

# Comrie Community Council Meeting Minutes,

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

In attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair), Scott Broadley (Vice-chair - Zoom), John Greer (Treasurer)  
Andrew Scobie (Secretary)

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

Apologies: None

### Minutes of the last meeting:

- Minutes accepted by Sandra and seconded by Gill.

### Matters Arising:

- Lorna proposed Sheree Cunningham, and Terri seconded.
- Lindsay queried the process of new admission to the cc. Gill replied that we could advertise or share via word of mouth.
- Lesley Maylor is still interested in joining and will be encouraged to reply once Kirsty leaves.
- Rhona confirmed that a copy of the official code of conduct for community councils is available on the PKC website.
- Stewart added that the timetables for AGMs would be in November. He will confirm with Gill.
- Lindsay suggested that we need a better process for approving minutes. There was some confusion about the March minutes where a member requested a revision.
- Andrew added that the transition of the secretarial duties took place amid Covid restrictions. He is happy to recommence processes that were in place before the pandemic.
- Paper copies will be available in the library and the White Church. The minutes will also be available on the website.
- Lorna maintained that the noticeboards need to be updated regularly, as does the content on the website. Sandra elaborated, noting that it is an uphill struggle to get updates from local groups. Gill said we do not have the resources to chase groups up; they have to come to us. The CC agreed that we would publish a reminder in the Herald.

- We will also make sure there is more publicity around the date, time and locations of the CC meetings.
- Lindsay did post something on the website this morning but will strive to publish notices earlier.
- Noah suggested that we submit a periodic email to the Herald. Lindsay agreed that this was a good idea.

### **Police Report**

- Kirsty stated that Donnie has two other people covering this area. It is difficult for them to attend the meetings. Kirsty maintained that they are missing a trick by not attending our meetings as it allows them to disseminate information effectively.
- Donnie is keen to try and engage more. Kirsty encouraged them to disseminate as much material as possible.
- It is also essential to utilise the website and, where possible, leave paper copies in the most used venues such as the White Church, Library and Medical Centre.
- Crime needs to be at the forefront of public awareness as residents still fall for scams and are vulnerable to corruption.
- The secretary's email should be the default for dissemination.

### **Relevant planning applications**

- Former RBS development – this has been some concern that the village will lose the ATM. Andrew does not think this will happen; given that the machine was re-located to Bridge Street, RBS could refill the ATM without entering the building. Andrew had emailed the architect's practice to check and will let the cc know when he has an answer.
- Lindsay added that the planning documents suggest that the AGM will not be affected.
- One unusual request regarding a place called "Charles Woods" is looking for improved access. The cc does not know where this is and cannot see any issues.

### **Road matters**

- Gill has contacted PKC about South Crieff Road, the Langside, and the pavement outside the Post Office still needs fixing. PKC is working on this.
- CC should suggest a location for the disabled bay. Gill thinks it would be better nearer the centre of the village on the left-hand side where most of the cars park. Lindsay queried why this was needed when there are disabled spaces in Melville and St

Kessock's Squares. Gill answered. Those will limited mobility but can still walk short distances requested this, as they would instead leave those spaces for those whose mobility is more greatly restricted.

- Complaints are still coming in that Strowan Road is being used as a 'rat run' for those wanting to avoid the speed cushions in Dalginross. Lindsay maintains that they are ineffective. Andrew, Gill and Lorna disagreed, stating they noticed a difference. Noah added that he heard the same thing on the doorsteps during the council election campaign. Sandra said that her mother-in-law, who lives in Dalginross and is blind, feels more secure since the speed cushions arrived.
- Gill reminded the cc that we are still working on getting a puffin crossing installed.
- Stewart added that when consultations were in place over speed limits, they found that speed bumps and cushions make a difference. Transport Scotland is doing a 'walk about' in the coming weeks.
- BEAR Scotland has been in touch with Gill. It is looking to hold a meeting regarding speeding and re-visit the repair work on the Green Bridge on the A85 entering the village.
- Lindsay has noticed that parking for visitors in Comrie is poorly signposted. He is concerned that local businesses are struggling with a lack of footfall if those visiting cannot park. Lorna added that people need to know that parking is available at Laggan Park and School Road.
- Kirsty noted that traffic wardens have been in the village, and those who get tickets are likely to complain to the cc, exacerbating the parking issue.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- John shared the minutes before the meeting. He alerted the secretary to some of the changes in the accounts.

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

- Andrew stated that there had been a steady stream of emails to the secretary's account. He shares the bulk with the CC.
- A resident emailed today concerned about the lack of communication from the cc and the difficulty procuring copies of the minutes. Andrew took the opportunity to raise the issue. Gill reiterated that what we agreed earlier should satisfy this request.

### **Twinning**

- No updates

## **Legion Park**

- Terri has spoken with the flood team to determine when the multi-use car park is starting. Work should begin in the summer.
- Rhona added that they are still looking to recruit a replacement to finish the repairs.
- Terri is still waiting to hear back from the architects.
- The Legion Park Committee have some fundraising ideas (internal and external).
- The noticeboard will be installed for free by Terri's husband's firm.
- Stewart raised that Scottish Government funding is available across local authorities for park updates. So far in PKC, funding is going to parks in Perth City South, Strathmore and Highland wards. Monies are still available; Stewart will pass the relevant contact details to Terri.
- Noah added that UK Government Levelling Up funding might also be available for this purpose.

## **Cemeteries**

- Andrew thanked Gill for adding this to the agenda.
- Presently there are no changes to Friends of Comrie Cemeteries. Some residents have expressed interest in involvement.
- Andrew will be meeting with Robert Ross from PKC Greenspace, but no date in the diary yet.
- Andrew confirmed that many of the residents' concerns had been fixed by PKC. They repaired the gate, cut the grass and tidied up the walkways.
- PKC will roll out a headstone stabilisation programme in the future.
- Stewart passed on the contact details of Jim Brieley, the archivist for Dundurn Cemetery. Andrew will contact Jim so they can work together.
- Rhona has met with some council agents who have been conducting surveys on the cemeteries. She noted that PKC topples unstable headstones as volunteers work in cemeteries. There have been some encouraging developments at Ford Road Cemetery in Crieff.

## **Flood Prevention Scheme**

- Gill has received an email from PKC and will share it with the cc as it contains much information. The ward councillors got the same email.

- Community drop-in sessions are taking place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of and 28<sup>th</sup> of June. Detailed design is taking place just now. Construction work is due to start in 2023.
- Martine Blake is the new project manager. Stewart proposed to Rhona and Noah that the three ward councillors jointly publish an update.

### **Mental Health Awareness**

- Kirsty has contacted Donnie to find out what services are free and available locally. Important that we do not reinvent the wheel.
- Kirsty and Lorna both reiterated that mental health is holistic and entangled with other matters.
- Lorna stressed that the library could play an essential role in public health.
- Kirsty confirmed a list of local groups available for issues such as post-natal depression.
- We must use the local media to raise awareness of mental health issues and keep them current.
- Sheree acknowledged that groups, including Andy's Man Club, are known to health visitors. Locals could create a similar group in Comrie. Gill noted that we have the Men's Shed and Sheila's Shed at Cultybraggan. We must have groups for men and women that we advertise locally.
- Those living with mental health issues but do not want to disclose this need to be supported.
- Sheree is happy to look at setting up a group.
- Andrew stated that the money-saving expert Martin Lewis believes we are on the threshold of a new mental health crisis related to the cost of living situation. Poor financial wellbeing goes hand in hand with poor psychological and physical wellbeing. Groups like Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Christians Against Poverty (CAP) are essential to tackling this issue.
- Essential that groups unrepresented in service provision, such as middle-aged women, are at the forefront of service design.

### **Library**

- Terri noted that the 'Book Bugs' group is back today, though it was not well advertised.
- Lorna emphasised that this remains an ongoing problem. Lorna has spoken to the library staff about this numerous times.
- Lorna is still chasing up Rhona and Elaine at PKC about the survey. She still has not heard anything back.

- Stewart added that he would be sitting on the board of Culture PKC, which covers libraries. This involvement may constrain what he can say publicly; however, he is determined to argue the case for smaller libraries such as Comrie.
- Lorna highlighted that she is prepared to form an independent group and run library-based activities in local venues.
- Stewart is feeling optimistic about the library, given that they have painted it and refurbished the interior.

### **Website**

- Lindsay is still trying to get the community to feed more into the website. They are considering a community calendar which different local groups can edit.
- Sandra and Gil reminded the cc that the Facebook page is still there.

### **Comrie Fortnight**

- The cc has a stall at the street market, and we are looking for bottle donations. Terri has some bottles that she will donate.
- John reminded the team to check if anything donated as gone out of date.
- Terri knows someone whose husband works at Glenturret. She will ask if they can donate a bottle.
- Stewart asked what date the Comrie Fortnight starts. Terri confirmed that Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July is the first day and 6<sup>th</sup> August is the last.
- Stewart also asked if the gate to Loch Lednock would be open. Gill will ask Derek as he has dealings with the family in charge of the land.
- Sandra highlighted that there would not be a Comrie Fortnight brochure this year; however, they will advertise by alternative means.
- Terri suggested that we have a kids' tombola at the street market as they had one at a Legion Park fun day, which was very popular. The team agreed that this was a good idea.

### **Hayride**

- John suggested that we keep the hayride format for this year so the new cc members can see what it was like before deciding to change the structure. Gill has attended several over the years, and the kids were bored, so they started playing on the tractors, which is a health and safety risk. We don't need to change it radically, but we need to expand the entertainment. John is concerned that those donating resources and services may take offence at someone else providing a service on a paid basis. Gill added that it should not

be an issue if the person is from outside the village. Lindsay concurred with John that there might be a risk of a conflict of interest. Gill reiterated that paying for services provided externally should avoid this happening.

- Gill confirmed that the Bennies would donate their field ad Dundurn for the afternoon. Murray from the butchers is also providing the burgers.
- Terri asked if the cc could add an under 2s section for those who are too young for the main activities.
- Sheree asked if we were doing face painting. Gill replied, stating that the Messy Church has offered to help with such activities. Kite-making is also taking place.
- Kirsty suggested that we ask the community what they would like to see at the Hayride.
- Sandra maintained that Kenny Howat could attend and oversee the races.
- Someone from the cc should speak to him.
- Rhona asked if we had asked the farmer's permission to bring new entertainment into his field. Gill confirmed that she had told the Bennies, and they were okay with this.
- Stewart asked for confirmation of the date. Sandra replied, confirming that the date needed deciding. However, it is usually two weeks after the end of the Comrie Fortnight.
- Sheree added if she should sell wristbands as has happened at previous functions. Gill believes this is a good idea, but we are not charging anyone to attend, so attendees would not need wristbands.
- Andrew proposed the creation of a hayride 'steering group' to plan the format. Sandra stated that there is a system in place by and large.
- We can look to adjust the timings to incorporate new entertainment.
- The cc voted in favour of the changes though Lindsay abstained as he does not know enough. The CC members carried the vote.

#### **Affordable Housing:**

- A public meeting takes place on 28<sup>th</sup> June with PKC and Aisling from the Community Housing Trust. Someone from the cc will try and attend.
- Lindsay will contact Aisling to see if we can get some background.

#### **Councillors Reports:**

**Lorna Ramsay** – No update

**Lindsay Brown** – No update

**Sheree Cunningham** – No update

**John Greer** – Has had some comments about the state of the ironwork on the Dalginross Bridge. It is not clear who is responsible for this.

**Andrew Scobie** – Andrew is concerned about a rise in dog fouling.

**Noah Khogali** – No update

**Rhona Brock** – No update

**Stewart Donaldson** – Stewart is looking into the issue of erosion on the Lednock pathway. He is going to speak to Greenspace about this. On the core path, one landowner has agreed.

**Gill Brock** – As chair of the Laggan Park, Gill has put together a committee. They have all agreed that the committee will create a multi-activity space there. Gill is working with Noah on this. The new area will include an exercise space for the elderly such as walking football. Gill and Andrew attended the thanksgiving service in St. John's Kirk to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

**Sandra McRitchie** – Sandra is concerned about caravans parking up at the Lyn. Someone who was as up there swimming noted caravans and camper vans parked there and much rubbish lying around. Sandra is concerned mainly about human excrement. Camper vans and caravans are parking there despite the chain and boulders that are supposed to stop this—unknown who is responsible. Sandra would like it minuted that visitors need to respect our environment. Kirsty will speak with Donnie about this. The police can visit the site on sunny days and remind people about littering.

#### **AOBD:**

- Stewart congratulated Rhona on her appointment to the office of Baillie in PKC.
- Noah, Rhona and Terri apologised in advance for the next meeting.

DONM: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7 pm in the Royal Hotel Library.

#### **Action Points:**

1. Stewart to confirm the timetable for community council AGMs
2. Andrew to update cc on the response for the architects firm working on the RBS renovation
3. Lindsay to set up a regular email to the Herald with the dates of meetings. Andrew will ensure that paper copies of accepted minutes are available
4. Gill to speak with Kenny Howat about the Hayride
5. Community calendar to be set up on the website



6. Ward councillors to publish a joint update on the Flood Prevention Scheme
7. Members of cc to continue collecting bottles for Comrie Fortnight stall
8. Gill to find out about access to Loch Lednock during the Comrie Fortnight
9. Sheree to look at setting up a women's wellbeing group

Adopted