

# **ALVAH AND FORGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**FORGLEN HALL: TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023**

## **MINUTES**

Website: [www.alvahforglencc.wordpress.com](http://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, John Burns, Jacky Player

In attendance: Cllr John Cox, Cllr Stewart Adams, Andrew Webster

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Jim Bayne, Helen Bayne and Carol Rewston,

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023 were previously approved online.

### **4. Matters Arising.**

a) A response was received from Aberdeenshire Council Roads and Infrastructure Services Team see Appendix 1

b) The trees have been sprayed and mown. Thanks to Brydock Windfarm for funding this. They will be done again in the spring. After that we should not need to do this again.

c) Noticeboard for Bogton. The secretary spoke to Timothy Xu. He advised that we should initially send the planning department details of the position, size, type etc. of the noticeboard. This will be passed to infrastructure for them to advise if it would be possible to erect this within the tarmac where the phone box used to be. If it can then he can advise if we need planning permission. Even if we cannot find out who owns the land we can apply for this. Secretary to take this forward.

### **5. Community Police.**

The Police were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

### **6. Rural Broadband.**

The secretary has emailed the secretary of Alvah Hall to suggest they investigate having a Broadband connection in the hall.

### **7. Planning Applications.**

None this month in our area.

## **9. Caledonian Windfarm Consultation.**

No update.

## **10. Floral Displays and Public Amenity Areas**

After the circulation of the minutes of the last meeting concern was expressed from some community council members at the plans to use only perennial flowers/plants in the tubs. This item was revisited at the October meeting. We have not ordered any annuals and are too late to do so this year. Our name will remain on the list next year so we could then order a few 'statement annuals' for 2025 for each tub but 2024 will give us a chance to establish the perennial plants and then review the situation. It was agreed that the amount of work using annuals is not sustainable in the long term. The secretary suggested asking people whose houses are adjacent to tubs to top up the water reserve to minimize some of the work. This has worked in a village situation in Daviot.

The tubs at Bogton need to be moved onto hard standing as they get too overgrown by grass and hedges on the grass verges. Gardening Group to liaise with Carol Cox for use of her tractor and loader. This will be weather dependent.

## **11. Wild Flower Areas.**

The verge has been mown fairly short, but we need to scarify the grass ourselves. The secretary hopes to borrow a mechanical scarifier. This will need a strong person to operate. Cllr Adam will help if he is available when we do it.

The plug plants will then be sown completely randomly followed by the yellow rattle seed which has been received by Carol Rewston.

Secretary to pursue funding for naturalizing bulbs in Forglen cemetery. Cllr Cox and Adam suggested applying to the Amenity Fund and the Gardening Fund for money for this.

## **12. Arts Group.**

The next show booked is:

Desert Island Flicks Saturday 11 November at Alvah Hall and Hebridean Fire Sunday 26 November at Forglen Hall

## **13. Green Canopy Update**

Nothing to report.

## **14. Community Ownership Fund: Community Buildings/derelict land**

The Secretary contacted the planning department who confirmed that the plot was granted full planning permission in 2010 which will remain in perpetuity.

If we want to buy it for a community garden, we will need to pay near the market price. The owner wants £70,000 but similar plots at Bogton are currently £50,000. John Burns to investigate options for Scottish Government funding for communities to buy derelict land.

### **15. Community Action Plan.**

The secretary advised that the current Community Action Plan is out of date. The secretary and Jim Bayne had met with Duncan Leece to look at options for a community meeting to consult with our residents about their needs. There is also an option for an online survey. Secretary to forward previous correspondence to the Chairman, Carol Cox.

### **16. Updates from Aberdeenshire Councillors**

Cllr Cox said that they were currently assessing how Storm Babet was handled and what they can learn from this for the future.

### **17. Any Questions from Members of the Public.**

Andrew Webster suggested that the community council should inform residents of all the different broadband providers that operate in Alvah and Forglen. Concern was expressed as to how we find this out as there may be some we are not aware of. Cllr Cox advised that could be seen as advertising for them, particularly if you missed someone out. This will not be taken forward.

### **18. Any other business**

#### **Walker Court**

Jacky Player asked the Councilors to confirm or otherwise that Walker Court sheltered housing complex is to be closed. Cllr Cox said that a report advising this had been put to the Area Committee but not agreed to so far. The facility has not been maintained to a level that makes it attractive to current and/or future residents, i.e., the lift has been broken for some time. The place plan for the area states that there should be such a facility available in every town and our local Councilors are working to keep such a facility in Aberchirder.

#### **Remembrance Day ceremonies:**

Aberdeenshire Council has delegated the laying of the wreath at Forglen Hall on Sunday 12 November at 13:00 hrs. to Alvah and Forglen Community Council. Doug Hill Vice Chair will undertake this on our behalf.

The Treasurer , Mike Dewhurst is laying a wreath at Alvah memorial .

#### **Wheelchairs for the halls:**

A suggestion was made that we buy wheelchairs to keep in the halls. Primarily for the use of hall users or should someone be taken ill. Also, that any resident who needs a loan of one following an accident can borrow them for a short time. A decision has not been made at this time, but this will be carried forward.

### **19. Date of next meeting – 28 November 2023 Alvah Hall**

Barbara Foad

Secretary

Alvah and Forglen Community Council

## **Matters Arising**

Derelict plot in Bogton	John Burns to research funding to purchase derelict land.
Community Benefit Caledonian Windfarm.contact Angela Keith	Secretary
Amenity and garden fund. Contact Angela Keith	Secretary
Proposed Bogton noticeboard. Send details of noticeboard and site to planning department	Secretary
Forward relevant emails regarding Community Action Planning/Place Planning	Secretary

### **Appendix 1**

#### **From mountain to sea**

#### **Roads and Infrastructure Services**

#### **Communication Team**

**19th October 2023**

#### **Alvah and Forglen Community Council road issues**

**Dear Ms Foad**

**I refer to your correspondence in which you asked about various issued brought up by the Alvah and Forglen Community Council.**

**Regarding the potholes and road conditions mentioned by yourself these defects are on our system and are scheduled for repair, however due to resource issues the local team have been prioritising safety critical defects in the Banff and Buchan area and therefore these defects have not yet been attended. However the team will look to attend to these as soon as resources allow and will send out inspectors to re-evaluate their defect ratings as per our standard defect matrix.**

**As for the issues with water flowing into a resident' s barn and field this is also a defect on our system however the team are looking now to install a Water Stop in the area which will hopefully alleviate the flooding issues experienced here. They do not currently have an exact timeframe for these works, however they will look**

**into installing this as soon as they can.**

**We hope we have answered your enquiry adequately. if you have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you wish to further discuss this matter please use the enquiry number located in the email subject line.**

**Regards,**

**Roads and Infrastructure Communications Team**

**Roads and Infrastructure Services**