

Comrie Community Council Meeting Minutes,

Thursday 14th April 2022

In attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair), John Greer (Treasurer) Andrew Scobie (Secretary)

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

Apologies: Scott Broadley (Vice Chair) Sheena Lucas, Cllr Roz McColl

Minutes of last meeting:

- TBC

Matters Arising:

- Some new members not knowing what CMRI-126 Project is. Gill asked that going forward we use the term 'core path'. Andrew will call it this in the minutes going forward.
- It was voted on at the last meeting and agreed unanimously that the meeting would take place in the Royal Library. John Greer asked why after 40 years we are moving into a private venue. Gill replied, stating that we need a change and to support a local business, plus we won't need to do a clean-up after. Lorna Ramsay added that the community council is not confined to 'community venues'. Gill has cleared this with PKC. John is worried that if a member of the public wishes to attend the CC meeting and discuss licencing, having the meeting in a licenced premises is inappropriate. John also stated that the CC would not have to clean up after if they used the White Church, as a committee member we could organise this. Also John believes that charging coffees supplied by the Royal to the CC account will be a conflict of interest.
- Kirsty stated that she has no problem paying for her own coffee.
- Sandra acknowledged that in general, very few members of the public attend the CC meetings so a smaller venue like the Royal should not matter.
- Lorna reminded the CC that this was voted on at the last meeting.
- John would like it minuted that he considers the change of venue to be "anti-community".

Police Report

- Nothing from the police as Donnie is on holiday.

Relevant planning applications

- McColls are looking to make some changes to their air-conditioning unit. Gill heard that McColls are closing. Lorna thinks that this is a misunderstanding. At national level McColls are having some problems, but the Comrie shop will not be affected
- Sandra had heard that the planning at Comrie Croft to build eco-houses has been denied. Lorna and Gill confirmed that it was denied.

Road matters

- Crumbling pavement outside post-office remains unfinished.
- We have some works starting on Monday 18th at the eastern end of Comrie. The works are to resolve a long standing drainage issue and involve the replacement and upgrading of a culvert and associated assets. The works are taking place under daytime lane closures on the 18th, 19th & 20th - with a one night road closure of the A85 on the 20th.
- Sandra asked if there has been any update on the puffin crossing in Dalginross. Gill has emailed PKC but is waiting to hear back.
- Gill noted that there has been nothing from PKC as many of their officers are on holiday. She will follow up after this meeting.
- Since the last update there are no plans to extend the current 20mph limits in Comrie.
- There is also a drainage issue on Dundas Street which was raised by Cllr Brock, we are currently arranging some works to address.

Treasurer's Report

- Document shared this morning detailing the accounts.
- John has transferred £250 from the Community account so we do not go into the red
- John has the money from the maps. These are on sale for £2.50. The money will be banked this week

- Money has been given to Terri (£5000 from Community Account) for Legion Park
- John has submitted Andrew and Lorna's details to RBS to become signatories. Neither Andrew and Lorna have had any notification. RBS confirmed that there is a backlog. He will call tomorrow for an update.

8. Secretary's relevant correspondence and updates

- Secretary email account remains busy but nothing that significant.
- Andrew getting messages from Go Compare regarding flood insurance. We politely declined.
- Andrew has contacted Donnie at Police Scotland to ask that the commander's report be sent to me in place on Sandra. Hopefully this will be resolved when he gets back from holiday
- Email received about tree planting, Gill asked what we are going to do. Sandra noted that there are 153 trees to be planted. Terri does not need more trees in the Legion Park. Kirsty suggested that we ask the community using the social media channels and website. This will be sorted in due course.

9. Twinning

- No update as Scott is on holiday

10. Legion Park

- We are waiting on benches and the notice board. One bench commemorates World War One veterans, the other is dedicated to the children of Comrie.
- Terri is meeting with architects and has spoken with the flood team.
- Only half of the park has been made safe, still waiting for the other to be completed.
- The Easter Fun Day raised over £200 within the first 2 hours. Extra funding of £5000 (initially intended for the Shaky Bridge Project) is being channelled towards the Legion Park.
- Gill requested that our thanks be minuted.
- £2000 funding also received from Arnold Clark's community fund. Gill going to chase up Peter Vardy.

11. Shaky Bridge

- Gill reminded the CC that work is likely to start in September

12. Core Path

- Planning application available on PKC website.
- Negotiations with landlord still ongoing.
- Stewart expects that a 'path order' may be necessary.
- One of the landowner is concerned about the surfacing material that will be used. Paths should be compatible for both walkers and cyclists.
- Sustrans likely to contribute to 50% of the cost. The other from funders such as Gannochy Trust.
- Spring of 2023 the earliest construction work will start.

13. Flood Protection Scheme

- Gill has spoken with the new officer in charge of this project (Gavin Bisset)
- Planning and consultation has started. He plans to have public meetings. Gill has shared these with John to be passed to the White Church Committee so meeting space can be booked. Rhona noted that they are keen to keep in touch with the local community.
- Gill will share some documentation she received recently with the ward councilors.
- Work is due to start in due course, which will include tree clearance in the Field of Refuge and erosion protection.
- There have been some delays with the project. This has been attributed to staffing shortages and some design changes (see newsletter dated 7-8 April for further information – link below):
[file:///C:/Users/Andre/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/S0/3/Attachments/Issue%208%20-%20April%20'22%20\(FINAL\)\[4471\].pdf](file:///C:/Users/Andre/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/S0/3/Attachments/Issue%208%20-%20April%20'22%20(FINAL)[4471].pdf)
- It is hoped that the design work will be concluded in summer and the procurement activity in the autumn. PKC expect construction to commence early in 2023.

- Lindsay has spoken to chair of Methven Community Council. Lindsay proposes we keep a close eye on developments in Methven regarding the Almondbank Scheme.
- New project manager has been appointed covering the whole of PKC.

14. Mental Health Awareness

- Kirsty has shared a document with the CC listing agencies. Kirsty asked the CC to share any other contacts that we think should be added.
- Lindsay and Kirsty will get this added to the website. Alternative formats will also be used as not all our residents use the internet.
- Kirsty is mindful not to make the list too long.
- John asked if we had approached any professional bodies to speak with the CC. Kirsty agreed that this was a good idea, and add this to the plan of action.
- Kirsty reminded the team that we are 'signposting' and will not be collating personal information.
- Gill will contact the local mental health outreach worker so they can be broad onboard.
- Kirsty noted that we need to keep the mental health channel separate from the scams and criminality issues that we are also working on. Kirsty will contact Donnie.
- We have a team of leafleters available to deliver scam awareness materials. David Geddes and other local businesses may print materials for distribution.
- Kirsty to check if community safety initiatives still operate within Police Scotland.
- We need to make people aware that being scammed is not an indication of stupidity, scammers are clever and constantly evolving.
- Andrew raised the matter of financial awareness. Private companies peddle financial products online and in the mail such as Protected Trust Deeds, which are legitimate but misleadingly advertised. Mutual financial awareness needs improving.
- Rhona reminded the team that PKC work closely with Trading Standards. Rhona will share the link with Kirsty.

14. Library

- Lorna is disappointed with recent developments. The library is open and decorated, however, progress have stalled after the last minute cancellation with Culture PKC on 4th March. They have not got back to Lorna yet.
- Lorna believes that Comrie Library is being overlooked and it is unreasonable to expect people to use Crieff who cannot travel easily.
- Lack of facilities in Comrie relative to libraries in neighbouring local authorities.
- Lorna maintains that she wishes the library to be a hub for the community.
- Stewart expressed regret at the conduct of Culture PKC officers. This group appears before PKC Scrutiny Committee. There is another meeting on 25th April.
- Stewart also noted that the survey Culture PKC were going to carry out seems to have fallen by the wayside.
- Gill offered to contact the appropriate officers as CC chair and request that a meeting is necessary. Lorna is prepared to make contact with them again.
- Stewart suggested contacting Fiona Robertson on Culture PKC.
- Money from Steinmeier may be available to purchase a photocopier/scanner for the library. Monies be available from the CC. John reminded the CC that there is one available in the White Church, which is open everyday 9 to 1 Monday to Friday. John has 24 hour access to the White Church if use of technology is needed outside these hours. John will double check with the White Church Committee.
- Local advertising of available services needs to be improved.
- Rhona apologised if she overlooked the issue raised earlier, she assumed it had been done. Lorna replied, stating that she was not expected to follow this up. Likewise, Stewart apologised to Rhona for not keeping her in the loop.

13. Website

- Lindsay apologised he felt he had not done enough over the last month due to other commitments.

- Lindsay would like some further input for the CC on ongoing projects for instance the Legion Park and the Flood Prevention Scheme.

Councillors Reports

- **Kirsty** – No further updates
- **Terri** – No further updates
- **Andrew** – Following some issues raised on social media about the state of the old Cemetery in South Crieff Road, Andrew is going to take this issue on. He has emailed the ward councillors who signposted him to PKC Greenspace. He has been emailed by Robert. Andrew is going to meet with him and visit the cemetery. The situation is similar across PKC, including the old/old cemetery in Crieff. Andrew is keen to follow this as cemeteries are important public spaces.
- **Lorna** – Lorna reiterated that she will chase up Culture PKC about the library
- **John** – John raised the issue of the defibrillator in Barrack Road. Terri reiterated that her husband Mark will fix it. John also noted that some friends visiting the village were unable to get a coffee and a proper meal on a Sunday afternoon. He has concerned that some businesses are not sticking to their opening hours.
- Gill has raised this with Teresa Milsom at the Royal Hotel. Café Comrie is also closed on a Sunday. Staff shortages and lack of footfall post Covid are continuing to blight local businesses. Lindsay suggested we invite someone to represent the business community on the CC. Gill stated that we had done this already and nobody came forward.
- **Rhona** – No updates
- **Stewart** – Stewart has tried Transport Scotland once again about average speed cameras. They refused but will look at their traffic model.
- **Gill** – Jake's bench is here and is waiting to be placed in the cemetery. Gordon's bench is in place now and has been well used to date. The dedication was a lovely occasion. Gill wished the current ward councillors who are running again every success in the election on May 5th.
- **Lindsay** – Some issues with the museum at Cultybraggan. Lindsay maintained that the CC stay clear of this and that everyone should be aware. Gill has engaged with the gentleman at the centre of the issue, stating that the CC cannot get involved.

AOCB:

- Collection point for Ukraine in the Ancaster Arms has had little engagement recently. Gill asked what is needed. Earlier donations have arrived in Ukraine. Lindsay worried that the public are losing interest. Kirsty suggested that the cost of living crisis will likely be a cause of this. Lorna noted that in the last wars, 'war fatigue' set in after a while. This will be happening again.

DONM: Thursday 12th May 7pm at the Royal Hotel Lounge**Action Points:**

1. John to chase up RBS on account signatories
2. Gill to follow up with PKC to get an update on the roads
3. Lorna to chase up Culture PKC officers about a library meeting
4. Gill to contact Peter Vardy regarding funding for Legion Park
5. Gill to share recent correspondence from ward councillors concerning the Flood Prevention Scheme
6. Gill will contact the local mental health worker about the CC project
7. Kirsty to enquire if community safety initiatives still exist within Police Scotland
8. Rhona to share details of PKC's link with Trading Standards with Kirsty
9. John to double check the access arrangements for the photocopier and scanner in the White Church
10. Andrew to meet with PKC Greenspace about the condition of the old cemetery

