

ALVAH AND FORGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

ALVAH HALL: TUESDAY 25 July 2023

MINUTES

Website: www.alvahforglencc.wordpress.com

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

1. Present.

Carol Cox (Chairman)

Mike Dewhurst (Treasurer)

Barbara Foad (Secretary)

Peter Dow, Doug Hill, Caroline Jones, Jemima Chillingworth, Rhoda Burns, John Burns, Jacky Player, Carol Rewston, Doug Hill. The secretary has received a letter of resignation from John Kelly to concentrate on other voluntary work. The community council expressed thanks to John for work and expressed our regrets.

In attendance: Cllr Stewart Adams.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jim Bayne and Helen Bayne.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2023 were previously approved online.

4. Matters Arising.

a) There has been no further updates concerning Community Councils' role in Aberdeenshire consultations documents. Secretary to go back to original source and check progress/outcome.

b) A letter has been received from David Duguid MP which outlines the problems of ambulance response times and all he has done about this issue. The community council instructed the secretary to write again to both MP and MSP. and ask for the percentage of time that ambulances are actually available to answer calls in this area. Also the comparative response times to life threatening incidents of our area and Aberdeen City.

5. Community Police.

The Police were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

6. Rural Broadband.

Vice Chairman noted that there was nothing to report.

7. Planning Applications.

None

8. Caledonian Windfarm Consultation.

The final route will be confirmed in August 2024. We are to advise community members whose land is affected to be assertive with the company and negotiate the best option for them as to where the cable cross their land.

9. Floral Displays and Public Amenity Areas

All the tubs will now be planted with perennials. We need to apply for funding for plug plants, compost and plant food. Perhaps The Deuchries Windfarm Community Fund and the National Lottery.

Secretary to make an observation to Angela Keith (Area Manager) that the distribution of bedding plants was chaotic this year to say the least. Plants were just left in a Macduff Car Park. They were not watered or cared for until they were collected. We had chosen what plants and quantities we wanted. It was observed when the plants were collected with no oversight from council staff that those in the front of the queue swapped plants that looked better with other orders. As a result we had many trays with 2 or 3 plants missing or just half a tray or just dead plants and certainly not the plants we had ordered.

10 . Wild Flower Areas.

Yellow rattle will be sown on the verge in the autumn by landscape services. we will plan to plant some native wildflower plug plants after this . i.e. primrose, cowslips, harebell, ragged robin, violet etc. .Also some naturalizing bulbs i.e. single snowdrops, crocus Tomasianus, cyclamen coum, daffodil Thalia or similar. It was suggested that we consider grouping the tall cemetery planters to protect them from the wind and make the verge easier to manage overall.

We also plan to plant groups of the same naturalizing bulbs in the actual cemetery.

It was agreed not to order bulbs from the council as the varieties offered are not wild or naturalizing.

Secretary to consult Land Registry to ascertain the boundaries of the Church land surrounding the cemetery.

11. Arts Group..

The next show booked is MenShed on 28 September at Alvah Hall

Myth of the Vikings (children's show) 7/10 at Forglen Hall, Desert Island Flicks 11/11 Alvah Hall and Hebridean Fire Sunday 26 November Forglen Hall

12. Green Canopy Update

Mr Morison is concerned that the 400 free trees from the Woodland Tust will be overwheled by weeds. The Secretary to investigate what needs to be done and the cost. Funding then to be sought from local windfarms or similar.

13. Community Ownership Fund: Community Buildings/derelict land

Secretary to contact the planning department to clarify the planning status of the derelict plot in Bogton. Council members to provide photos of its derelict and overgrown status.

14. Community Action Plan.

Vice Chairman reported that there was no update

15. Updates from Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Adam advised that the council is currently on recess. There is a 40-million-pound deficit due to increased borrowing costs. If we do not use services, then we may lose them. We were advised of the Area Investment Fund for Northern Aberdeenshire and advised to apply for funding from it.

16. Any Questions from Members of the Public.

None

17. Any other business

Concern expressed at the announcement that the last Bank in Turriff is to close. Secretary to write to MP and MSP to request a 'Bank Hub' be developed for Turriff.

Roads: The Chair advised that since the road past her house was resurfaced, that there is a stream running through her barn and field.

Potholes: Two on the Back Lane between Penelopefield Road and Bogton (between Waulkmill and Turfhill House)

The road past Forglen Hall towards Mountblairy Estate has been resurfaced and is now badly rutted. Between Forglen Hall and South Westside.

18. Date of next meeting – 26 September 2023 Alvah Hall

Mike Dewhurst

Treasurer

Matters Arising

Derelict plot in Bogton	Secretary to contact planning department.
Concern over ambulance availability	Secretary to write to MP and MSP's.
Contact Roads department	Secretary
Consultation doc	secretary
Distribution of plants/contact Angela Keith	Secretary
QGC weeds	Secretary