

**Comrie Community Council**

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

**12th February 2021**

**Attendance:** Gill Brock (Chair), Sandra McRitchie (Secretary), John Greer (Treasurer), Sheena Lucas, Alan Moffat, Scott Broadley, Jimmy Preston

**Apologies:** Cllr Donaldson, Cllr McCall

Hannah Lucas (Minute Secretary)

1. **Welcome**

Gill opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

The CCC wanted to wish Davie a speedy recovering with the recent news that he was in hospital after contracting COVID.

1. **Apologies**

No Apologies.

1. **Previous Minutes**

Pervious minutes were accepted and seconded by Alan.

1. **Police report**

There were no incidents relating to Comrie. There was a Questionnaire that Sandra shared via social media asking people to complete it with any relevant thoughts.

Alan wanted to report that the fly tipping incident, which had been previously reported, has been dealt with. The police were able to catch the person responsible and they have now been charged. The waste that had been dumped has also been collected by PKC.

Jimmy wanted it noted that the refuse collectors have been leaving litter lying after collecting some bins on Dalginross. He feels this should be brought to PKC’s attention.

1. **Relevant Planning Applications**

A caravan owner contacted Sandra regarding planning or other information for the West Lodge Caravan Park where Lodges are to be purpose built for holiday accommodation. Sandra advised the gentleman to contact PKC Planning which he duly did, but was unable to find any relevant information.

A Teams meeting has been arranged on the 15th February regarding the Monzievard Core Path. Sandra will share the joining instructions once received to Scott and Sheena who intimated an interest.

1. **Road Matters**

A recent issue was reported with the lights at the field of refuge, these have now been fixed.

The lights on Burrell Street also had an issue but this has been resolved and are now coming on at 5.25pm.

The traffic lights on the bend at Burrell street were not working but this has now been resolved.

Any emails previously sent to PKC regarding road matters have now been resent.

There were numerous complaints regarding the leaves at Dalginross House but unfortunately due to the Christmas holidays and the ongoing pandemic, PKC were unable to resolve the issue this time around.

Gill had received a complaint regarding the Millennium footpath, unfortunately the weather is against the repair, but this will be completed once the weather has improved.

There were several residents who had not had their Blue Bins emptied, one as far back at December. Cllr Brock has been dealing with this, but residents are urged to contact PKC themselves to ensure the issue is resolved.

Sheena reported she had a call on the community helpline regarding a bin not being emptied and PKC advised it was due to non- recyclable items in this particular bin. Sandra to put out a post on Facebook to ask residents to check their bin, prior to contacting PKC.

There is a meeting to be held with PKC, Bear Scotland, Transport Scotland and the 3 ward councillors to discuss any ongoing issues and what can be moving forward.

1. **Treasurers Report**

John reported that there was very little change in the accounts.

Gill wanted to query the travelling expenses. John advised that these were the previous Secretary’s travelling expenses for CCC business. John mentioned that money within this account is to be used by members of the CCC for these purposes.

John noted that there was still £17k in the main account ring fenced for the Shaky Bridge.

An email had been passed to John regarding a donation from CCC to the Comrie Guides. John was unsure if the donation to the Brownies was split with the organisations. Scott agreed to investigate but it was agreed that if they hadn’t received any funds they would.

1. **Secretary’s Relevant Correspondence.**

Sandra mentioned that a few CC’s attended an interesting Zoom meeting to discuss the proposed development at the Comrie Croft. There did not seem to be any objections but wondered if they would want a letter of support from CCC? We will await further contact from Andrew Donaldson.

Sandra had several people contact her through the Facebook page regarding blue bins not being emptied. Sandra advised everyone to report this through the PKC website, but Cllr Brock had been very helpful dealing with this after arranging an extra weekend collection. However it transpired that a number of bins had still not been collected despite householders reporting to PKC on more than one occasion.

Cllr Brock asked which streets in Comrie were affected in order for her to peruse it again. Sandra will do this.

Scottish Rural Housing had emailed to say that they have been commissioned by PKC to look at the need for low cost housing in both Comrie and St.Fillans. They are doing a survey regarding Low Income Housing in the village, Sandra circulated the link and spoke to a gentleman regarding a future online seminar. She will send out the information when it has been received.

Sandra informed the meeting that further to the recent internal CC situation which arose which was investigated, and mediation completed, unsatisfactorily in her opinion, had been escalated further at PKC and the Scottish Government. Due to this both Sandra and Gill (who was also effected in the past) have been invited by the Head of the Community Empowerment Team Public Service Reform at the Scottish Government to attend a review of 2009 Statutory Requirements and Scheme of Establishment for Community Councillors. This will be held in conjunction with COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities).

Sandra has had an email form PKC regarding the Community Council Websites stating it is now required that all such sites have an accessibility statement added – Sandra will arrange for it to be added to our website.

1. **Twinning**

Scott has made contact with three people regarding setting up a subcommittee for the Twinning of the Village. Scott, Marlene and George Lee’s will all be part of it and Bob Millian is to be the Secretary.

Their first Zoom meeting is to be held soon.

Gill agreed to make contact with Geoff in Canada to introduce herself.

Cllr Brock was to check whether the Twinning was made official the first time around and if not CCC should pursue this.

1. **Website**

It was agreed previously that the website needs updated. Several members had reached out to try and find some assistance but was proving to be very expensive.

Sandra advised that Nadin (our current website designer) had offered to make changes to the current site for £500 – she would be able to change the theme, (which is old and causing issues), tidy the webpages and any programming issues that seem to be causing problems including logging in.

A local resident in the village, Elaine Catton, has kindly offered to help populate the site. Elaine has experience with Wordpress.

It was agreed that the CCC would take Nadin and Elaine up on the offer.

John asked if a payment system could be built into the website to resolve the issue of the invoices being time consuming, Sandra had tried this previously but was more work that doing it manually. With the work Nadin does, it might resolve this previous issue. Worth looking into.

Sandra to contact Lee Haxton (Community Planning Team Leader) at PKC to enquire if there might be any funding available to help pay for the upgrades.

1. **Councillors Report**

Sheena advised that there had only been 1 call in the last 3 months and was it time to withdraw this service. All agreed and Sheena to draft something to go on Social Media advising the residents that it would no longer be in use.

One of the residents in the village is turning 100 in February and it was agreed that the CCC should recognise this milestone. Gill to organise a small gift.

Scott wondered if it would be a good idea for the village to form a Youth Community Council to run alongside the CCC. Cllr Brock advised that this could be done and that the juniors could act as volunteers and set up their own meetings or join the CCC. Gill to put something out on social media.

John advised due to the recent resignation of the previous Chair, the CCC required another signatory on the account. Gill offered to set herself up as a signatory.

Gill advised that another leaflet was produced for the residence of Comrie wishing them a Merry Christmas and advising of some helpful numbers. It was very well received by residents and their families. A huge Thank you to those who were involved in giving up their spare time to deliver the leaflets.

Susan Young had approached Gill asking for names of people who might be on their own at such a difficult time. A list was compiled and some goodie bags were made from the Mustard Seed Restaurant in Perth, which were very warmly received by the residents.

Before Christmas it was brought to the CCC’s attention that the Brownies were in financial trouble due to being unable to fundraise. Gill initiated a Go Fund Me Page and within 4 days £3660 was raised. Special Thanks to everyone who donated to this cause – especially the local businesses.

The Cub/Scouts were also very thankful for the monies that they received.

The CCC had also received a call regarding using the White Church as a vaccination centre. On further investigation it was not required.

Online Facebook Hogmanay celebrations were a huge success. Many Thanks to Lynn MacGregor who put a lot of effort into it, and massive Thank you also goes to all the local artists who gave up their time. It was agreed that it could be worth doing again but in person next time.

Susan Young donated some shortbread which was distributed throughout the village – some were given to the medical centre and the elderly residents in the village.

Gill received an email from Gayle Ritchie from the Courier regarding the flooding and how the village came together after the event. Gill provided some other contact details, but the story was published.

The CCC was approached by the Legion Scotland to present Mr Thomson with a medal to commemorate the 75th ending of WW2. Gill thought it would be a great honour due to her Grandfather who had a long association with the Legion.

Gill wanted to give a quick update on Strathearn Cares which is a volunteer organisation to help people who are most in need. Gill and Tina are getting referrals from local authorities for donations of goods that some people may no longer need. Any donations welcome.

Thanks to Davie and Alan for securing a storage premise at Cultybraggan. The response by locals has been amazing. Gill and Tina are now in the process of securing a bank account and organising a constitution so they can accept donations and look into funding.

Website Stats

Visitors 9,523 down 9%

Page Impressions 30,280 down from over 33k

Sessions 11,011 down from over 12k

Top 3 most visited pages - About Comrie, News Page and the Community Council page (odd ?)

Top 3 visitor countries - Europe 6515, 3280 North America and 806 Asia

Cllr Brock mentioned that it should be noted regarding the recent resignations

Davie and Tim both resigned prior to the previous meeting.

Gill will become temporary chair and Sandra will be temporary Secretary.

John will continue as Treasurer

Meeting closed at 8pm, date of next meeting 11th March at 7pm again via Zoom