

**Annual General Meeting of the Comrie Community Council**

**Minutes of the meeting - Zoom - 7.00pm**

**8th October 2020**

**Attendance:** Davie Robertson (Chair), Gill Brock (Vice Chair), Tim Lucas (Secretary), John Greer (Treasurer), Sheena Lucas, Sandra McRitchie, Alan Moffat, James Preston,

Cllr Donaldson, Cllr McCall

**Apologies:** Cllr Brock

1 Members of the Public present

Hannah Lucas (minute Secretary)

1. **Welcome**

Davie opened the meeting at 7.00pm and thanked everyone for attending – Cllr McCall took over as chair until new Office Bearers were appointed.

1. **Nomination of Office Bearers**

Cllr McCall invited anyone to as a nomination for Chair –

Davie Robertson and Alan Moffat nominated themselves for Chair.

Cllr McCall explained that the process involved which would allow each person to address the committee on why they feel they should be appointed as Chair. Usually, votes would be concluded in private but due to being on Zoom, it was agreed everyone would vote.

Davie received four votes against Alan’s three and was re-appointed as Chair of the Comrie Community Council.

Davie took over as Chair and remaining office bearers were appointed as follows

Vice Chair – Gill Brock

Proposed by Sandra, Seconded by Alan

Secretary – Tim Lucas

Proposed by Gill, Seconded by Davie

Treasurer – John Greer

Proposed by Tim, Seconded by Gill

1. **Minutes of the 2019 AGM**

Minutes were accepted

1. **Chairman’s Report**

Davie wanted to a highlight a few of the many achievements over the last year.

* Tree planting at the Laggan Park – this had been successfully completed
* Shaky Bridge plans were progressing and the funding is in place to complete the project.
* The MacLagan Cemetery had been transformed and now completed – special thanks to Martin Robb and Angus Crabbie for all the work they put in. Very much appreciated
* The 20mph speed limit through the village was starting to make a difference.
* Leigh Doy was now working for Hillcrest Housing but still continued to do great work throughout the village. Davie was going to arrange to invite her to future meetings.
* A special thanks to the Church for allowing the continuing use of their phone line and telephone number during the COVID 19 crisis.
* Also, thanks should to go to all the volunteers for their support and help throughout the pandemic.
* Despite Comrie Fortnight not going ahead, their virtual efforts were a great success.
* Comrie in Colour did suffer as an organisation due to the national lockdown but despite this, a thanks needs to go to them for their achievements in the current climate.
* The Comrie Flood defences were still going to go ahead but it looked like it would be 2022 before progress would be made.
* The core path was also making progress and hoped that this would be completed soon.

Davie wanted to thank all the members for their support over the year and was looking forward to another successful year.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

Activities in the village have been many and various but have been principally dominated by the onset of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

* The lockdown, following the appearance of the Covid-19 coronavirus, meant that most local residents were confined to their houses and some were in need of additional support. The Community Council set up a helpline through which the public could access help in variety of ways. An information leaflet was hand delivered to all premises in the Comrie area giving names and phone numbers of useful outlets in the village who could deliver groceries and hot and cold prepared food. The local retailers rose to the occasion and serviced the village admirably. First Response took on the role of delivering prescription medications, in association with the Medical Centre, to all who needed them. Sincere thanks to all who were involved in all the areas of help.
* The Shaky Bridge, an integral part of the Circular Walk, is in urgent need of repair and upgrade. Work on funding the repairs took place during the latter part of 2019 and in the early part of 2020. Money to pay for the bridge replacement (c£30,000) was secured and is now awaiting PKC commitment to undertake the construction work.
* An upgrade to the access path from Monument Road was added to the project initiative. Various funding applications were successful in securing the approximately £18,000 required for this work. Some small issues with one of the landowners and Covid restrictions have meant that this work has not yet begun but hopefully should be able to go forward in tandem with the bridge work when restrictions allow.
* A refurbishment of the Maclagan Cemetery/Happy Valley was undertaken after a complaint from a member of the public about the lamentable state of the graveyard and its immediate surrounds. The Community Council, in co-operation with two local landowners, upgraded and repaired the area over the course of several months and donated an all-weather bench for those who would like to enjoy the view from this site. The work is almost finished. We are still awaiting a couple of directional signs to allow locals and visitors to find the cemetery more easily up the Milton track.
* A tree planting project saw the installation of around 300 broad leaf tree saplings on to the banking on the north side of the Laggan Park. These should start to appear from their protective tubes in the Spring next year.
* Flood Protection Planning – a scheme for the construction of extensive flood protection works has been being drawn up by PKC. Some delay on the commencement of the construction has been caused by landowner complaints but these would appear to be more or less resolved now and initial work may begin later next year.
* The Community Council took over the responsibility for the Skate Park at the Laggan and after effecting some urgent repairs it is now being well used by both locals and visitors.
* The Community Council has been pushing to get some progress on the Comrie to Monzievaird all abilities path but there are still issues to be resolved with landowner agreements. PKC is aware of our wish to move this project on more quickly.
* A 20mph speed limit has been introduced on all Comrie roads to the south of the Dalginross Bridge and traffic speeds are being monitored by a variety of measures to see how best to lower them within the village environs. A 20mph speed limit on the A85 through the village has also been mooted but, as yet, has not become evident.
* The Hayride took place as usual last October and was very successful. Unfortunately, this year, due to the Covid restrictions, the Hayride has been cancelled. Hopefully, things will be back to normal in time for next year’s event.

The Community Council will continue to work hard to remedy issues within the village and endeavour to keep everyone apprised of matters likely to affect them as individuals and the village in general. Members of the public are encouraged to contact the Community Council with any issues they feel would benefit from some intervention from the Community Council and, where appropriate, these matters will be taken up with P&K or relevant outside bodies.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Comrie Community Council are still responsible for the management of seven funds which includes an administrative fund.

The Administrative fund is restricted for use by the Community Council for all their operating costs. Perth and Kinross Council gift a yearly grant of up to £700.00 towards this fund, on the condition that it rigorously adheres to the guidelines on the legitimate use of the fund.

Having stringently followed the guidelines we consequently received a grant of £271.73 during this financial year towards the fund. The grant was smaller than previous account periods because P&KC in 2019 changed the annual account periods from September to August from the previous April to March.

Most of our expenditure is self-explanatory. The flowers expenses consisted of gifts and flowers towards relevant village residents on their retirement and a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day.

The travel expenses are because of extra work that some of our councillors have been engaged in. This included newspaper deliveries to vulnerable residents and journeys to and from the food bank and manning an emergency telephone line. As we are all aware the current Covid situation has put extra pressure and responsibility on the Community Council, which I believe, has been dealt with in a considerate and professional manner.

This year’s expenditure we have a balance of 11.03p and therefore the Grant Application of £688.97p will be requested for the forthcoming year.

The other six funds we are responsible for include the Community Account which is an unrestricted fund.

This year we have received £2300.00 in Business Directory Subscriptions to the website and substantial donations towards the Shaky Bridge Project. We have also taken responsibility for the Skate Park and have been given £597.48 from the previous committee which will be restricted for Skate Park maintenance. This money is included in the Community Fund Bank balance.

We have purchased two memorial benches for which we did receive grant money and donations.

We have also used this fund for the purchase of flowers and paid Minute Expenses due to the small balance in the administration account. At the end of this financial year the balance of this account is £21768.11p.

Although it was cancelled this year, The Hayride did take place last year and after purchases for the day and raffles and donations we showed a deficit of £95.35p. I believe it was once again a successful and enjoyable day for our youngsters.

The bank balance now shows £1285.71p.

The Flood, Legion Park and Public Toilet Accounts have shown no activity over the past year except for small bank interest additions. Their bank balances are £651.28p., £620.39p. and £412.05p. respectively.

The final Account is the Christmas Lights account which is organised by its own committee assisted by council members. They successfully planned numerous events for the local community throughout the year leading to the organisation of the Christmas festivities which took place leading up to and over Christmas. The account figures show the enormous fundraising efforts they put towards this end. They raised £997.54. Although their expenditure was £1885.20, they are still showing a healthy bank balance of £8261.11p. for future events. Many thanks must go to this group for co-ordinating and putting together their events over the Christmas period and the hard work leading up to it. The display of lights and festivities, for the benefit of all the community was once again splendid.

The Treasurer would like to thank all the other Community Councillors for their free time, effort, and support throughout the year. Also, thanks to local resident Ian Wilcock who examines our accounts and Sandra McRitchie for maintaining our website.

John just want to note that the CCC would no longer be able to purchase flowers or wreaths due to a change in how monies can be spent and allocated.

The accounts were examined by the members present and accepted as a true record of the financial situation of the Community Council.

AGM concluded at 19.25.

Date of next meeting 14th October 2021 at 7.00pm