

ALVAH AND FORGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes 29th March 2022

Website: www.alvahforglencc.wordpress.com

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

• **Covid – 19**

It was agreed that, AFCC would meet either in person (in accordance with Covid guidance) or by Zoom , or simply by secretarial update depending on agenda requirements .

29th March meeting was in person at Alvah Hall, 7pm.

AFCC and both halls have completed risk assessments and mitigation is in place and it should be possible to hold meetings in the halls going forward.

The secretary had circulated all relevant Aberdeenshire Council guidance and information.

• **Attendees:**

- B. Foad Chair, J Bayne Vice-Chair, M. Dewhurst treasurer, S Adams Secretary. G. Lang, R Burns, J. Burns, J Player, C. Cox, C Cox, C Rewston. R Davison (PC) Banff Police.
- Apologies: J Chillingworth, D. Hill, C Roebuck & C Jones (Duechries attendance)
- Councillors : Cllr Cox & Cllr Roy in attendance, apologies received from Cllr Reynolds.
- Guests J Rigby (Aberdeenshire Council Digital Engagement Team) & D Nisbet (R100 Stakeholder Director) presenting on Rural broadband. A & M Webster friends of Forglen Hall

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

- Secretarial updates / Minutes from previous meeting were accepted.

4. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Rural Broadband**

- The R100 presentation was given by Duncan Nisbet R100 Stakeholder Director at AFCC 29-03-22. The key points were:
 - * Alvah and Forglen average broadband speed is one of the worst in Scotland.
 - * The contract for superfast broadband in Alvah and Forglen was awarded to BT in December 2020.

- * Only 50% of households in the area are included in the contract - 170.
- * To find out if you are on the BT contract go to www.scotlandsuperfast.com, then input your address in the search button.
- * All connections through the BT contract would be fibre to the premises (FTTP.)
- * Receipt of the interim voucher did not affect your status on the BT contract i.e. you would still have full fibre installed.
- * Those not included in the contract can apply for a £5000 voucher towards installing Superfast broadband from an alternative source.
- * People seeking help/advice on alternative broadband solutions should contact Jack Rigby, Digital Stakeholder, Email:jack.rigby@aberdeenshire.gov.uk: Telephone 01467469322.
- * Work on the BT installation is expected to start at the end of 2023 beginning 2024 and be completed in 2025.
- * Project Management will be by BT.
- * R100 did not conduct a technical risk assessment but placed the risk on BT through the contract conditions.
- * There was not a three point estimate (10%, 50% and 90% confidence) of the installation completion date.

J Rigby gave an update on progress and general coverage options from the Aberdeenshire Council Digital Engagement Team.

- **Community Police.**

PC Davison gave an update on local Police matters & general engagement in our rural area. Points of specific note were thefts of fuel from rural farms / properties, and some vandalism to farms. It was suggested that consideration to encouraging engagement with Rural Watch Scotland be followed.

- **Floral Displays and Public Amenity Areas**

- C. Rewston will lead a small sub-group to plan and action activities. AFCC will plant new tubs in May at Forqlen Cemetery. AFCC expect Aberdeenshire plants to arrive +/- 1/6/22
- Secretary informed CC that compost is now with himself, and can be distributed as required to support activities.

- **Friends of Forqlen Hall – Resilience Project**

R Burns & M Webster gave an overview on behalf on the Friends of Forqlen Hall on their initiative to form a Resilience Group in the event of future support requirements arising from storms or other major incidents.

It was suggested through the AFCC Chair that to take matters forwards the Friends of Forqlen Hall should consider an invite to AFCC to further discuss course of action, possibly via a specific working group.

- **Roads.**

- Repairs to signage to Forglen cemetery at Kirkton – roads team have schedule to place, but exact date TBC

- **Planning.**
 - All planning bulletins have been distributed by Secretary

- **Deuchries.**
 - AFCC have lodged application for allocation (29/3/22 award meeting), - awaiting results.

- **Alvah Graveyard Gates**
 - AFCC are in continued conversation with the Area Managers Office regards the ongoing circumstances surrounding the replacement gates and the process to resolve matters.

- **Queens' Green Canopy- Update**
 - AFCC, with community support, successfully planted 2,000 trees on 2.8 acres adjacent to the Mountblairy lake, in the company of the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire & our Local MP.
 - Trees planted were Holly, Goat Willow, Alder, Birch, Rowan.
 - A community event to thank all contributors, participants, and to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, with plaque unveiling is to be held 28-5-22.

- **Date of Next Meeting**
 - Presently planned for 26th April 2022 in Forglen Hall at 7 pm.

Stewart Adams
Secretary
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