfortunately, funding opportunities have already passed us by, which is disheartening—especially given that we have someone willing to assist with planning permission, as well as

individuals interested in supplying resources and carrying out the work, including parents of the school.”

During an open discussion SPV chair Kaitlin thanked community council members Amanda and Graham for their visit observing the situation at the school which is sited at a junction of three roads, each subject to a standard 60mph maximum speed limit. The landowner commented that in 2005 a plan was well advanced with Angus Council for a 10-bay car park on the same site that SPV now proposes for a one-way route drop-off and parking area. For reasons unclear, the 2005 plan did not come to fruition.

The situation now is that the nursery and school are at full capacity (a level expected to be maintained for the foreseeable future) and the unsafe road traffic situation is now critical, all caused by lack of a car park. Parents bringing children to school by car have no option except to park on the roadway, resulting in congestion.

SPV contacted Angus Council in 2024 proposing a car-park/drop-off area at the rear of the school on land offered by the landowner. Angus Council team officer (Traffic) had responded with initial comments. Councillor Beattie had taken up the SPV's concerns with staff at Angus Council. SPV now seeks ICC's help to achieve progress.

During open discussion, actions were suggested as follows:

1. SPV and the Community Council to contact Community Police to ask for speed monitoring to be carried out on all three approach roads.
2. Pupils and staff to contact Angus Council to communicate their safety concerns.
3. SPV to explore further with Angus Council team leader Traffic his initial comments on the one-way route.
4. ICC to write to Angus Council Chief Executive on behalf of the community to draw attention to the severe concerns for road safety caused by the lack of adequate car parking and vehicle access difficulties and to ask for action.
5. SPV and ICC to contact Angus Council for a co-ordinated approach covering traffic, transport, planning and education and for officers to meet with SPV and ICC members at the school to collaborate on how to overcome the access and road safety problems.
6. ICC to ask Angus Council to take forward as a matter of urgency the implementation of 20mph speed limits on all three access roads in the vicinity of the school premises, citing the legislative requirements that in Scotland 20 mph should be the standard speed limit in the vicinity of schools.

Cllr Gavin Nicol offered to contact the Angus Council Team Leader Traffic to ask for Council action to improve road safety by securing a 20mph speed limit on all the roads in the vicinity of the school

Agreed for Action:

ICC Secretary to write to Angus Council Chief Executive on behalf of the community to draw attention to and seek a collaborative response to the concerns for road safety at Stracathro Nursery and Primary School caused by the lack of car parking and the resulting vehicle access difficulties for parents taking their children to and from school.

ICC to ask Angus Council to take forward as a matter of urgency the implementation of 20mph speed limits on all three access roads in the vicinity of the school premises, citing the legislative requirements that In Scotland, 20 mph should be the standard speed limit in the vicinity of schools.

Proposed by Polly Day, seconded by Ian Anderson. *Agreed unanimously.*

[Councillors agreed resumption of Standing Orders.]

(ii) Vibrant Communities Angus Council: possible funding of online or ‘hybrid’ Community Council meetings to extend outreach

Council members discussed the implications of seeking funding when it was known that the mobile signal at locations in the Inveresk area was often reliable.

Agreed: *No action be taken.*

(iii) Local Development Plan (Angus Council): request for Community Council comments by closing date 26 March 2025 on three draft chapters. Chair Anne asked for a volunteer to lead this work and bring recommendations to the next meeting on 17 March. Graham Dallas kindly agreed to undertake this.

Action: *Graham to undertake the analysis and, at the next meeting, ICC to review any recommendations to Angus Council.*

Correspondence for noting

(i) Local Place Plans – an initiative promoted by Community Councils Scotland. Free training is being offered online but has already started. Amanda Martin agreed to look into this further to see if this initiative has relevance to places within the ICC area.

Action: *Amanda to report back at the next meeting.*

(ii) Inglis Memorial Hall query – a resident had requested information regarding Angus Council’s scheduled work at the Hall. Because there is already an Inglis Memorial Hall Project Group working directly with Angus Council, the resident’s query has been referred to them.

Agreed: *No action required at this time.*

(iii) Angus Council announcement of changes to household recycling/waste collection – Cllr Nicol reported that a resident in Lethnot had complained to him that a member of the Community Council suggested siting a glass recycling bin near his

property. Chair Anne confirmed that no member had suggested this. Cllr Nicol undertook to clarify this to the resident.

(iv) Aberdeenshire Planning – letter received declaring ICC’s objection to Fetteresso substation invalid because it missed Aberdeenshire’s closing date for public comments. ICC Secretary had questioned this decision asserting that ICC as a statutory consultee had responded within the required date limit applicable for community councils. Aberdeenshire adhered to its ruling that the date limit applied only to Community Councils within Aberdeenshire.

Agreed: *No further action to be taken as Aberdeenshire’s letter stated that any relevant points in ICC’s submission would still be taken into consideration.*

7. Planning matters – No applications received

8. Ward Councillors’ Reports

Cllr Gavin Nicol spoke about one of his current responsibilities, namely the empty housing stock (house voids) in Angus. Angus has a poor record with nearly 400 properties falling into this category. This is often a result of poor maintenance resulting in properties becoming uninhabitable. Chair Anne asked if any of the properties are within ICC’s area and he undertook to report further.

Cllr Nicol responded to questions concerning a statement published in SSEN’s latest Report on Consultations in which Angus Council was quoted as giving support to one of the proposed pylon routes in the ICC area. Cllr Nicol stated that this matter had already been referred to Angus Council’s Chief Executive and that there had been no meeting of Angus Councillors at which the pylon route had been discussed.

9. Any other business

(a) Dog fouling on the Caterthuns: Polly raised this as a concerned resident with a young child for whom this was becoming a health hazard.

Action: *This subject to be on the Agenda for the next meeting. Polly to present information for discussion.*

(b) Resilience Hubs: Chair Anne explained that in 2024 ICC had obtained equipment funded by SSEN Community Fund (including hazardous propane gas bottles to be used for heating/cooking during power outages) and arranged its delivery to four hub host sites at Lethnot, Edzell, Inchbare and Little Brechin. A learning point is that hosts must be consulted before delivery to enable planning of safe storage of hazardous substances. Both Inchbare and Little Brechin sites have confirmed storage issues are now resolved. Edzell has acquired an outdoor store built by Edzell Men’s Shed. Little Brechin is yet to confirm its host contact to Angus Council which liaises communications directly with hosts in emergency situations.

10. Questions/comments from the floor

(a) Costings of SSEN's pylon route: A resident noted that Balfour Beattie teams are already drilling on land to assess geological constraints. Where pylons are sited on arable land, the depth to firm bedrock is often of the order of 8 metres, and that to then backfill with cement creates huge extra costs (financial and environmental). The resident quoted a construction engineer as saying that the cost of each pylon on local arable land is £1 million. It was stated that Dave Doogan MP is still chasing comparable costings of different transmission strategies. Cllr Nicol referred to NPF4 policies, noting that although power generation and transmission can be permitted on agricultural land, Policy 29b specifically refers to the need for such development to be suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the area.

Discussion followed on the forthcoming SSEN consultations and whether a group of concerned residents could conduct an exit poll to get the views of residents ahead of SSEN's submission of planning applications for the pylon route.

(b) Shakin' Brig: A resident asked if there had been any progress on the Aberdeenshire/Angus Council collaboration to repair/replace the bridge.

Action: *Secretary to ask Cllr Scott for an update as an Agenda item at the next meeting.*

(c) Publication of Minutes and Agendas: a resident commented that the Minutes of the November 2024 meeting were not yet displayed on the Angus Council website. The Secretary agreed to follow this up with Angus Council. The Minutes are available on the CC's own website. Another resident asked if Agendas could be placed on the Angus website ahead of meetings. The Secretary explained that Angus Council have no provision to enable this. The closing date for the agenda is 7 days before the meeting (emergency additions allowable). Angus Council is currently developing a Community Councils Action Plan aimed at strengthening community engagement and ICC is one of a number of Angus CCs taking part in this.

11. Date and place of next meeting:

17 March, 7.30pm, Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell

These Minutes **approved** unanimously at meeting held on 17 March 2025