

ALVAH AND FORGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2025 AT ALVAH HALL AND CONTINUATION TUESDAY 1 APRIL
ONLINE ONLY

MINUTES

Website: www.alvahforglencc.wordpress.com

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

1. Present.

25 March: Doug Hill (Chairman), Mike Dewhurst (Treasurer), Barbara Foad (Secretary), Caroline Jones and Jacky Player

In attendance: Helen Bayne, Andrew Webster, Cllr Stewart Adams, James Jenkinson - Greentech Energy

1 April: Doug Hill (Chairman), Mike Dewhurst (Treasurer), Barbara Foad (Secretary), Caroline Jones and Carol Cox

In attendance: Cllr John Cox

Apologies

25 March: Apologies received from: Cllr John Cox and Peter Dow

1 April: Cllr Stewart Adams

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 25 February were previously approved by email.

3. Matters Arising

- a) **Bogton Noticeboard.** Caroline Jones has visited the house immediately behind the proposed site several times, but no one has been in. Caroline asked if she should also ask the houses opposite their opinion. This was agreed. Ongoing
- b) **Broadband in the halls.** There was a successful hybrid meeting tonight but there were no remote attendees.
- c) **Forglen Cemetery Car Park-** The secretary has undertaken the '@postcode search on Land registers Scotland'. This revealed that Kirklands boundaries are outwith the area on the Forglen Cemetery car park. The search for Kirkton and the glebe lands is not yet online necessitating a Land search at a cost of £68 plus vat. It was unanimously agreed that the secretary should submit a request for the area on which the car park sits.
- d) **Kirkton of Alvah Church Building** Shaun Norman advises that dirty water disposal. The proposal is to install a wastewater treatment plant adjacent to the church. This will take up the area of four burial plots. Landscape services are to undertake test digging on these plots to confirm that these have never been used for burials. If they do not find any remains this could go forward. Shaun Norman will advise the outcome.
- e) **Sub-groups.** Ongoing **Community Benefit sub-group** There is a vacancy for our second AFCC representative on the Deuchries Wind Farm Community Fund committee. Caroline Jones will ask Peter Dow if he is willing to take this on. Peter agreed and AQFCC agreed by email to appoint Peter so that he could attend the Deuchries allocation meeting on 3 April 2025.

4. Police

None

5. Rural Broadband. and Digital Voice

None

6.Planning Applications: APP/2025/0205 Planning application for the 35MW solar farm in Alvah .

James Jenkinson was asked about the bund and lagoon around the substation and the safety of the water were it to be used on a battery storage fire. Mr Jenkinson had not encountered any evidence about this. He also confirmed that the local fire brigades have not been asked if they have the capacity to deal with a battery storage fire and were to become contaminated with HF. Mr Jenkinson had not encountered any evidence this would not be safe.

Mr Jenkinson was asked the logic of siting this development in the most sensitive landscape area in the North East of Scotland., Mr Jenkinson said that their landscape architects have said it is not in the Deveron Valley and is the most appropriate location for such a development.

Concerns were again raised about the grid connection to the substation in Macduff. This will be decided after the solar farm is built by SSEN. We understand that for 33KV underground is cheaper than overground. However, the proximity to other cables already or planned to be run through Alvah may make this impossible. In that case they would be overground vis wooden poles at the same height as the existing electricity supply.

The Chairman raised the problems with some documents not being available i.e. the Ecology and Bio-diversity Report.

James Jenkinson left the meeting.

It was agreed that we would neither Support or object as there are no NPF 4 considerations to allow us to object. We would however comment on the lack of glint and glare studies for properties due south of the site, The encroachment on the Deveron Valley Special Landscape Area and any precedent that might be created. The connection to the sub-station at Macduff must be underground

7. Floral Displays and Public Amenity Areas

Helen Bayne requested funding to replace the 9 tubs at Kirkton of Alvah with annuals. The Chairman explained that Aberdeenshire Council asked us to move to perennials last year and plug plants were provided. This was to save carbon and costs. It will take time for the perennials to establish and fill the tubs. At the moment many plants will still be dormant, so the tubs look empty. It was agreed to wait until at least June to see what is growing in each tub, but our policy is not to return to annuals at present.

8. Arts Group.

15 March Forglen Hall, Soil, Sand and Flint 19:00. was very successful .

25 May 'Fit Ya Sayin quine?' Alvah Hall. One Woman Doric Show that was at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2024 and had good reviews.

We will review the situation in June to determine if the group is viable in its current form.

9. Community Ownership Fund: Community Buildings/derelect land

Nothing to report

10. Community Action Plan / Place Plan

We understand that Aberdeenshire Council has grants of £500 for Community Council Place Plans. We will be undertaking a Community Action Plan and Place Plan going forward. The chair has spoken to the council who have advised that no funds are available for this.

CAP and LPP have been abandoned for this year due to lack of people, resources, time and funds.

11.Updates from Aberdeenshire Councillors

None

12. Questions from Members of the Public: Helen Bayne asked for the seat beside the War Memorial at Alvah to be painted. The secretary will ask Landscape Services to add this to their list.

13. Any other business

The secretary is concerned that the Moray East Cable Community Benefit is being distributed through the Coastal Communities Fund, which appears to exclude Alvah despite having the cable and all its associated construction disruption from applying for some of this funding. Our northern boundary is within the 2 mile radius for funding. Ideas were suggested to apply for funding to link up separate areas of the footpath on the west bank of the River Deveron so that it would be possible to walk beside the river from the Deveron Bridge in Turriff to Banff Bridge. Secretary to ask specifically if AFCC are eligible to submit an application, to touch base with Turriff CC and Forglen Estate about the Deveronside Footpath idea. Cllr Cox asked to be copied into correspondence.

The treasurer asked for permission to renew the APRS membership which costs £35. Unanimously agreed

The treasurer advised that the BoS has deleted the previous change of signatories application due to GDPR and we have to start the process again all online.

The Chairman suggested that we add an item to the standing Agenda such that at every meeting the current bank balance is reported.

The Chairman advised that our website is currently free to use but with adverts, These adverts are becoming more and more frequent, for £35 pa we can have the adverts removed. This was agreed unanimously.

.14. Date of next meeting Tuesday 29 APRIL ALVAH HALL

Barbara Foad

Secretary

Alvah and Forglen Community Council

ACTIONS

Chairman to draw up response to APP/2025/0205 and circulate for approval by email	Doug Hill
Community Benefit Caledonian Windfarm	Ongoing.
Bogton Noticeboard	Caroline Jones to speak to Householders
Alvah Church	Secretary to email Shaun Norman
Community Action Planning	Chair to apply for £500 for costs associated with the LPP.
Forglen Cemetery Car Park	Secretary to undertake Land Registry search for Forglen Cemetery Car Park
Signatories for the community council bank account	Ongoing
Wildflowers verge at Forglen Cemetery	Ongoing
Alvah Church seat by War memorial needs painting	Secretary to contact Landscape services
Coastal Communities Fund	Secretary to ask if we are eligible for funding Secretary to email Turriff CC and Forglen Estate copying Cllr Cox in