

Comrie Community Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday 10th February 2022

In attendance: Gillian Brock (chair) Scott Broadley (vice chair) John Greer (treasurer) Andrew Scobie (secretary)

Terri Bacon, Cllr Rhona Brock, Lindsay Brown, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Lyn Duke, Kirsty McKinlay Stewart Sandra McRitchie, Lorna Ramsay

Apologies: Sheena Lucas, Cllr Roz McColl

Minutes of last meeting:

- Minutes proposed by Gillian Brock. Minutes accepted by Sandra McRitchie

Matters Arising:

- No matters arising from the previous minutes
- Committee voted 8 to 1 in favour of the branch for Andrew Eddington

Police Report:

- Gill has not heard anything. Area commander has not sent a report, despite Gill asking twice

Relevant planning applications:

- Only one minor issue for Comrie. No noted objections

Road matters:

- PKC have apologised for state of the roads on 7th January. Limited resources have been given as the reason. Category 1 routes are given priority over Category 2. Moreover C2 routes are not gritted over the weekend as they do not have the staff. Going forward they are looking to install a 'drop down sensor' which will provide more frequent and accurate data on road conditions. Gill remains unimpressed on the category issue but will keep an eye on the situation

- Cross in Dalginross – a puffin crossing is to be stalled as it is more appropriate than a zebra, as it is more suitable to those with visual impairments. An inspector is coming to assess Dalginross and select the best location
- Inspectors will also assess possible sites on Dalginross for ‘speed cushions’
- A bend on the B827 Braco to Comrie Road is causing concern. Residents proposed that warning signs be installed on approach to the bend
- The B827 was raised again, this time regarding cars crashing near Middleton Farm, and also the poor drainage on the road. PKC have replied, better signage being proposed again. On 27th January the drains were checked and appear to be functioning. They noted that as part of the system, the water does run over the road
- Scott is concerned about the aforementioned in the winter as it freezes
- Daryl at PKC is the named road safety officer at PKC and will be who we liaise with
- There is concern that Strowan Road is still being used a ‘rat run’ to avoid speed bumps in Dalginross. Gill has asked about the possibility of installing speedbumps on Strowan Road and disabled parking. Still waiting for a response.
- Scott noted that his neighbours have asked him about possibly installing speed bumps in Dundas Street. Gill is still in talks with PKC.
- The Green Bridge coming into Comrie has been repaired
- Gill is still waiting for BEAR and Transport Scotland to visit Comrie for an onsite meeting
- Stewart Donaldson has written to Transport Scotland about the culvert at Glasdale, and is waiting to hear back. Work was supposed to occur in this financial year but nothing has happened

Treasurer’s Report:

- CCC voted 8 to 1 in favour of a £200 donation towards the bench for Andrew Eadington. Gill required to abstain as she was administering the donation. This money has been paid
- John Greer shared the up to date report before the meeting. The accounts have been submitted. There is very little change from the previous
- Working progress to change signatories
- Christine Grant is keen to get this sorted promptly. John will get this sorted

Secretary’s relevant correspondence and updates:

- This has been Andrew’s first proper ‘term’ as secretary for the CCC. Transition has been relatively smooth. Officers at the council have my contact details and have been corresponding with me

- Representatives from forestry agents at Fordie has come through to Andrew. He has shared this with the CCC
- Andrew is still unsure of a few things though. Gill reminded him that he can ask for help if needed

Twinning:

- The twinning committee now have a bank account
- Scott will collect money from Gill
- Over £2000 raised from the same of the calendars

Legion Park:

- Gairns has priced up bush removal. Terri is waiting to hear back. Jimmy Denholm is going to do the drawings pro-bono. £300 from the Post Office Calendar sales. £580 from Crieff Round Table. Currently sitting at £14000. Once JD has provided the plans they can apply for higher funding
- Sandra received a thick catalogue today with playground equipment, etc. Sandra will share this with Terri
- Terri is looking to incorporate another path into the design. JD is aware of this
- Cllr Brock is chasing up Callum. She still has to hear back from him
- Meeting to be organised with flood team. Cllr Brock noted that this has been delayed for the time being
- CC applying for funding from a charity run by Peter Vardy
- Sandra has been in correspondence with a Julian who is involved at Fordie. He hopes to invite the CCC up there to show us what they are doing. The company he represents may be interested in local investment. Sandra urged us to act quickly as other groups will be competing for funding. Gill stressed that the park must remain a priority as it is unacceptable in its current state

Shakey Bridge:

- Sheena provided a report on the issue before the meeting
- Work will not be completed by March 2022. Ringfenced funding to be carried forward into new financial year

CMRI-126 Project:

- Updated provided by Andy Clegg (Greenspace)
- Gill to dig out some correspondence so the update can be properly minuted

Mental Health Awareness:

- Gill recognises how widespread mental health is, and how Covid has exacerbated it
- Kirsty going to share documents from the funding workshop she attended. Gill has authorised them
- Kirsty has approached Alan Moffat from Comrie First Response, as they do mental health first aid. She has used his company before
- Kirsty has previously worked on mental health first aid whilst in the police. All sorts of different levels, and is a global not just a local issue
- A variety of relevant community groups can be brought into the mix such as the Men's Shed, Sheila's Shed, etc
- Many methods why which messages can be communicated. These include posters, online meetings, group meetings, etc. Kirsty is going to look to see what funding is available. Big Lottery Fund is a possibility.
- Signposting is an example of good practice
- Scott enquired if Alan Moffat holds any formal qualification in mental health. Kirsty replied, stating that Alan is working with qualified professionals to deliver training on mental health. Kirsty emphasised that we must demonstrate to funders that all options have been considered
- Scott queried that why NHS Tayside was not being approached. Kirsty has not ruled it out, but reiterated the funding point mentioned above
- Scott has reservations as to how effective online mental health services are, and Kirsty explained that she would discuss further and that no decisions on activities had been made and was for further discussion and consultation with the CC Members
- Kirsty and Scott to meet and agree on a way forward. Other members of the CCC invited to share their views

Library

- Lorna Ramsay having some connection issues tonight. Gill noted that there was little to update on the library at this meeting
- The project is still progressing steadily

Website

- Progress is being made on the website
- Sandra noted that in the next financial year we are due to review how much local businesses pay to advertise on the website. We will leave it at £25 for the time being. We can look to
- Lindsay queried if the cost of the website is a claimable expense. John Greer confirmed that it was

Councillors Reports

Gillian Brock:

- Gill has approached Greenspace about fallen trees on the Circular Walk. She offered to take it up with Greenspace but the resident has not followed this up
- Gill still in talks with Co-Op about a memorial branch for Jake Chiverton
- £1525 has been raised in Andrew Eadington's memory, including a donation of £100 from the Comrie Masons. Monies have been released to purchase the bench. The remainder can be donated to the Legion Park
- Gordon's bench - £846.36 is the payment for the bench that will come out of the CC. Gill believes that this appropriate, given that he gave over 40 years of his life to the CC

CLlr Rhona Brock:

- No update from CLlr Brock tonight

Lindsay Brown

- Lindsay with the aid of Mairi Philp and Rosie Mitchell have worked through Peter McNaughton's box of photos
- Immediate focus is to get some of the information on display at the next Comrie Fortnight.
- Lindsay enquired as to who is responsible for the defibrators. Gill replied, confirming that the First Response Team maintain them. The door is hanging off one of them. Mark Bacon is going to fix it

- Lindsay would also like to make sure that they are working and are recorded on one the national registers. Gill to share Alan Moffat's contact details

Terri Bacon

- Drainage outside school gates is poor causing large puddles which are a nuisance. Drains get clogged up with leaves, resulting in the parents trying to clear the leaves out. In addition, the puddle freezes when cold, and is an accident waiting to happen
- Both Gill and Sandra noted that the CCC has been raising this issue for years and PKC have not taken appropriate action. Gill will look into this

Scott Broadley

- Neighbours still asking about the speed limits on Dundas Street. Gill will chase this up

Cllr Stewart Donaldson:

- Will provide an update on Glasdale once he has one
- Library – Stewart does not know when public consultation is supposed to start
- Stewart has spoken to new public health compliance team at PKC about the local Day to Day not wearing face coverings. Owner has given all the staff masks and issued guidance. If anyone goes into that shop and finds that the staff are not wearing masks, then report it, and formal diligence can be taken. Rhona queried why she hadn't been told about this. Stewart replied, stating that the resident approached Stewart directly it was not a referral from the CCC. He will share the details with her and Roz McColl
- The name of the resident who lodged the complaint was mentioned in the meeting but has been omitted for the minutes. Andrew asked that this information be kept confidential. Gill agreed that this would be the case
- Ancaster House in Crieff is closing causing uncertainty as to where the current residents will be re-housed
- Negative press coverage about Crieff High School about allegations of harassment and bullying. Outside specialists are being brought in. Mr McClusky (former deputy head teacher) is not going to be leading the investigation
- Comrie Flood Protection Scheme. Staffing issues have delayed the project. Mark Butterworth, head of Environmental Services is going to return with an update. Stewart going to ask about community consultation
- Shakey Bridge – Stewart reiterated the earlier point that work will be carried out in the next financial year

- Steering group meeting on Crieff/Comrie core path. Negotiations still ongoing with landowners, though progress has been made

Sheena Lucas:

- Sheena would like to give a donation in honour of Eddy Buchan who tragically took his own life earlier this month. His parents live in the village and have worked very hard for Comrie in Colour. In Sheena's absence, Gill asked the CC for their thoughts. Andrew agreed, for the (personal) reason that he knew Eddy from school, though he appreciated that others may have reservations. Kirsty, elaborated, stating that, on a general basis, suicides are extremely rare. On this occasion it is a tragic coincidence that these have happened so close together. Lindsay is happy to make a donation. John Greer does not agree, as he is concerned that we are setting a precedent. Gill proposed a small donation, Terri agreed with this. Kirsty agreed too. Sandra suggested a bouquet of flowers and a sympathy card, or perhaps a charitable donation. Gill will go back to Sheena for some further clarification on what the 'retiring' collection in Eddy's memory at his funeral means. Lyn Duke, replied, stating that retiring collection means at the end of the funeral. Gill will check where the collection is going then email out. CC agreed that this was the best way to approach this

John Greer

- John reminded the CC that there is a games night with a bar in the White Church tomorrow night. This is an experiment to see how successful it is
- John is liaising with Susan (events manager) over the sale of local walks maps. John will sort out the delivery
- When the Cultybraggan self-catering accommodation opens at Easter, they wish to place a map in each place.
- They cannot pay up-front we will have to invoice them, which isn't a problem
- John suggesting that we sell them to Cultybraggan for £4 each. Lindsay added that the in the Post Office they are sold for £5.50
- Lindsay is going to Culyrbraggan tomorrow, he will try and find out some more information about their plans
- Jacelyn in the White Church still has money to give us for recent sales

Sandra McRitchie:

- Sandra acknowledged that her mother in law will be pleased about the puffin crossing.

- She and her neighbours in Dalginross Gardens are concerned about the quieter electric cars and the fact that residents in Dalginross with driveways are parking off the street

Andrew Scobie

- Parking wardens targeting the school at collection times. Andrew's brother got a ticket today, which he is appealing
- Terri noted that the school have issued emails to parents that the wardens are out
- Gill elaborated, stating that this is not the first time this has happened
- Rhona stressed that the presence of wardens will have been spurred by complaints about safety. Kirsty echoed this
- Gill concurred that safety is important, though, those who do park inappropriately continue to get away with it. Gill will approach the roads department

Kirsty McKinlay Stewart:

- Kirsty attended a very productive funding workshop delivered by PKC
- Importance of credible partnership stressed

AOBD:

- None on this occasion

DONM:

Thursday 10th March at 7pm

Action Points:

1. Gill to monitor the gritting situation
2. Gill to continue talks to have speed bumps (or alternative) installed in Dundas Street
3. John to continue work on changing signatories for the accounts
4. Scott to collect calendar money from Gill
5. Sandra to share catalogue with Terri
6. Gill to share email correspondence re CMRI-126 Project
7. Kirsty and Scott to correspond regarding mental health awareness. CC members invited to share their thoughts

- 8.** Gill to share Alan Moffat's contact details with Lindsay to check that the defibrillators are working
- 9.** Gill to contact PKC regarding the puddle outside the school
- 10.** CC to decide on suitable tribute for Eddy Buchan
- 11.** John to organise delivery of maps to Cultybraggan
- 12.** Lindsay to retrieve some more information from Cultybraggan about how they will use the maps provided
- 13.** Gill to speak with PKC roads department re parking wardens out and about during school drop off and pick up

ADOPTED