

Comrie Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th May 2008 in the Comrie Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Chair: Gordon McCartney.

Present: Fiona Connolly, Jennifer Perks, David Robertson.,
Tim Lucas, Andrew Gairns, Sandy Gray

Councillors: Ann Cowan,

Police: PO Gillies

Strathearn Herald: Lynn Duke

Public Neill Aitken and 2 members of the public

1. Apologies: : Anne Younger, Judy McDowell, Bruce Gairns, Willie Nicol.

2. Minutes: The minutes from the March and April meeting were adopted and signed by the chair

3: Matters Arising:

3.1 Police Matters.

PO Gillies reported that at the beginning of March the police had received several complaints from members of the public regarding noisy revellers outside licensed premises at closing times. He said that Licensees had been spoken to regarding this and that Police regularly patrol these areas.

In March vehicles parked in Dalginross and Strowan Road had been spray painted. Fortunately for the owners of the vehicles they were able to clean the paint from their cars. Vandalism was also reported in Barrack Road and at the Primary school.

There has been an increase in the theft of plant machinery, metal and fuel/oil from storage tanks. Owners are urged to increase their security measures and padlock oil tanks and red diesel tanks to secure them. If anyone should see suspicious vehicles they should contact the Police.

At present there is a Police operation in force targeting motorcyclists speeding along the A85. Motorcyclists were randomly stopped and the police were checking out the legality of the bikes regarding tax/insurance/mot and the correct safety gear such as helmets. PO Gillies stressed that this operation was to ensure that the roads were safe for all users and saving lives was essential regarding this operation.

PO Gillies said that it is the time of the year when there is an increase in bogus worker activities with them offering to do garden and maintenance work at inflated prices and to poor standards. These workers are mainly targeting the vulnerable and elderly. As a result of this the Police have introduced a Nominated Neighbour Scheme that they hope will deter bogus workers from approaching the vulnerable and elderly.

If anyone comes across suspicious workers calling on them they should contact the Police. Also, if anyone is interested in the Nominated Neighbour Scheme, they should contact Crieff Police.

Lynn Duke from the Strathearn Herald expressed an interest in running an article in the paper regarding the Nominated Neighbour Scheme.

PO Gillies added that the public should also keep their gardens safe by locking away toys, bikes, tools and ladders and securing out buildings. By doing this it would deter the opportunist thief from breaking into a property.

CC Lucas said that he had received an e-mail from a member of the public regarding the parking in Drummond Street on the pavement by the old garage area. Motorists parking on the pavement are putting pedestrian's lives at risks, especially mothers with prams and wheelchair users as they are forced to step out onto the road to pass the parked cars. PO Gillies stated he would contact Fiona Reid who is head of Parking at P&K to ask for additional patrols in the area.

CC Connolly said that she has had several complaints regarding motorists speeding through the village. It was reported that motorists also speed along Dalginross and Strowan Road. PO Gillies stated he would arrange for speed checks to be carried out in these areas.

CC Gray asked PO Gillies to pass on his thanks Sergeant Mann regarding the white lining that has now been carried out in the village.

Alcohol Bylaw C Cowan said this was now with a working group but that it could be up to 2 years before it was ready to go before the Scottish Executive.

PO Gillies left the meeting the 19.50pm

3.2 CDT update

CC Robertson gave an update on the CDT activities during the past month. He said that the Trust has submitted a Big Green Challenge application on behalf of the village to participate in the £1,000,000 prize fund competition that is being organised by NESTA. The challenge is to reduce Comrie's carbon footprint by 60% in a year. This challenge starts in October 2008.

CC Robertson said that Cultybraggan is still at the planning stage as it is still deemed to be Military Land. He said that although P&K are keen to push this project forward, to date no plans have been submitted. In the meantime the CDT are going ahead with their plans to sell off the cottage adjacent to Cultybraggan to raise funds to cover ongoing expenses.

3.3 Land by Dalginross Bridge

The CCC has been approached by a local resident who owns a few acres of riverbank land to the west of Dalginross Bridge. The resident indicated that it could become an asset for the village and suggested that the CCC may like to act as custodians of the land on behalf of the residents of Comrie. CCC is already custodian of the Legion Park and Memorial Gardens in the village. After a discussion between the CCC members it was agreed that this land could indeed be an asset to the village and CC Lucas will contact the owner to discuss the next stage regarding this very kind and generous offer.

3.4 Public Toilets. CC Lucas said that he had a letter from Gordon Banks supporting the CCC regarding the take over of the public toilets. At present the CCC are not sure if they will be able to proceed with this project due to the cost of running the toilets on an annual basis. The

main expenditure is water rates of £3000 per year. C Cowan pointed out that water rates are not a P&K issue and suggested that CC Lucas contact Scottish Water to see if they were able to help regarding this issue.

The CDT has previously said that they would only be interested in helping maintain the public toilets if they were able to acquire the land on which the toilets are situated. They would want the land as an investment.

CC Lucas also said that he has had reply from Mr Jim Renton at P&K saying that he was positive about the future of the toilets and in the meantime the toilets will remain open until a decision has been reached.

3.5 Housing/ Planning

No contentious planning applications were received for this month.

4. Treasurer's Report

Main Account	£3,647.91
Legion Park	£ 776.43
Christmas Lights	£ 756.12
Hayride	£1,163.08

5: Secretary's Report

Scottish Government working group on CC's. CC Lucas reported that the Scottish Government is setting up a working group to help local community councils. The Working Group proposes a clearer definition of the role of Community Councils within their community, including the establishment of a Model Scheme for Community Councils, a Code of Conduct for CC's and there is also an idea to give CC's more power to oversee a modest capital budget that could be around £10,000 or £15,000. He indicated that CC's would then have a greater say in how money could be spent within the local community. There is a questionnaire which needs completing, and returning to Perth, before 1st August. CC Lucas indicated that he would complete this and return within the deadline.

Comrie Christmas Light Trust CC Lucas said that he had received a copy of the accounts from Mr Bob McEwan who is the chairman of the CCLT. He said that it costs around £6,200 annually to store, insure, transport, maintain, erect and dismantle the Christmas lights. This is based on the current number of lighting positions. The CCC members thought that this amount was a high cost to cover every year but were pleased that the CCLT had thought fit to keep the CCC informed.

As the CCLT has now received charitable status this has enabled it to set up a scheme to train young people between the ages of 9-12 years to play the chanter as well as the bagpipes. The trust has paid out £8,480 to this end and at present they have seven young pupils being tutored. It was emphasised that the money for this scheme is separate from the Lighting Fund money, is obtained from different sources and is for this use only.

Data Protection Act. As CCC is a collector of data by virtue of the monthly minutes, and these are posted on the Community website and other public places, the CC has to be registered as a keeper of data. Registration for this costs £35 per annum but P&K pays this amount on behalf of CCC and all other CC's.

Carleton Place Student Exchange. CC Lucas said this project was ongoing and that he had received correspondence from Ron Goebels who has been in contact with the head mistress of

Crieff High School. It was hoped 4 young students from the Comrie /Crieff area would be able to take part in the in the student exchange.

Comrie Millennium Footpath Plans CC Lucas said that he had received information from the organisation to say that work on this footpath is going to start again. Part of the circular walk would be closed off while this work is carried out. The path will be going from around the Laggan Wood up to the 9th tee area on the golf course.

Forestry Consultation Commission CC Lucas had received correspondence from the Forest Enterprise Scotland, all the information received was passed onto Mr Neill Aitken to deal with.

State of Legion Park football pitch The Park was once again discussed and it was agreed to move the goalposts to enable the grass to grow around the current goalmouths. At present the current goalmouths remain flooded and very muddy. CC's McCartney and Robertson will look into this and see if it easy to move the goalposts. The existing goalmouths will then either be re-turfed or grass seed sown.

6: Councillor's Reports

CC Connolly reported that Comrie Primary School would be 100 years old in 2009. She said that villagers are being asked to look out any old photographs of the school, class photographs from 1909 through to 2008 and any other memorabilia that they think might be of interest at open day celebrations. More details will follow over the next few months via the CCC minutes. There will be posters highlighting this event displayed on the notice board and in shops throughout the village. Photographs sent in will be scanned and returned to the owner.

CC Connolly said that, despite many promises from the Bennybeg blacksmith, the railings (to be erected on the wall around the north east boundary of the white church cemetery) were not ready for installation in April. CC Connolly said that she has been telephoning them on a weekly basis but to date has had no satisfactory response. She said that she would try to visit their premises and find out when the railings will be available.

CC Robertson said that the road in the Ross had now been resurfaced.

CC McCartney said there were still no Wheelie or Doggie bins in the Laggan Park. Councillor Helen MacDonald is to chase this up.

AOB

Two long time residents of the village attended this month's meeting to say that they wished to endorse the youngsters being allowed to play football on the grassed area in Tay Avenue. They both said that they have lived in the area for many years and it gives them both great pleasure seeing the youngsters having such fun kicking a football around. They said that in previous years there has never been any trouble or reason for complaint.

CC McCartney thanked both very much for coming along to the meeting and was happy to hear that they had got so much pleasure from the youngsters playing in that area.

CC McCartney also thanked everyone else for attending and the meeting closed at 20.55pm.

The next meeting will be held on the 12th June 2008 at 7.30pm in Comrie Community Centre.