

Comrie Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th January 2010 in the Comrie Community Centre

Chair: David Robertson,

Present: Tim Lucas, Bruce Gairns, Sandy Gray, Judy McDowall. Willie Nicol, Jennifer Bennie, Andrew Gairns, Fiona Connolly,

P&K Councillors: None present

Strathearn Herald: Not present

Police: Sergeant Alice Covenly

Public 2 members

1. Apologies Cllr Anne Younger, Gordon McCartney, Lynn Duke, Cllr Helen MacDonald

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 10th December 2009 were adopted and signed by the chair.

3: Matters Arising

3.1 Police Matters

Sergeant Covenly introduced herself to the members of CCC. She said that she had recently joined the Crieff office.

She reported that no crimes had been committed during the month of December. She also reported that the Flambeaux parade had gone well and apart from a few scuffles, the large crowd were very well behaved.

A firework had accidentally landed in a Taxi in Drummond Street, but no harm was done and the taxi driver has since been compensated for the incident.

The police are still continuing the after dark awareness scheme and once again are urging the public to securing their homes after dark and to leave lights on if they are going out at night. A break in had taken place in Auchterarder recently.

3.2 Road Matters

CC Lucas said that he had complained many times to P&K regarding the memorial bench and the over grown shrubs by the Earthquake House entrance in The Ross. He had now received a positive reply from Paul Summers, Liaison Officer, who informed him that P&K had uplifted the bench and it had been taken to their workshop for refurbishment. The area will be cleared and slabbed when the weather allows and the base will be added to the P&K spraying schedule so that it does not become over grown again. The self-seeded trees growing along the base of the wall and the scrub around the sign will be cleared in the spring. Once all this has been done the memorial bench will be returned to this area. Mr Summers did say that once the memorial

bench is beyond repair P&K will remove this seat and it will not be replaced as in line with the Community Greenspaces policy on memorial benches.

3.3 CDT Update

CC Robertson reported that the meeting had taken place for January. Two new appointments, which will be office based in Comrie, were advertised and the CDT has appointed the following to their staff :

Mr Will Reed: Delivery Plan Manager and Mr Andrew Hemming who will be the assistant to the Delivery Plan Manager.

The CDT is holding a meeting on the 19th January 2010 to introduce the new members to the public.

3.4 Community Council Elections

CC Lucas confirmed that the Community Council elections would take place on the **13th March 2010** for the election of 10 members to the Comrie & District Community Council

Nomination forms will be available from the Returning Officer, Mr Peter Innes, Alberton, South Crieff Road, Comrie. They will also be available from the Newsagents, Bridge Street, Comrie.

The nominations forms must be returned to Mr Peter Innes no later than 4.00pm on the 20th February 2010.

Notices of the forthcoming elections will be placed in the village over the weekend of the 30th January 2010.

CC Lucas confirmed that, should more than ten nominations be received, the voting will take place in the Comrie Community Centre, a room has been reserved for this event and ballot boxes will be provided. Mr George Carson and one other person will check the electoral register as each person casts their votes on the day of the election to confirm the residential eligibility of each potential voter.

Should there be fewer than 10 nominations no election will be necessary.

3.6 Housing/ Planning

CC Lucas said that he had received a call from Anne Younger earlier in the day confirming that the skateboard planning application had been rejected.

The planning application was lodged with P&K in September 2009. The main concern was that the proposed skateboard park site had a detrimental visual impact for people and motorists entering the village. At last month's meeting it was stated that there were eight letters of objection lodged with P&K regarding the project and it was assumed that this was from neighbours who lived in the vicinity of the Laggan Park.

It was confirmed at the meeting that there were only 5 letters of objection, two from the same person living close to the vicinity and the other three letters of objection were from residents who live elsewhere within the village. It was understood that as there was 5 objections the planning would go before a special committee and this was to take place in February but

apparently this did not happen. C Anne Younger did confirm the planning procedure at last month's meeting.

Ms Fran Loots and Mr Chris Palmer from the CDT were present at the CCC meeting this evening and they too were disappointed that the plans had been rejected. Ms Loots confirmed that the youngsters who had put so much work into getting this project up and running were devastated and at the time she was not sure if they wanted to continue with the idea. Members of CCC felt that they- the youngsters- should fight on for their skate park.

After lengthy discussions it was agreed that Chris Palmer would write to P&K planning department to suggest an alternative site. It was suggested that the Skateboard Park be located in the southeast corner of the Laggan Park. Although this site is closer to the road, it was agreed that the beech hedge (this is to be reinforced in the spring) would be screening for the site and as a result it would not be seen from the road. The site would also be situated below the road level and this would allow views over the site to wider views of the park and beyond. The site would not be over shadowed by the trees and therefore would not be a health and safety issue with leaves falling onto the skating area.

It was agreed that Mr Chris Palmer would write to P&K planning officers and request that they meet up with the Skate park committee to look at this alternative site before a new planning application was made. Mr Palmer will continue to keep CCC informed regarding this project.

CC Lucas also confirmed that no planning permission was granted for the erection of the neon light sign outside of the Comrie Chip Shop situated in Dundas Street. C A Younger will investigate this further.

4 Treasurer's Report

Main account	£4,766.65
Public Toilets	£ 983.69
Hayride	£ 1,096.54
Legion Park	£ 783.34

CC Gray handed over to the Treasurer the sum of £40 that was for the sale of the CCC Maps.

5 Secretary's Report

CC Lucas read out a letter he had received from Mr George Less, Chairman of the Laggan Park committee, requesting confirmation as to who were the present Trustees of the Laggan Park. Mr Lees pointed out in his letter that most of the Trustees elected to the Trust in 1965 were now deceased.

CC Gray who is a committee member of the Laggan Park pointed out that this letter should have been discussed with the Park Committee before being tabled with CCC members. Apparently a meeting for the Laggan Park had been arranged to take place in December 2009 but this did not happen.

It was agreed that CC Lucas would write to Mr Lees and suggest that this matter be discussed with the Laggan Park Committee before inviting the CCC to comment on the matter.

CC Lucas said he had received an invitation inviting 4 members of the community to attend the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood House. He said this event would take place sometime in July 2010. This date is to be confirmed.

It was agreed that an invitation be given to two members from Comrie in Colour. Mrs I Fraser will confirm the names of the two persons wishing to attend this event, to CC Lucas by the 29th January 2009. CC Lucas will contact the other members of the community regarding this event.

6 Councillors Report

All CCC members expressed their disgust at the lack of gritting, snow ploughing and the clearing of the side roads and lanes within the village during the snowfall over the festive season. It was stated that if there were salt bins placed around the village residents were happy to clear their streets as appropriate.

The CCC members congratulated CC Bruce Gairns and his men for the sterling work they did in clearing areas around the school, and the pavements around the village over the past week.

CC Robertson said that the Flambeaux committee must be congratulated for another successful Hogmanay celebration. He said that due to Health and Safety regulations the Flambeaux parade did not take the normal route through the village this year due to the icy conditions on the roads and pavements.

The CCC also congratulated the Flambeaux committee for the rapid clean up after the celebrations from the night before. It was stated that the Square and surrounding area had been cleaned up by 8.00am on New Year's morning

CC Robertson also confirmed that the lamppost no 91 in the Ross has still not been repaired. This light has now not been working for several months.

CC A Gairns reported that the road over the railway bridge by the traffic lights at the east end of the village has now been repaired.

The Community Council had received advice that Caroline Boxer, a long serving member of staff with the Strathearn Herald reporting team, had decided to 'retire' to spend more time with her young family. The Community Council would like thank her for her fine reporting endeavours over the years and to wish her every enjoyment with her family.

AOCB

Community Notice Board.

One member of Comrie in Colour was present at the meeting and gave an update on the new notice board for the village The design that had been selected at last months meeting was now longer available but another similar board had been selected and Comrie in Colour would proceed with this and organise funding as appropriate and order the new notice board. The member of Comrie in Colour reported that the new notice board was slightly more expensive than the one originally selected. More details will be available at next month's meeting including financial details regarding the purchase of the notice board.

The Chair thanked Comrie in Colour for helping out on this project.

Old Garage Site

Ms Kathy Collins dropped off revised plans for the garage site, but was unable to stay to discuss further the revised plans.

It was decided at last month's meeting that the spaces for the Car Parking should now be on the left hand side of the site. Revised plans had been drawn up by Mr James Denholm reflecting the changes.

Although all the members of the CCC thought this a good project and that the village would benefit from the extra car parking and the green seating area, they had reservations regarding the cost of the project that will only be temporary. It is likely that the tenure on the site will be for only one or two years. An estimate of cost varied considerably from around £5,000 but a more ambitious development could be costing around £20,000. The site then had to be put back to its original state before handing it back to Braemore Estates. The project is currently under further consideration.

CC Lucas confirmed that planning is required for car parking within this area. He said that he had had confirmation from The Police, Scotland/Transerve and the Roads Department confirming that in principle they were happy to for this area to be used as a car park, as were the residents in Dinnies Lane.

It was agreed that CC Lucas would contact Ms Collins to see what she proposes to do next.

The chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 14th February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Comrie Community Centre

