

# **Comrie Community Council Meeting Minutes,**

## **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm**

In attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair) , Scott Broadley (Vice Chair) , Andrew Scobie (Secretary) John Greer (Treasurer), Terri Bacon, Lindsay Brown, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Kirsty McKinley-Stewart, Sandra McRitchie, Lorna Ramsay, Lynn Duke

Apologies: Cllr Rhona Brock, Judy Cowie, Sheena Lucas, Cllr Roz McColl

### **Minutes of last meeting:**

- Gill Brock proposed the minutes
- Minutes accepted by Sandra McRitchie

### **Matters Arising:**

- No matters arising from the previous minutes

### **Police Report:**

- Gill spoke to Donnie a couple of weeks ago and raised a few matters
- No police report received by Gill or Sandra

### **Relevant planning applications**

- None on this occasion

### **Road matters**

- BEAR has been approached about the speed of cars entering and exiting the village
- A potentially very serious incident took place last week. The roads and pavements in Comrie had not been gritted, consequently the road was slippery. A stagecoach bus tried to stop at the Barrack/Strowan junction but could not due to the ice. The driver was able to take evasive action to stop the bus going into a nearby garden. Gill herself had 'near miss when

her car failed to stop. Following this incident, Stagecoach were terminating their service at the caravan park. This is a totally unacceptable situation. This has been reported to all 3 ward councillor and MSPs Jim Fairlie and Liz Smith

- Stewart Donaldson has had a response on Dalginross regarding the ice from one of the senior engineers saying that PKC Operations Supervisor from Crieff depot took into this. As soon as Stewart hears back he will share the response with Gill
- Gill regrets that she had to take this action, as she has a good relationship with PKC, but she had no option
- Stewart has a list of grit bins in Crieff, Comrie and St Fillians. He will try and update this.
- Andrew Scobie noted that Michael Ironside, caseworker to Jim Fairlie MSP emailed him about the issue as he is an acquaintance. Michael provided an update
- Stewart suspects that absences due to Covid are affecting service provision
- Holes were noted in the road near Abruchill Castle. Steps have been taken to get these fixed
- Gill in correspondence with PKC about a disabled bay
- A crossing in Dalginross is also being proposed
- A site meeting has been requested to discuss the Braco/South Crieff Road Junction. Transport Scotland are still not attending physical meetings but should do so once restrictions are eased
- Peter Sutcliffe is still in talks with PKC regarding the South Crieff Road. Gill has asked that speed bumps go on the South Crieff Road and Strown Road, as the latter is increasingly being used as a 'rat run' for those trying to avoid Dalginross. She is still waiting to hear back
- BEAR has been approached about the speed of cars entering and exiting the village
- A 20mph speed limit has been requested for the entire village
- We have asked again about wildlife signs near Dunira estate
- The state of the Green Bridge over the Lednock has been raised as it is a relatively poor state
- Gill has asked that new post boxes be installed near Dalginross Gardens and Cameron Court. She is still to email the Post Office. Councillors Brock and Donaldson are involved
- Holes on the Langside (B827) have been fixed, albeit not very well. Stewart asked that any severe potholes can be reported to him.

- Kirsty is concerned that the poor repairs on the Langside will result in an accident. Lorna Ramsay elaborated, stating that large timber lorries cause damage. Road repaired relatively recently.
- Sandra added that we have asked if an embargo on lorries could be put on that road. This was refused as the bridges can take their weight, and they wanted to avoid bottlenecks on the A822 in Muthill
- Crash barriers also needed on the Langside

### **Treasurer's Report**

- John Greer reported that there any no changes in the treasurers report
- Terri Bacon is in charge of Legion Park account now
- In response to a question from Sandra, John reiterated that the Christmas Lights Committee wish to leave their finances in the control of the Community Council

### **Secretary's relevant correspondence and updates**

- Andrew and Sandra are currently in the process of a 'hand over' of secretarial duties.
- Andrew has been formally appointed as a data protection officer for the CCC. He will chase up Christine Grant to confirm the transition
- Andrew is happy to take minutes of meetings going forward
- An official minute taker can be appointed when we return to face to face

### **Twinning**

- Peter McNaughton has sent over 35 books of poetry
- Ontario has high Covid cases and many of the twinning members their end are in isolation
- Gill and Scott to work together to collect monies from the calendar sales
- Scott restricting contacts just now as Covid cases in NHS Lanarkshire are high

### **Legion Park**

- Terri confirmed they work on the grounds has started. This should make the park safer in the interim.
- Gill has had a query from a resident, requesting that the picnic benches are not too close to the houses in Strowan Road. Terri stated that this will not be the case
- Committee meeting next week to discuss way forward
- Terri confirmed to Stewart that the payment came in from the Community Investment Fund
- Terri's husband Mark going to get some quotes for groundwork

### **Junior CC**

- No further developments. CCC agreed that we will put this on the back burner until further notice
- Group unanimously agreed that we will leave this off the agenda until further notice

### **Library**

- Lorna very keen to make the library a hub for learning, communication, etc. She has support of the librarian and senior staff at Culture PKC
- PKC planning a survey on how much the library is being used.
- The feedback on the library has been very favourable. 16 is the capacity
- Locals have expressed their interest in volunteering at the library
- Sandra stated that we used to have a folder with the CCC minutes in the library and in the Post Office (this has stopped). We should start this again. The librarian is happy
- Lorna thanked Lindsay for putting details of the library on the Comrie Community website. Lorna and Lindsay will connect the disseminate further material
- Coffee machine is still to be installed
- Lorna read an enlightening article from The Times on the importance of libraries. She has left copies of this in the library

### **Website**

- Lindsay has got CC email addresses set up. These will be put on the website in place on personal emails. This will allow a separation of CC and personal business
- The emails will be sent around to the CC members and Sandra will share them on the Facebook page
- Lindsay has also started looking at how the website can be revamped. He will share details with the rest of the website sub-working group. He noted that this will be a piecemeal process and will regularly change

### **Councillors Reports**

#### **Terri Bacon:**

- None

#### **Scott Broadly:**

- Scott reiterated his concern about fast traffic through the village, and reiterated that 20mph is needed in the whole village
- Scott suggested that we look to resume face to face meetings from March. Gill maintained that Zoom will continue until it is completely safe. We have the Zoom subscription until April
- Scott concurred, but noted that restoring face to face may encourage greater participation from non-members.

#### **Gill Brock:**

- It was unanimously decided at the last meeting that a tribute picnic bench be erected by the skatepark in the Laggan Park in memory of Gill's stepfather Gordon McCartney. The Laggan Park Committee have agreed and Rhona Brock has signposted Gill to Tracey Ramsey at PKC to discuss possible funding. If this is not possible, there are funds in the Community Council. The bench has been ordered.
- Gill thanked John Greer, Evelyn Gray, Lynne Grierson and all those involved in the refurbishment of the Cancer Shop. They have done a fantastic job
- Gill has been contacted by Peter McNaughton. She has been sent 5 boxes of old photos. She proposes that a subgroup be created to go through them. She is also considering where abouts in the village they could be stored and displayed. Lindsay Brown currently has the boxes. His wife and Mairi Philip are going to take a look. There will be a local history page on

the website. She is also considering putting some on a memory stick, so that they can be shared with residents in Cameron Court and Dalginross House.

- Gill also extended her thanks to the Comrie Parish Church singers for the performances over Christmas. She also thanked the Handy Shop for supplying mulled wine during their performance in Melville Square
- With regret, fresh restrictions brought on part of the Omicron variant of SARS-CO-V-2 meant that the Flambeaux Procession had to be cancelled for a second year. This was a bitter disappointment to the Flambeaux Committee who had spent a lot of time and effort planning the event. She praised the FC for their sensible decision as it would have been impossible to police. However, she thanked those who carried the 3 Flambeaux around the village and preserved the tradition. She also thanked Alan Harrison who played the pipes.

#### **Lindsay Brown:**

- Lindsay attended Comrie Development Trust (CDT) AGM.
- A lot of good talk, however, it was agreed that focus needs to be broader than Cultybraggan
- Gill has asked the CDT to provide occasional briefings of their work, but they have not done this yet
- Those attending the meeting did agree that more openness is needed. They would like a member of the CCC to join the board. Lindsay is happy to do this
- Lorna was previously a board member. She does not want to re-join but is happy to go along to meetings with Lindsay

#### **Cllr Stewart Donaldson**

- Visiting the CDT with Rhona Brock. He would like to find out more
- Stewart is still working on trying to get the 20mph through the whole village
- Scott invited Stewart and Rhona to the Men's Shed and the Wellbeing Hub.
- Stewart asked if there are any facilities for women. Scott replied, stating that they have 'Sheila's Shed'
- Wednesday night session open to all to tackle loneliness and isolation

**John Greer**

- None

**Kirsty McKinley-Stewart**

- Going to try and attend upcoming funding workshop and will provide an update

**Sandra McRitchie**

- Concern about slippery payments due to leaves, etc
- Sandra also extended her thanks for those involved in the Cancer Shop refurbishment

**Lorna Ramsay**

- Just keeping the momentum up for the library

**Andrew Scobie:**

- A resident contacted A Scobie directly about the gritting situation. The CC is already taking action on this matter.
- There are still loads of fallen trees, especially behind the golf course are blocking the path. Andrew will email Greenspace and raise this. Other blockages are on land owned by Comrie House. Terri noted that the school will also be dealing with certain areas. They are undertaking risk assessments
- On Saturday doorstep salespeople were going around the village. Andrew alerted the community to this via Facebook, as door knocking is a common tactic employed by scammers. Gill noted that they had some to her door selling cleaning utensils. She had taken a photo of the salesperson's ID. Having served in the Police, Kirsty expressed concern that those undergoing 'rehabilitation' from the penal system are undertaking this work. This should not be happening. The CC agreed that Gill will send the picture of the badge to Donnie at Police Scotland.

**AOCB:**

- Andrew acknowledged that at CAB there are keeping an eye on the mail situation. The worst affected postcodes in PKC are PH1, PH2 and PH14. Comrie not amongst the worst affected. It is believed that over 30 postal staff are off due to Covid and other endemic winter illnesses
- Andrew made a suggestion that, whilst we are keen to put the last 2 years behind us, we should commemorate the resilience shown by the community, as remembering those who have lost their lives to Covid. A garden or tree deemed most suitable, something that grows. Lorna to do some research into trees and plants that symbolise remembrance.

**DONM: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm**

ADOPTED