

**Comrie Community Council**

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

**13 May 2021**

**Attendance:** Gill Brock (Chair), Sandra McRitchie (Secretary), Cllr Donaldson, Sheena Lucas, Scott Broadley, Jimmy Preston, Cllr Brock, Cllr McCall, 2 members of the public

Judi Cowie (Minute Secretary)

1. **Apologies**

John Greer (Treasurer), Alan Moffat

**Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.**

1. **Previous Minutes**
2. Matters arising – none
3. Previous minutes were accepted by Gillian and seconded by Sandra
4. **Police Report**

Nothing has been reported.

1. **Relevant planning applications**

 Nothing to report.

1. **Treasurer’s report**

John had emailed a balance sheet – no major changes. Sandra asked how much has been spent on the bench at the Cemetery as she had to complete the form for PKC , she will email John.

1. **Secretary’s relevant correspondence and updates – from Sandra:**

A. Sandra was waiting to hear from Craig McQueen at PKC to confirm a date for a public meeting (via Zoom) with regards to the Comrie Flood Protection Scheme.  They are looking at June to hold the meeting.

B. Sandra to send back the form regarding the £1000 grant we received from the Strathearn & Strathallan Local Action Partnership. Following an email from CC Sheena Lucas who informed me the money was used to site a bench at the Happy Valley burial ground, however, she needs to have further information from our Treasurer before she can complete and return it.

C.  In August 2020 Sandra received an email from a concerned resident regarding riverbank erosion, which she then sent to PKC no response was received.  However, she received a message from PKC Green Space following a concern raised by PKC Councillor Stewart Donaldson effectively saying, ‘residents can continue to walk the riverside paths as they normally do, with car, at their own risk. The right of way moves with the riverbank.  This could be reviewed once the flood defenses are complete’.

D.  John sent in our current balance sheet but Sandra wanted to acknowledge the generous donation of £75.00 by the Nurses Cottage (self catering property) when they renewed their subscription to the website Business Directory, she also wished to thank all of our website subscribers who have renewed, or about to, for their continued support, it is very much appreciated.

E. Still waiting to find out how the Insurance Cover at the Laggan Park affects Brian Henley who currently cuts the grass free of charge around the skate park.  Hopefully that will be ironed out soon.

F.  With regards to our public toilets.  PKC has stated via information on their website that they will be open from 8am-3pm.  We wish to thank the staff at the Handy Shop for closing the toilets for us every day, and now including weekends.  We can’t however miss the fact that our previous Chair, Davie Robertson kindly closed the toilets every weekend for years. So a huge Thank you to Davie.

G.  Sandra now has all the keys for the toilets and a key for the White Church should any CC’s require access.

H.  With regards to the Millenium Footpath repairs.  Volunteer groups have been unable to do the work due to Covid restrictions. However, we were advised that with the upcoming repairs to the Shakey Bridge, PKC and with funding in place, PKC will compete an audit of the Circular Path in a bid to improve it.

I.  The website statistics are as follows:

* The number of visitors to the site were equal to last month at 7k +
* Page Impressions were up to 19,170
* People stayed on the site longer than last month.  This seems to be growing every month now.
* The most visited pages were, walks in the area and holiday accommodation.

The Comrie Facebook page now has 5.6k ‘likers’ and the top performing post at 6.3k viewers was the story of the red squirrel found by children from the Primary School.

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1. **Road Matters**

**PKC:**

South Crieff Road - Speed limits are part of Brian Cargills team as advised earlier, Blair Watt or Daryl McKeown

* White line is not possible until the owners resurface the area, with COVID restrictions I have not been able to speak to anyone. Not something we can force them to do unfortunately.
* Raised kerb at the Post office is added to the stone mason’s list, he is currently working on 3 bridge parapets so he will get to this after these.
* South Crieff Road – emailed again, but on annual leave.
* Speed bumps on Dalginross have arrived and seem to be making a difference.
* The 30 mph limit will be extended through to the Deil’s Cauldron, but Gill would like this continued through to the west end of the village.

**BEAR:**

The dip in the road at Monzievaird has been repaired again

30mph sign entering Comrie - our Electrical team has inspected the signs and identified the issue, there is however a delay in getting the components, having similar issue due to Covid , VAS sings , not something Bear do but will look into it.

Bridge entering Comrie , the Inspectors have recorded it , not a priority but will insect it as part of their weekly inspections

1. **Twinning**

Scott still organising something for Canada day - Gill’s mum to sing their National Anthem for them.

Also still trying to make plans, as it is the 30th anniversary next year. The Canadians would like the kid’s input (aged 11/12 – High School age). The Canadian Military moved to Carlton Place and it is likely that the military families will be involved.

Councillor Donaldson thought that there may be funding available regarding a special anniversary, but PKC won’t make our Twinning official

Gill received an email from Colin McDuff from the Carleton Place Environmental Advisory Committee

They wondered if we had any advice/ideas we could contribute. Gill contacted Andy Clegg from

Greenspace,

* He contacted our other local groups and they have kindly agreed to consult with Colin so Gill would like to thank all those involved. Joyce Carnegie of the Millennium Footpath Group, Comrie Croft & Andrew Comrie Croft from Climate Action Group. Comrie in Colour
* Isobel McEwen has kindly agreed when we are allowed, to show a picture, that depicts the first Scots arriving in Carleton Place
* Gill will contact Linda King regarding funding for disadvantaged kids etc. for a visit to Canada.
1. **Web Site**

Looking to update the look of the page – ie. A nice new picture/ video. Scott suggested that we hold a photo competition and possibly use 12 of the pictures to make a CCC calendar.

1. **Legion Park Kids Area**

Still waiting to hear when the ground will be fixed, we were advised that it is currently a priority. Terri-Louise Bacon put out a survey asking what the public/parents would like to see in the park. Rhona contacted PKC and was told that they are currently working on a programme of improvements and that the park would be done at a later date – She will go back to ask for a proposed date of when the unsafe surfaces will be fixed.

**11. Laggan Park:** There has been quite a bit of interest in the village as to what has been happening at the Laggan Park and it’s pavilion. Gill contacted Janet Denholm as she is the Treasurer, although she holds that position, she did not know who the committee members were and has felt over the last four or so years she has been left with the burden of it. Gill has read the constitution and it states there should be one representative from each organisation in the village. She has emailed members of several organisations and they have said anyone who was on the committee had never been called to a meeting for about 4 years. Gill feels the Community Council must get the park back on track as it was left to the village. She has had several people come to her with ideas of how the park could be better used. One person wants to start a walking football team. Scott, I think you thought 5-a-side football for kids. The youth club has been using it during Covid. Gill has had others suggestions, things to make it more family friendly with i.e picnic tables etc. There are people willing to go on a committee. The Committee Councillors unanimously agreed to back Gill on this. She will now go ahead and form a new Laggan Park Committee; Gill will represent the CC and call an EGM given the statutory notice required.

12. **Shakey Bridge & Core Path Update**

A. Gill asked Sheena for an update. Everything is in place for the upgrade to the bridge, just waiting for a start date from PKC (possibly late Summer/early Autumn). Scott raised an issue in regards to wheelchair users. Sheena confirmed that this had been looked into previously but wasn’t viable. The bridge would have to be re-built and this would be a substantial cost. First and foremost, it is a priority to get the bridge repaired. If the upgrades are not done soon, we run the risk of the bridge being closed completely.

Sheena has been in contact with Mr. McDougall who is the landowner of the path to the Shakey Bridge, he is not agreeing to a car park /picnic tables as it will just lead to litter and already has experienced damage to his property due to wild campers. Sheena will go back to him to ask if he will let us upgrade the path. There is funding available for the path, but this will have to be given back if no permission is given. PKC Councillor Roz advised that the money has been ring fenced for this, but we need a quick recap with PKC for timescales and to see if this still stands. We also should be asking what the likelihood is of being able to keep this money and raise additional funds. Scott questioned whether Disability Scotland has been asked to survey the bridge as they could possibly contribute?

B. Councillor Donaldson advised he is still trying his upmost to get the Core Path signed off as it has been going on far too long.

**13. Councillors Reports**

Gill had received complaints about the bin at the top of the Legion Park. Dog poo bags overflowing, with cans etc. left strewn about. This was raised before and PKC think it is privately owned so we need to get to the bottom of it as one of their bins is on it if it is. If it is privately owned they need to attend to it as it has just become a dumping ground.

Gill has sent an email sent to PKC about a sign at Laggan Park re overnight camping.

Gill received complaints about length of the grass and kids using the Laggan on Friday 7th of May and a least 6 came home with ticks, obviously we hope with a new Committee this won’t be repeated.

Gill wished to thank all the staff at the Handy Shop for agreeing to lock the toilets 7 days a week. Sandra also wished to thank them for dealing with the notice board. Their contribution helps the CC enormously.

1. **AOCB**

The subject of maps was discussed as nobody is quite sure where they are. As they generate quite a lot of money, Gill will contact Jacqueline & John regarding where they are sold. Scott enquired about boards being erected in the village showing walks etc. Tim Lucas (ex Secretary has previously looked into them and found it to be very expensive.

**Date of next meeting 10th June 2020 at 7pm again via Zoom**