

# **Comrie Community Council**

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2008 in the Comrie Community Centre at 7.30pm.**

**Chair:** Gordon McCartney.

**Present:** Fiona Connolly, Jennifer Perks, David Robertson. Judy McDowal, Tim Lucas.  
Bruce Gairns, Willie Nicol, Andrew Gairns.

**Councillors:** Helen MacDonald

**Police:** Sergeant David Pettigrew.

**Strathearn Herald:** Caroline Boxer

**1. Apologies:** ; Sandy Gray, Ann Cowan, Anne Younger

5 Members of Public

**2. Minutes:** The minutes were adopted and signed by the chair

### **3: Matters Arising:**

#### **3.1 Police Matters.**

Sergeant Pettigrew gave an update regarding petty crime with in the village over the past month. He went onto to say that on the 11<sup>th</sup> January a car was vandalised in Drummond Street and on the 13<sup>th</sup> January a car was vandalised in Barrack Road. On the same day a snowball was thrown at a window in Barrack Road resulting in the window being broken. There was also a wing mirror on a car in Dalginross broken but this was witnessed by a plainclothes police officer and the culprit was detained. Another car was also vandalised on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. The vandal was arrested by a police officer and was briefly held in custody.

A window in Cambruith was also broken - further enquiries are ongoing regarding this incident.

A meeting between PO Iain Gillies and P&K street lighting department has taken place regarding the lighting on the Boulevard. The police said, at a previous meeting, that from a crime point of view the lighting in that area was inadequate for the police to detect anything untoward happening. P&K said they would increase the present light bulbs from 50watts to 70watts. They will also install an additional light stand away from the waters edge on the east side of the bridge. It was also agreed that the P&K lighting engineer would look at the possibility of installing lights underneath the bridge.

Sergeant Pettigrew said that regarding the youth shelter, PO Iain Gillies is liasing with the youth centre and with various youths who frequent the streets. This project is ongoing and Sergeant Pettigrew will have more information regarding this project by the next meeting.

Sergeant Pettigrew went on to say that the general public should be aware of travelling salesmen who are operating within the Strathearn area. He said that it was most unusual for these traders, trying to sell their goods, to approach people in the streets as, for them to do so legally, they would require a street traders licence. Anyone approached by these people should inform the police.

CC Nicol showed Sergeant Pettigrew photographs of litter that two residents, who reside in Manse Lane, had collected over a weekend from the riverbank at the south end of the lane. The photos showed piles of empty beer cans, wine bottles and various other empty alcohol bottles and general litter. CCC members were concerned about the amount of litter that had been collected over a weekend, and there was concern that underage drinking is still ongoing in the village. CC Nicol said that there is an empty house as well as a large vehicle parked at the bottom of the lane. He voiced his concern that the youngsters were now congregating there and apparently the resident was worried that his vehicle may be vandalised.

CC Lucas said that he had had complaints regarding the mud on the South Crieff road. Sergeant Pettigrew said that he had seen this for himself and the farmer involved would be made aware of the obligations he has for the safety of motorists.

Sergeant Pettigrew then left the meeting.

### **3.2 CDT update**

Most of the CCC members had attended a meeting with the CDT on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The members said that this was a worthwhile meeting and hopefully the CDT will be able to help regarding ongoing projects that the CCC are involved with at present.

CC Lucas will arrange meetings with Ms Annabelle Ewing to discuss the closure of the public toilets. He will also arrange to meet with Ms Fran Loots regarding a skate park and youth shelter.

It was also agreed that the CCC members would not put themselves forward to be co-opted onto the CDT board. Instead it was agreed that they would hold meetings periodically with the CDT throughout the year.

### **3.3 Core Paths**

CCC Lucas displayed the latest map from P&K showing the entire proposed Core Path network for the Comrie Community Council region as drawn up by P&K. Mr Aitken, the CCC spokesman on this issue, was broadly in agreement with it but pointed out that there were paths which had been, in his opinion, wrongly or unnecessarily included. Additionally he pointed out that the earlier letter of 15<sup>th</sup> January written by CCC Chair McCartney had been ignored in respect of the suggested inclusion of three additional walks/routes namely :

- a) Findhu Glen/Auchnashelloch
- b) Dubh Chorein/Ardvorlich and
- c) Craggish/Ben Halton

Mr Aitken said he would write to P&K on behalf of the CCC check whether these routes would be included in the final Core Path draft.

### **3.4 Public Toilets**

CC Lucas to meet with Ms Ewing to see if it is possible to have a CCC/CDT joint partnership to take the toilets into public ownership and thereby keep them open.

### **3.5:Local Post Office.**

The CCC were aware that there was a possibility that the local Comrie post office was earmarked for closure but this was not as imminent as was first thought. The CCC decided to wait for more definitive information before taking the matter any further.

### **3.6 Youth Shelters**

This project is still ongoing and will be discussed further at the next meeting. In the mean time CC Lucas will discuss the idea with the liaison member on the CDT to see if a joint venture on the project would be feasible.

### **3.7 Housing/ Planning**

CC Lucas said that he had lodged an objection on behalf of the CCC regarding the proposed site at Tomperran. To date he has had no response but probably did not expect one.

Members had some concerns regarding the opening of a quarry in Glen Lednock. Concerns were voiced regarding the excavation of up to 15,000 tons of minerals from this area. This would likely lead to an unacceptable increase in heavy traffic up and down the Glen.

CC McDowal said that James Denholm Associates had applied for amended planning permission regarding the erection of offices in the woods opposite the cemetery on the South Crieff Road. Although the CCC members did not have a problem regarding this project, CC McDowal said that she would be lodging an appeal as an individual.

## **4.Treasurer's Report**

Main Account	£3,375.77
Legion Park	£ 773.44
Christmas Lights	£ 753.12
Hayride	£1,158.82

## **5: Secretary's Report**

### **Football in Tay Avenue**

Mr and Mrs Onions of 21 Tay Avenue were present at the meeting and made a complaint to the CCC regarding children playing football on the circular grassed area in Tay Avenue. They complained about the football going onto their garden and, at times, excessive noise. Mr Onions said that the children concerned are coming from different areas of the village to play on the grassy area. Parents then drive into the area at different times to pick up their children which increases traffic noise in this quiet area. Mr Onions said that most of the children are in their teens and come from as far away as the Field of Refuge. He went onto say that there was up to 20 youngsters involved and due to them wearing studded football boots they were tearing up the grass.

Mr Onions went onto say that he had complained many times to the police but he found that they were not very helpful towards his predicament. Chairman McCartney told Mr Onions that he was disappointed that he did not raise his complaint when Sergeant Pettigrew was present.

CC Connolly refuted what Mr Onions was saying and pointed out to everyone present that the children concerned were aged mainly between 5 – 11 years old and were resident in the area. The children and friends gathered on the green occasionally to have a game of football. She went onto say that most of the children did not wear studded boots. A heated exchange of words took place between CC Connolly and Mr Onions. Mr Onions pointed out to the CCC members that instead of spending money on Youth Shelters they should look at repairing the Legion Park so that the children can play football there, instead of his back yard. CC Lucas said that he would look at the situation in regard to the alleged football and the present state of the Legion Park and get back to Mr & Mrs Onions.

### **Legion Park.**

With regard to the above, CCC members did discuss the possibility of repairing the park around the goalpost areas. It was suggested that goalmouth areas could either be re-turfed or grass seeded, or even astro turf could be laid around the goalmouth areas. However until the weather improves nothing can be done at present.

## **6: Councillor's Reports**

**CC Perks** reported that the parking area outside the cemetery on the South Crieff road needs to be repaired. CC Lucas advised that he had been in touch with P&K in 2007 and they had agreed to do this as soon as funds were available. The repairs would be temporary patching whilst P&K tried to ascertain ownership of the land.

**CC B Gairns** reported that planning permission for the car park at the bottom of Glen Lednock has been passed. C McDonald confirmed that this project is now in the financial pipeline.

**CC J McDowal** reported that the lane which runs between Queens Road /Glebe Road was covered in dog mess and that “dog waste bags” had been stuck in the hedge instead of put in the dog bins. She also reported that the salt bin in Queens Road had been removed. CC Lucas said that this was done several years ago at the request of the residents living in that area as the salt was leaking from the bins in to people’s gardens poisoning the soil.

**CC Connolly** said that the railings for the Square are now in production and will be ready for installation in due course. It was also agreed that a new village notice board would be attached to the railings.

Chairman McCartney thanked CC Connolly and CC J McDowal for attending the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Bill and Anna Brooks.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**The next meeting, which is the AGM, will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in Comrie Community Centre.**