

Community Council Meeting
Monday 5 September 2017
Aberlemno Church meeting room
7.30pm

In attendance:

T Samson (Chair); J Hair; Cllr. Myles, L Bruce; C Fenton; M Howe; Cllr. Braes; P Duncan; S Symon (SS) (part of meeting).

1 Welcome and apologies

TS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked ID for chairing the last meeting.

Apologies were received from: L and M Hooghiemstra, Cllr. Nicol; I Davies; S Cormie.

2 Scott Symon: Fire and Rescue Service (F&RS).

SS was welcomed to the meeting. As the only full-time officer in the area SS is meeting community members with a view to offering assistance and to develop a two-way relationship. Monthly reports will be circulated in future and the most recent had already been forwarded and were discussed. Most call outs by the F&RS are false alarms. All 999 calls go via Dundee.

TS asked where water comes from to deal with farm fires and was told that the F&RS visit farms and have a record of where fire hydrants are.

MH asked how much Nitrogen-based chemicals can be stored without having to ask F&RS; SS suggested he email for the answer.

The draft Angus plan is out for consultation and everyone is encouraged to read it and respond. One of the main aims now is to expand the services delivered which will reduce unintentional harm, so the plan is to increase home visits to help improve safety in the home and reduce the incidence of falls and financial harm; to carry defibrillators and assisting the police to gain access. To arrange a visit go through the website:

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/home-fire-safety-visit.aspx>
note that visits are prioritised according to perceived need.

SS talked about the challenges facing the service, which includes employers not releasing employees to attend fires; firemen/women need to live within 2 miles of a station and four people are required as a minimum per alliance.

SS mentioned that all Angus Council's new builds have sprinkler systems installed.

As with all public services, savings are being sought across the service because the budget is fixed.

3 Minutes of the last meeting for approval

The minutes of the last meeting were approved

4 Matters arising

The signs at the Balgavies crossroads haven't been moved yet; there were two accidents within a week, though not caused by the location of the signs.

JH raised the issue of the lines of sight and the crest of the road and the trees that are obscuring the view and the resultant difficulty crossing the junction. Discussion took place about whose responsibility felling the trees as there's a traffic management issue because the road would need to be closed.

Action: TS agreed to look at the site and assess the risks

TS

Action: CF agreed to email Angus Council about the works' schedule

CF

The potential school closure was discussed with only 2/3 pupils starting this year and 2/3 are leaving. The school roll being so low means that it is increasingly difficult to keep schools with low rolls open; however, the nearest is Whitehills and it is near capacity but there's still capacity in Brechin.

5 Aberlemno graveyard

It has been reported that the price has been agreed for the land for the extension to the

graveyard.

6 **Sign for the Aberlemno Church graveyard**

CF reported that local residents have reported significant numbers of people who arrive in Aberlemno but who are not directed to all the stones, even though the new signs are now in place. The CC agreed to pay for a sign which directs people from the churchyard to the stones on the main road.

7 **Treasurer's report**

Last year's accounts have been approved by Angus Council and the current balance is £2,157.44

8 **Update on viewfinder for Aberlemno Hill**

PD tabled examples of David McGovern's work. His proposal for the viewfinder is that it is carved in stone. The CC is seeking the cost of it to be done in stone.

Action: invite David McGovern to the next meeting

PD

PD reported that the Pictish Arts Society is requesting the use of the hall as their meeting place.

9 **Update on Aberlemno Community Hall**

As a rather wet summer drags on the Hall Committee has been busy on a variety of projects. The Garden Club met for the first time in July with a dozen so mixed, mostly perennial, gardeners getting together to discuss their hopes, failures and ambitions. A seed exchange has been set up. Our next event on Tuesday 26th September will have a speaker from the Ranger Service providing tips on gardening for wildlife. If you have any particular questions let us know in advance and hopefully you will get the answers on the night. Next comes the Harvest Hootennany - a barn dance for all the family with the Inchcape Ceilidh Band on Saturday 30th September. Details of both events on the Aberlemno website or ask your local committee member.

The grant application for upgrading the kitchen and rewiring has been submitted the Angus Environmental Trust.

Steve Blyth from the Council's Emergency Planning Team attended a recent meeting and spoke about setting up a local resilience group. This small group would draw up a plan for responding to an emergency such as loss of power, cold, major incident (e.g. air accident). The group would be the first point of contact for emergency services, using the Hall as a centre for any aid or shelter needs etc. Volunteers are needed to draw up a plan, with Council support, identify vulnerable people and co-ordinate any response to an emergency. If anyone wants to become involved in making the community safer and stronger let Rev. Brian Ramsay know; you can act as an individual or on behalf of a group such as the Church.

Unfortunately Norman Atkinson is unable to lead a walk this year, but we are working on a walk to the Finavon hill fort in spring before the vegetation becomes too overgrown. See the website for details.

If anyone has any ideas or wants to become part of our busy and friendly Committee, just come along to a meeting; all welcome.

MH agreed to get in touch with Rev. BR.

TS said he's written a letter of support for the kitchen and wiring application.

10 **AOCB**

1. SC had asked about progress towards the signage at the Nethererton bend and it was reported that there are now yellow markers on the road which indicate that work is ongoing.

2. Angus Council has set up a community council liaison meeting on 9/11/17, which TS agreed to attend.

3. Cllr Myles said there's a Rural Forum meeting at Brechin police station at 7pm. Let Cllr Myles know if you intend to go.

4. It was reported that six farms were broken into in the Pitkenedy area in July.
5. PD reported that the Harley Davidson riders are proposing to change the route of the ride out and they are proposing not using the route through Aberlemno in future.
6. Discussion took place about LMcL's proposal to take over the phone box at Netherton at a cost to the CC of £1; however in the absence of any rationale for this and any firm commitment to keep it in order, the CC rejected the proposal.

11. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 4 December 2017 at **7.00** pm in the Aberlemno Church meeting room.