

Comrie Community Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 13th March 2008 in the Comrie Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Chair: Gordon McCartney.

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

Councillors: Helen MacDonald, Ann Cowan, Anne Younger

Police: Sergeant David Mann

Strathearn Herald: Lynn Duke

13 Members of Public

1.Apologies: Mr Neil Aitken

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

3: Matters Arising:

3.1 Police Matters.

Sergeant Mann gave an update regarding petty crime within the village over the past month. He said, from a police point of view, there was very little to report. There were 3 acts of vandalism. One was in Gowan Road where a window was broken and at the Primary School there were 2 other windows broken.

He went on to say that there are still problems with youths causing annoyance to residents at weekends. Sergeant Mann said that people should contact the police immediately when these youths start causing a nuisance to others. He said that the police have had reports from people contacting them after 3hours of putting up with the unruly youths. Sergeant Mann said that if it was happening in the street where he lived he certainly would not put up with it and he did not expect the residents living in the village to do like wise

A Tay Avenue resident, Mr Onions, and 13 other residents were present at this months meeting regarding the children playing football on the circular grassed area in Tay Avenue. The chairman asked Mr Onions to give a brief summary of events to Sergeant Mann. Mr Onions more or less repeated what he had said at last months meeting but did add that he was not against the children playing football on the grassed area.

Sergeant Mann said that it was not an offence for children to play football on the village green and unless the children were disorderly the police would certainly not get involved in this dispute.

Ms Janice Fraser who is a resident of Almond Crescent spoke on behalf of the residents of that area. She went on to say that she had conducted a survey of the residents who own property on

the green area, or within in sight of it, and other regular users of the green. She went on to say that the green is used by a lot of local residents as well as children from the age of 4. People use the green for all kinds of activities such as kite flying, softball, picnics, dog walking and of course football. People have been using this green for the last 30 years and there have never been problems before. Out of the 24 residents approached, 22 gave a positive response saying that they had no problems regarding adults or children using the green for activities.

A heated exchange of words took place between the residents and Mr Onions and unfortunately no amicable agreement could be reached. The CCC and the police felt that it was not politically correct for either of them to become involved in this domestic dispute between the residents, as no crime had been committed. CC Lucas insisted that both Mr Onions and the aggrieved residents should keep a log of any future incidents concerning the alleged problem of football and other related intimidatory activities with a view to presenting this to the police for them to action upon.

Mr Onions stated that if this were the case he would personally write to P&K and ask them to remove one of the trees that the children use a goalpost in the hope that it would deter them from playing football on the green. The Community Council was reluctant to sanction such an action.

Alcohol Byelaw proposal

Chairman McCartney said that he was very keen for the byelaw prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in designated public places to be introduced in Comrie. He went onto say that several other CC's in the Tayside region had adopted this local legislation and several others were strongly in favour of it. He felt that, as Comrie did have a problem with underage drinking and overt drinking in public areas, it was the right time to start this procedure.

Sergeant Mann said that the byelaw works in Crieff and felt that it would do the same for Comrie. He said that the byelaw gave the police more leverage to enable them to remove the under 16 year olds from the streets. As at present it is not an offence for under 16 year olds to drink alcohol in public places, only to purchase it, and there is very little that the police can do about it apart from take the youngsters home to their parents. The byelaw carries a £40 fine which is payable on the spot if anyone is caught consuming alcohol in public places once this byelaw has been introduced.

It was stressed that there would be exemptions written into the wording of the byelaw to allow alcohol to be consumed on special occasions during the year such as the last day of the Comrie Fortnight and during the Hogmanay celebrations. Sergeant Mann also said that the police would use common sense and discretion when dealing with say, a family picnic where responsible adults were taking a glass of wine or a can of beer.

C Ann Cowan said that it can take up to 2 years for the byelaw to go through all the procedures and felt that if the majority of CCC's present were in favour of this law she would take it to the next stage.

Chairman McCartney asked members to vote for proceeding with this legislation and this was passed by a majority of 7 to 3.

3.2 CDT update

CC Robertson gave an update on the latest meeting with the CDT. He said that the camp is still ongoing and they hope to have change of usage regarding the camp asap so that people can move into it and on to it.

He said that the CDT is looking at the possibility of a skateboard park and there is a piece of land available within the village that maybe suitable for this project. CC Lucas said he had met with CDT member Fran Loots to discuss the possibility of building a youth shelter at the same site as the skate park. Ms Loots said that she was meeting with appropriate young people to decide the viability of the skate park, the proposed site of it, whether an adjacent meeting point would be desirable and, more importantly, used by the young people.

The cinema group is going from strength to strength with good attendances each month.

3.3 Core Paths.

Ms Cathy Tilbrook attended this month's meeting to give the CC an update on the CDT,s involvement with the core paths. She went onto say that the CDT and its members were very keen to go ahead with the cycle path between Crieff and Comrie. They, the CDT, prefer to use the link along the old railway line rather than the South Crieff road as they feel the road to be dangerous for cyclists. CC McCartney said that it would better to spend the money upgrading the South Crieff road to enable cyclists to use this route rather than pursuing the link along the railway line as the present landowners are very much opposed to this route and to date have not been consulted by anyone from the CDT.

Ms Tilbrook said that the draft plan of this cycle link had to be with P&K by the end of March and plans would be available for inspection in the P&K offices in Crieff as well as on the P&K website.

3.4 Public Toilets.

CC Lucas said that he had had a meeting with Annabelle Ewing to see if it was possible to have a CDT/CCC partnership to keep the Public Toilets open. He reported that the CDT felt they would not be able to help at this stage. Ms Tilbrook confirmed that it is difficult to get grants for ongoing cost such as expenses for water rates and daily running costs of the toilets.

She said that at present the CDT were not financially viable and were not able to support this venture. She did say that she was confident the Cultybraggan project would be financially viable in 2 to 3 years time and that perhaps then, when the camp was financially up and running, they could help with funding. However, the problem of closure is more pressing than that and the Community Council has two realistic options – to take on the running of the premises without adequate funding or to let them close.

It was suggested that the CDT might be able to mitigate the most penal costs of running the toilets (water rates) by virtue of them being a registered charity. Ms Tilbrook did suggest that if this was the case then they could look at a join venture with the CCC to try to keep them open.

It is generally understood within the village that there is little support for 'Comfort Partnerships' with local hoteliers or retailers.

5 Youth Shelters

CC Lucas said that he has had a meeting with Fran Loots and she informed him that a skate board park is still under discussions with the youths in the village and that a youth shelter could perhaps be situated near the proposed park. Fran Loots will advise further after a meeting with the CDT.

3.6 Housing/ Planning

CC Lucas said that he had lodged an objection on behalf of the CCC regarding the proposed development at Tomperran but to date he has still not had any response. There was no further planning to report.

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

CC Lucas read out his 2007/2008 report for the AGM- see attached.

6: Councillor's Reports

CC Perks reported that there is flooding on the playing field behind Comrie Primary school. She said that as the field is owned by Mr Peter Dundas this was outside the remit of P&K. It was suggested that CC Connolly should contact the school to see if this problem could be sorted.

CC McDowall reported that at the west end of the South Crieff road by her house known as Crossloan there is a pothole forming around the grate covering a drain and she is concerned that this may collapse into itself. She also reported that there is a chevron sign missing on the bad corner at the Newton on the B872.

CC Connolly reported that the walkway along Melville Lane from the square to the school needs relining and some additional bollards installed to prevent cars from parking on it as this lane is used by the children going to and from school.

CC Robertson reported that the road surface from the Ross bridge to the brae past the earthquake house is now in very poor condition and needs some urgent resurfacing work carried out on it.

CC Gray reported that the gullies up Glen Artney have not been cleaned out for at least 2 years. He also reported that traffic travelling along the A85 into Comrie from the west had to travel in the middle of the road due to the scrub on the rock face opposite the Ross Bridge overhanging the road. He also said that the white lining in the village has still not been renewed despite it being reported last year and the year before.

CC McCartney asked C Helen MacDonald if she could organise 2 wheelie bins for the Laggan Park. He also said that the car park at the Laggan Park had been resurfaced. He felt that this work was unnecessary when the parking area at the cemetery on the South Crieff road is such a disgrace. He went on to say that on the road up Glen Lednock, the trees on the roadside beyond the Leckin Farm badly needed cutting back. Traffic now has to use the middle of the road at some points to pass them.

CC Lucas said that Alistair Barr who is the joint editor of the Crieff Quair, a community magazine of Crieff and district, had been in touch with him requesting copies of the CCC minutes so that he can include them in the monthly magazine. It was agreed these would be provided.

The next meeting will be held on the 10th April 2008 at 7.30pm in Comrie Community Centre.