

Comrie Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th January 2008 in the Comrie Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Chair: Gordon McCartney.

Present: Sandy Gray, Fiona Connolly, Jennifer Perks, David Robertson.
Judy McDowal, Tim Lucas.

Councillors: Helen MacDonald, Ann Cowan, Anne Younger.

Police: Sergeant David Pettigrew.

1 Member of Public

1.Apologies: Bruce Gairns, Willie Nicol, Andrew Gairns.

2. Minutes:

Dr James Irvine had sent proposed amendments regarding his comments recorded in the December 2007 minutes. Although CCC members generally agreed with his comments regarding the Comrie Development Trust and the Ambulance Service the members did not entirely agree with his comments regarding the River Ruchill situation and as a result Dr Irvine's comments would not be included as an amendment but would be attached as an addendum.

The minutes were adopted and signed by the chair.

3: Matters Arising:

3.1 Police Matters.

Sergeant Pettigrew said he was disappointed to report that once again Comrie Primary School had been vandalised. Several windows had been broken. A member of the public had identified two people near the school when this incident occurred.

Two youths were arrested for incidents in Commercial Lane and Dalginross.

He also said that the bus shelter at the top of Dalginross had been vandalised. However he was pleased to confirm that, generally, the weekends have much quieter over the past few months. The CCC agreed with this and thanked the Police for their efforts in this respect.

Sergeant Pettigrew said he was pleased to see that on this month's agenda the CCC were discussing Youth Shelters. CC Lucas said that he is very keen to pursue this project as he feels it is very important for the youngsters to be able to base themselves in an area within the village. He went onto explain that he has been in touch with several companies who produce the shelters and although they are not cheap to buy, there is funding available to Community Councils and others (CDT ?) to purchase and install them. CC Lucas said that the youth shelters should be, and usually are, water and vandal proof.

CC Robertson agreed with this proposal and said that Aberfeldy had erected a youth shelter sometime ago and said it did enhance the village and had hopefully made a difference to the young people's quality of life during the evenings.

Sergeant Pettigrew said that police would support the CCC with this project and suggested that a meeting be arranged with some of the young people to determine whether they would like a shelter and if so, where it could realistically be erected. Sergeant Pettigrew said that he would set up meetings with some of the youngsters and would contact CC Lucas accordingly to arrange a first meeting as an exploratory discussion group.

Sergeant Pettigrew also raised concerns regarding the lighting on the Boulevard. He went onto say that the present lighting was not bright enough from a crime point of view. He said that when the police are patrolling that specific area they are unable to see if there is anyone hanging around there or under the bridge. CC Lucas suggested that stronger lights bulbs could be used similar to those used in the streetlights. Enquiries will be made with P&K and perhaps a meeting arranged to discuss this further.

C Cowan said that she had made further enquiries regarding the byelaw on banning the consumption of alcohol in public places. She said that at New Year and during the Comrie Fortnight the police would drop the byelaw by agreement with the relevant committees and as appropriate. The social committees concerned within Comrie could make an application to the police requesting that the byelaw be dropped on specific dates. Sergeant Pettigrew supported this byelaw and felt it would work and said that the police would work closely with the community to ensure understanding and, if necessary, enforcement.

CC McDowal asked Sergeant Pettigrew if would be possible, from a safety point of view, for revellers gathering at the Square before midnight on Hogmanay to be issued with plastic bottles rather than at present where everyone carries glass bottles. Sergeant Pettigrew felt that it would be a laborious and difficult idea for the police to implement. Sergeant Pettigrew said that there did not appear to be any problems at the Square during the Flambeaux Parade but did stress that it was an inconvenience to everyone that the public toilets were closed during this time.

C McDonald informed the CCC that it is possible to hire mobile toilets at no charge from P&K for large gatherings such as this. The Flambeaux Committee and Comrie Fortnight Committee will be informed regarding this.

3.2 CDT

CC Robertson said that the CDT is still waiting on a representative from the CCC. CC McCartney said that he was prepared to take the position on a temporary basis until CC Connolly can take over on a permanent basis during the first half of 2008.

It was suggested that a meeting between the CCC and CDT for an update on CDT activities could take place on the 4th February 2008 at 7.00/7.30pm before the monthly CDT open meeting commenced. CC Lucas to check with the CDT regarding suitability of this date.

CC Robertson went onto say that the CDT is now steering away from Cultybraggan to concentrate on other projects. He said that it would be March/April before residents can move in.

There were 7 applicants for the advertised job of caretaker.

21 people are interested in the allotments.

He said that the CDT are not getting involved with the core paths.

Chris Palmer who looks after the Earthquake House thinks that he has been able to source the paper required for the recording of earthquakes. If this is not possible digital readings will be available but these were deemed not as informative as paper tracings. CC Robertson also said that the Earthquake House is the smallest listed building in Scotland.

3.3 Core Paths

CC Lucas said that he had a letter from P&K informing the CCC that proposals for the core paths is now available online at www.pkc.gov.uk/countryside and are shown as a set of pdf map files. In some areas work is still to be finalised and the information regarding these paths will be added to the site when possible.

Neil Aitken said that there are 3 paths to be included. He went on to say that the path at Aberuchil had been blocked.

Mr Aitken will act as the CCC representative in regard to the reply to the core paths proposals. He was given all the relevant correspondence and mapping and will formulate an appropriate reply to P&K after subsequent discussions with the CCC.

3.4 Public Toilets

Councillor Cowan said that there had been no change regarding the public toilets since last month's meeting. She said that there was only one business in discussions regarding a comfort partnership. She did stress that P&K will not increase their offer of £3,000 pa to run the toilets. CC Lucas presented an estimated breakdown of running costs per annum and these came out at around £5,500 with the water rates at £3,000 and insurance at £800+ being the most expensive parts of the expense. P&K are unwilling to offer concessionary rates for any expenses and are, in fact, extremely keen to close and subsequently demolish the toilet block.

3.5:Housing/Planning

CC Lucas handed round the plans regarding the proposed development at Tomperran for discussion. The plans had been called in following a written objection from Lawers Estate. The main reservation the CCC members had with this development was the use of a 1.7m high wooden fence around the perimeter of the development. They felt that this would be unsightly when viewed from the Main A85 road leading into the village from the east. They thought that sympathetic hedging would be more appropriate. There was also disapproval of the number of two storey houses in the plans for this area, single or one and a half storey would have been preferred. CC Lucas will write to P&K regarding the concerns raised by the CCC members.

4.Treasurer's Report

Main Account	£3,375.77
Legion Park	£ 773.44
Christmas Lights	£ 768.12
Hayride	£1,158.82

5: Secretary's Report

CC Lucas said that he had received on behalf of the community a Christmas message from Ron Goebel who is the Mayor of Carlton Place. To date CC Lucas said he had not replied as he

thought that George Lees, who is the Twinning Secretary, would also have received this message and presumed he would have sent an appropriate reply. CC McCartney said that he would check with Mr Lees to see if this had been done. If not, CC Lucas agreed to send a belated reply.

6: Councillor's Reports

CC McDowal stated that although the Flambeaux Committee had done a good job cleaning up the Square after the Hogmanay celebrations she felt that it was several days too many before P&K sent out any one to clean up the bottles tops and fragments of glass that had been left. It was suggested that, as with any problems regarding litter and street cleaning, she could have rung the helpline number which is 01738 476476.

CC Gray said that during the last snowstorm the snow plough and small plough had been out cleaning all the streets except Glebe Road which was completely missed.

CC Robertson congratulated the Christmas Lighting Committee for all their efforts to enhance the village over the festive season. He also congratulated the Flambeaux Committee for their efforts regarding the Flambeaux parade.

CC Lucas felt that the Christmas streetlights should now be down and certainly not illuminated after 6th January.

CC Lucas to write to Mostyn Morgan to thank him for his kind donation of the Christmas trees. Two trees were donated for the Parish Church, one for the Royal Hotel and one for the Primary School.

Allan Moffat from First Response reported that they had covered 250 hours over the festive period that included 4 callouts.

Councillor Anne Younger said that there is now a website for Broadband for Scotland and if anyone had difficulties connecting to broadband there is a helpline which is 0844 499 2722. There is also funding of £3.5m available to enable everyone to receive broadband through out Scotland.

CC McCartney thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th February 2008 at 7.30pm.