

ALVAH AND FORGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

FORGLEN HALL: TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2017

MINUTES

Website: www.alvahforglenc.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AlvahForglenCC/>

1. **Present**

Christina Roebuck (Chairman)	Rhoda Burns	John Burns
Barbara Foad (Vice Chairman)	Liz Jones	Caroline Jones
Mike Dewhurst (Treasurer)	Jacky Player	
Carol Rewston	Doug Hill	

In Attendance: Cllr. Roy, Margaret Jane Cardno (Area Manager), Heather McKay (Area Manager's office), Stewart Adams, John Kelly, Andrew Webster and PC Ross McDonald.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Philip Foad, Jim Bayne, Helen Bayne and Emma Dow.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 April 2017 were accepted as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising**

4.1 History of Alvah and Forglen. Ongoing.

4.2 Survey of potholes. Ongoing.

4.3 Aberdeenshire funding for Rural Broadband – Secretary had emailed all with reply from council saying that £10M of £16M had been spent.

4.4 Projects for Area Initiative Funding – Secretary had not received any proposals for projects.

4.5 Advise Hall Committees of Area Initiative funding. – Secretary had advised both halls' committees but to date had no proposals.

4.6 Contact Stephen Archer regarding Rural Broadband – Secretary had emailed all with reply from Stephen Archer, which was less than encouraging.

5. **Community Police.**

PC Ross Kelly reported that:

(i) Individuals and the Community Council would be asked to complete a survey on how Police Scotland could improve.

(ii) Main concern in the area had been sheep worrying.

(iii) Communication with the police for non-emergency concerns should be through 101 or

Crimestoppers.

(iv) House break-ins were usually a result of doors not being locked.

6. Floral Displays and Public Amenity Areas

Carol reported that all the tubs had been planted with Spring flowers. Primulas from last year were excellent.

7. Rural Broadband

The Chairman reported that:

(i) The Secretary had still not had a response from BT.

(ii) The Secretary had sent round an update on the Universal Service Obligation which had completed its initial reading in the house of Lords. The Lords had recommended that the minimum requirement was 30mbps and that rural areas should be upgraded before any more work on Urban areas. House of Commons was likely to water down the Lords amendments but there would certainly be a Universal Service Obligation and this would likely be the best route for Alvah and Forglen. From the replies from Aberdeenshire Council and also from BT, it would appear that only a political solution would help Alvah and Forglen.

(iii) Secretary would contact Community Broadband Scotland to get an update on R100 (the Scottish Government plan for the remaining 5%. This report should have been completed in February). **[Secretary's Note: CBS response sent to all community councillors.]**

8. Planning

(i) Campsite Appeal - APP/2016/2260

The site visit had taken place and a decision was expected by May. **[Secretary's Note: The decision had been delayed by the reporter]**

(ii) Dwelling House – APP/2017/0719 – Hillhead of Mountblairy

As no local residents had raised any issues it was agreed that the Community Council would not comment on the application.

(iii) Dwelling House – APP/2017/0772 – Woodysville of Mountblairy

As no local residents had raised any issues it was agreed that the Community Council would not comment on the application.

9. Scheme of Establishment.

(i) The Chairman reported that the Community Council was very concerned about the proposed limit on the maximum number of councillors on the community council. The Community Council strives to be as open as possible and encourage more people to attend. The Community Council believes that is the best and most transparent way for the community

(ii) The Chairman advised that:

(a) The AFCC was defunct and had been inoperative for some time.

(b) When approached by our current secretary, the area manager advertised in the local newspapers that a meeting would be held at Alvah Hall to see if there was sufficient interest to re-start the Community Council. In the event more than the required 12 people turned up.

(c) An election was conducted by the Area Manager and all 16 who applied were proposed, seconded and elected.

(d) AFCC amended its constitution and included the requirement that there should not be a maximum number of community councillors. The constitution was approved by the Area Manager.

(e) Since the re-start of the community council (August 2014), it has worked to the approved constitution.

(f) The community council set up its own website, which is well advertised, to keep the community up to date and to encourage participation in the community council.

(g) The community council has been very successful.

(h) The community council has been very well served by all the community councillors and each has played his/her part to the full.

(i) The community council is dismayed at the latest proposals that would reduce the number of councillors to only 9. We remain of the view that a fully democratic community council can only adequately serve the community if all residents who volunteer are able to serve on the council.

(j) At the community forum at Crudie in February, there was no mention of Schedule 1. In fact all the community councils thought that the maximum was 20, and even then the general view was that there should not be a maximum.

(iii) The Area Manager advised that:

(a) Initially there was to be a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 20 members in a community council, but that there had been differing feedback from the consultation. The consensus was that the minimum number was too high and it was reduced to 7. A statutory organisation could not operate with less than 7.

(b) The only CC's detrimentally affected by the reduction in the maximum number were Alvah and Forglen and Deer in Buchan. The guidance from the Scottish government was that there should be contested elections for CC Councillors. Most CC's are concerned about having a formal election processes

(c) There could be a core group of councillors in Alvah and Forglen with voting rights

and Associate members who could not vote but who could join in discussions and activities.

(d) As Community Councils have statutory powers they could influence the course of a planning application and must be seen to have been elected to represent the residents. There had been no elections in the last five years except to regenerate defunct CCs

(iv) Cllr. Roy confirmed that he would raise the Community Council concerns at the Aberdeenshire Council meeting on 27 April. **[Secretary's Note: Aberdeenshire Council decided that there should be a further consultation period of 6 weeks]**

10. Any Other Business

(i) Alvah Church.

Carol reported that work on the church roof was continuing but that there had been a delay due to roof windows not being delivered on time.

(ii) Burnend Trees.

The replanted trees that were very close to the neighbouring property had been removed and replanted in the site where the original trees had been felled.

(iii) Area Initiative Fund.

(a) The use of a satellite internal hub at Forglen Hall was discussed. Doug Hill expressed doubts that all required information on costings would be available before the cut-off date for applications. John Burns thought it might be possible to apply for funds for a feasibility study. The Area Manager advised that Project Officer Jan Emery would provide support. **[Secretary's Note: Further discussion by email took place between Doug Hill, John Burns, Stewart Adams and the Secretary. The Secretary had circulated a response from CBS which advised that such a setup would be challenging due to the data limits n satellite services.]**

(b) Working group to be set up with Barbara Foad, Rhoda Burns, Liz Jones and Andrew Webster to construct costed programme for metal notice boards for both halls. Secretary to provide details of supplier.

(iv) Art and Culture.

(a) It was agreed that the halls should be used for art and cultural classes, making use of local talent.

(b) The Area Manager advised that there was an Arts Officer for the area, Alison Arrowsmith, and that funding could be obtained through the Capacity Grants Scheme for community events, sports events and cultural events.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Alvah Parish Hall on 30 May 2017.

Annex - list of actions

Barbara Foad
Vice Chairman
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ANNEX

ACTIONS

	OWNER	COMPLETION
Prepare history of Alvah and Forglan	Liz Jones	Ongoing
Survey of potholes	Phil Duffield	May
Contact Community Broadband Scotland	Secretary	30 April
Area Initiative Fund – boosted hub	Doug Hill, Stewart Adams, John Kelly	10 May
Area Initiative Fund – Notice Boards	Barbara Foad, Rhoda Burns,Liz Jones, Andrew Webster	10 May
Notice Board suppliers	Secretary	6 May