

ALVAH AND FORGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

ALVAH HALL: TUESDAY 26 September 2023

MINUTES

Website: www.alvahforglencc.wordpress.com

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

1. Present.

Carol Cox (Chairman)

Doug Hill (Vice Chair)

Mike Dewhurst (Treasurer)

Barbara Foad (Secretary)

Peter Dow, Caroline Jones, Rhoda Burns,

In attendance: Cllr Stewart Adams, Andrew Webster

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jim Bayne and Helen Bayne, Jemima Chillingworth, Jacky Player, Carol Rewston, John Burns

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2023 were previously approved online.

4. Matters Arising.

a) There has been no further updates concerning Community Councils' role in Aberdeenshire consultations documents. Should this arise again we will add it to the agenda.

b) A letter has been received from Sharon Adams MSP to her from The Scottish Ambulance service regarding ambulance response times. See Appendix 1. This outlines the measures that have been taken to address this issue and asks residents who have experienced a long wait to contact the ambulance service.

5. Community Police.

The Police were unable to attend due to prior commitments. Cllr Adam advised that the Community Police Officer is now based in Banff Academy.

6. Rural Broadband.

Secretary noted that there was nothing to report. James Bayne has checked both defibrillators and updated the maintenance record.

7. Planning Applications.

APP/2023/1689. As no objections have been voiced by community members the community council will not comment.

8. Democracy Matters conversations: Secretary to answer the questionnaire:

9. Caledonian Windfarm Consultation.

No update. Cllr Adam advised that there will be funds for Community Benefit through Angela Keith Area Manager. It was suggested that we apply for funds for seeds and bulbs for Forglen Cemetery and Raised beds etc for community gardening.

Suggestion that Alvah Hall apply for Broadband in Alvah Hall 4G or Starlink. Secretary to pursue and contact secretary of the Hall committee.

10. Floral Displays and Public Amenity Areas

Tubs

There is still some colour in the tubs so they haven't been emptied of bedding plants yet although they should be by the next meeting. As agreed previously we have not ordered anymore bedding plants as we are going over entirely to perennials. I suggest we leave the replanting until early Spring to avoid the presumed bad weather over Winter. The gardening team will have to get together to decide what perennials we are going to plant.

11.. Wild Flower Areas.

Wildflowers at Forglen Cemetery

We are at present agreeing the wildflower plugs with Liz Stanyer of Greenspace. We have tried to keep to flowers that are not too tall or invasive to avoid the more aggressive ones crowding out the more delicate. The Council are going to cut the grass very closely so we can sow the yellow rattle seeds when they arrive.

12. 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

13. Green Canopy Update

James Bayne has secured funds of £580 plus vat from Brydock Windfarm. A contractor has been employed to spray the 400 Woodland Trust weeds and mow the larger area. This has now been done. It is proposed to repeat this in the spring of 2024.

14 . 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.

15. Community Action Plan.

Secretary reported that there was no update

16. Updates from Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Adam advised that the council is under financial pressures There is a 40-million-pound deficit due to increased borrowing costs. If we do not use services, then we may lose them. There will be an opportunity for members of the public to express their preferences as to which services are most important to them.

17 Any Questions from Members of the Public.

None

18. Any other business

Secretary to contact roads Roads regarding the items below.:

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.

Secretary to contact Timothy Xu about siting a Community Noticeboard in Bogton.

18. Date of next meeting – 31 October 2023 Forglen Hall

Mike Dewhurst

Treasurer

Matters Arising

Derelict plot in Bogton	Secretary to contact planning department.
Circulate meeting Dates and display in noticeboards	Secretary
Contact Roads department	Secretary
Democracy Matter Consultation doc	secretary
Community Benefit Caledonian Windfarm.contact Angela Keith	Secretary
Contact Planning re Bogton Plot and Bogton Noticeboard.	Secretary

Appendix 1

Chair Tom Steele

Chief Executive Michael Dickson OBE

Your Ref: KA3595

Our Ref: DATIX 13733

Ms Karen Adam, MSP

Karen.Adam.MSP@Parliament.scot

3

rd August 2023

Dear Ms Adam,

RE: Ambulance Response time to Alvah and Forglen

Thank you for your letter dated 27th July 2023 regarding concerns raised by your constituent about ambulance

response times to Alvah and Forglen.

The Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) undertook a Demand and Capacity review across Scotland,

implementing the findings of modelling undertaken by ORH (Operational Research into Health) LTD which

identified that additional resourcing as well as realignment of shift patterns was required to have sufficient

capacity to meet demand. The modelling was based on five years worth of data, excluding 2020 as activity

patterns were significantly skewed during the pandemic. The Scottish Government funded £20m of

investment in the service to progress the first two phases which funded 55 additional staff in Grampian.

Alongside this new investment ambulance shift cover has been re-rostered to better meet demand patterns.

As a result, for the Alvah and Forglen areas, the second ambulance based at Banff has been upskilled to a

full Accident & Emergency conveying resource and became operational on the 8th May 2023. This also

involved a redesign of the roster at Banff which has enabled us to provide additional cover in the evenings

and weekends. The Demand and Capacity review has also provided the Aberdeen City stations with 3 new

additional 24/7 Accident & Emergency ambulance resources to help support the rural ambulances in returning

to their home station.

We are very much committed to the introduction of an ambulance stand by point in Turriff as part of the

service Demand & Capacity Programme roll out. We are currently working with partners to finalise a standby

location in Turriff where the second ambulance, starting and finishing shifts in Banff, will be deployed to when

available, to stand by in the town as part of a wider resource tactical deployment plan. This process has

involved staff engagement through established working parties ensuring modelling and staff requirements

were taken into consideration to deliver a service that meets our communities' expectations.

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SAS operates a priority-based system of dispatch to try to ensure that emergency ambulances are available

to respond to the most serious and life-threatening cases in the first instance. Our Call Handlers utilise a

system called Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) to prioritise all requests for our emergency

ambulances. This is a computerised system in which, in response to information provided by the caller, a

coded response level is determined.

SAS implemented the New Clinical Response Model (NCRM) for emergency 999 calls in November 2016.

The NCRM aims to save more lives by more accurately identifying patients with immediately life-threatening

(ILT) conditions, such as cardiac arrest, and to send the right type of resource first time safely and more

effectively to all patients based on their clinical need. Therefore, when an ILT condition has been identified,

the nearest available ambulance will be allocated to attend to give the patient the best chance of survival.

Health care providers are aware that when they book an ambulance within a time scale, that there are on

occasions where we are unable to attend the patient in the time scale requested. This can be due to

geographical challenges or demand implications. During periods of high demand our call handlers may

provide an approximate estimated time of arrival based on the demand activity within the area.

It is acknowledged that there is significant pressure on the health and care system including increased staff absences and increased hospital turnaround times. I am sure you can appreciate that any delay in handing over the patient means that the ambulances are not able to be released to attend other patients across the region and this is a particular challenge in NHS Grampian. Whilst

I am happy to confirm that work to address this is being progressed, we remain some distance from

the recently agreed 1 hour hospital turnaround time which would improve the availability of ambulances to respond to the community.

I would be happy to investigate your constituent's experience if you can send me their name, address and

any details of the incident that occurred including date, time and location please. For ease, I have attached a

copy of our patient consent paperwork.

I trust this update will help provide reassurance, as well as an understanding that the Scottish Ambulance

Service is fully committed to ensuring our communities have a service to meet their needs when a medical

emergency occurs.

If you would wish to discuss further Vic Shirran, Head of Service, can be contacted on 01224 812200 or

Victoria.shirran@nhs.scot

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Dickson, OBE

Chief Executive