

Comrie Community Council Meeting 11th August 2022, 7 pm

In Attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair), Scott Broadley (Vice Chair), Andrew Scobie (Secretary)

Terri Bacon, Lindsay Brown, Councillor Stewart Donaldson, Sandra McRitchie, Lorna Ramsay, Karen Ward

Members of Public In Attendance: Lyn Brown, George Lees, Keira Reid, Pat Stewart

Apologies: Councillor Rhona Brock, Sheree Cunningham, Councillor Noah Khogali

Matters Arising:

- Gill confirmed the resignation of Kirsty McKinlay-Stewart who has moved to Portugal. Also, last night, John Greer announced his resignation. Gill expressed her gratitude for all his hard work over the years.
- Gill proposed that we co-opt Karen Ward onto the Community Council. Scott nominated her, and Lorna seconded. Gill welcomed her.
- John will prepare the account books for handover in the next seven days; his resignation leaves the treasurer post vacant. Gill asked if Lindsay would take on the role. Lindsay agreed to do so temporarily until we can fill the post-long term.
- Lorna and Andrew are signatories to the account. Andrew has encountered problems with the registration process. John proposed that Andrew visit the branch to sort this. Gill and Andrew will meet up to try and resolve the matter.
- Gill believes that the Christmas Lights Committee should control their bank account. The community council could merge the Public Toilet and Flood Accounts into the main account. Scott proposed that the Flood be channelled into the twinning account as Canada gifted the money. Afterwards, three accounts will remain.
- Gill and Andrew will find out who is the current chair of the Christmas Lights Committee and pass over the monies.
- Sandra highlighted that we should consult Iain Wilcox, who has been checking the books for us.
- Lindsay is attending his first Comrie Development Trust Board meeting on Tuesday and will raise the matter of the trees.
- Gill is still trying to engage with Police Scotland about weekend speed checks.
- Stewart has spoken with Strathallan Councillor Steven Carr about Ukrainian refugees residing in Aberuchill. The council can do very little as this falls into the reserved jurisdiction of the UK Government. Stewart also noted that on 24th August, there

would be a Ukrainian independence day celebration at 6:30 pm on the North Inch in Perth.

- Gill has spoken with Gavin and Martine about the flood prevention scheme. We agreed that they would go ahead with their information events; we do not need to have a community council meeting.
- We ascertained who owns 2 Bridgend; Andrew confirmed this.

Minutes from the last meeting:

- Minutes approved unanimously
- We agreed that after the minutes are approved, Andrew will resend them immediately so Lindsay can share them on the website.

Relevant planning applications:

- Nothing other than the sundry requests for minor alterations.

Treasurer's Report:

- John shared the latest accounts; nothing to report.

Roads:

- Gill met with Blair Watt, who witnessed some near accidents at the top of Dalginross.
- Lindsay added that PKC had redone the lines on the junctions. Gill has sent a thank you email.
- Two more complaints about Strowan Road being used as a 'rat run' by those wanting to avoid the speed cushions on Dalginross.

Secretary's relevant correspondence and updates:

- There has been a variation of correspondence. PKC recently shared a consultation about the travelling community; not wholly relevant to Comrie.
- Andrew and Gill both replied to a gentleman contemplating buying a house on Camp Road and concerned about flooding. In his reply, Andrew (who resides on Camp Road) told the truth and informed him about the flooding incidents in 1997 and 2012. Lindsay replied, stating that we should be careful about what we say as a community council.

- Sandra had a letter shortly after the flooding which stated that's 1 in 100 chance of the flooding reoccurring at the same spot is an excellent result. Insurance companies say a 1 in 75yr is seen as excellent, so us at 1 in 100 is above what they see as a good result. We had a letter that addressed flooding in the affected areas for people to give to their insurance companies. Sandra will try to find it. She also said that MSP Annabelle Ewing, who resides in the village had tried to set up a meeting with insurers but every time a date was communicated disappointedly the insurance bodies would cancel it.
- A resident emailed Andrew today acknowledging a lack of information, including whom the Community Council members are and the scant availability of approved minutes. Lindsay proposed that we collectively draft a response. Lindsay concurred that we have been somewhat lax with the minutes and will strive to do better. He also suggested that if people want to get to know the community council they should attend the meetings.

Twinning:

- The Twinning Committee had a Zoom meeting with the Carlton Place Committee on 1st August. They are still interested in visiting. They also proposed to consider house-swapping with Comrie residents.
- Scott and his family are going to visit Canada in December. He proposed that we take something for the mayor from the provost of PKC. Stewart asked him to send an email to himself and the other ward councillors, and they will sort something out with the provost. Rhona Brock is a Baillie and will be suited for this.

Legion Park:

- The new benches will be in place by the end of August.
- The Flood works at the park will start on 12th September.
- The book swap station will be installed in the park soon.

Ancaster Arms:

- George Lees raised the issue of the for sale sign outside the Ancaster. The pub is not for sale; a flat above is. The owner has had numerous calls asking if the Ancaster is for sale; George included.
- George took the opportunity to ask that should he consider selling the Ancaster, would a community buyout be accepted? A few days later he replied, stating he would be willing to think about it.

- If successful, a paid manager and volunteers will staff the premises.
- The Community Council expressed their unanimous support for this initiative.
- The Community Council can gain the views of residents via a digital survey.
- George is happy to do some of the groundwork, including getting a price from the owner. He noted that the Methven Arms was community purchased and run successfully.
- Stewart and George will liaise over this.
- Lindsay stressed that we move slowly and cautiously in order to gauge a response.

Affordable Housing:

- No updates

Cemeteries:

- Andrew still has to meet with Robert Ross again.
- Last week Andrew was visiting Crieff Cemetery and encountered members of the Friends of Crieff Cemeteries Group. He had a chat with them and got some ideas.
- They proposed we replace the bench at the back of the old cemetery in South Crieff Road (near the jubilee fountain). Terri and Stewart suggested applying for some local grants. Gill noted that families purchased some benches in the old cemetery. She urged Andrew to take some photos so that we could trace relatives.

Flood Prevention Scheme:

- Work is now underway.
- A bench will need moving. It could be restored and placed in the cemetery if it is repairable.
- The Angling Club will deal with the other bench.

Mental Health Awareness:

- Gill praised Kirsty's efforts in compiling the contacts list. Even though she is off the community council now, she is still finalising the document.
- Sheree has taken over this project.

- Lorna is concerned that the local notice boards are becoming cluttered, making awareness raising difficult.
- Gill reminded the members that we can remove things which are out of date.

Library:

- Lorna continues to promote the library. More robust advertising is needed.
- Terri raised the lack of baby changing facilities in the library. Terri will submit this formally via the feedback process.
- Lorna reminded the members that we could donate books to the library.
- Keira asked if the school are still doing visits to the library. Terri thinks that they haven't reinstated these after Covid.
- Lorna is trying to get the volunteer coordinator from PKC to attend the sing-a-long in the library.

Website:

- Following the email discussed earlier, Lindsay asked that we minute that he is happy to share materials provided by the public on the website. The email address is editor@comrie.org.uk
- He will upload the list of contracts onto the website.

Hayride:

- Terri will liaise with Bruce Gairns regarding the tractors.
- Gill has chased up PKC, and our public liability is in order.
- We do not have a date in place let for Police Scotland. Though we don't have a date yet, we will submit a tentative date in early September as four weeks' notice is needed.
- Once we have a date, we will stock up at the cash-n-carry.
- Scott asked if a family takes along another child as a guest, will they get a free burger? Gill confirmed that they will.
- We will use the Comrie Fortnight catering van for the burgers.

- Terri proposed that we ask if Lynn Duke could do a brief write-up in the *Strathearn Herald*.

Councillors Reports:

- **Lorna Ramsay:** Lorna noted that Campbells is opening at 8 am, which is too late for many tradespeople looking to purchase baked goods on the way to work. This has been brunt to her attentions well as Gills. Lorna mentioned her husband David tried to buy a croissant. They refused, saying that they had to be pre-ordered the day before. Andrew has heard similar things; the Comrie shop is becoming an outpost. Similar problems are occurring in the Crieff branch. In addition, Campbells are only taking cards, not cash. Sandra agreed that she will contact Ailsa Campbell and share these concerns.
- Lorna also mentioned the PO is a grave concern and would contact Marlene to discuss the situation. We must save the PO . They now do not receive a pay from the Royal Mail. Reduced hours are better than no PO at all. She also added we need to find a way forward to make it work for Marlene and the villagers as a whole
- **Karen Ward:** No updates
- **Councillor Stewart Donaldson:** Another half mile of the core path is open between Comrie and St Fillans. Stewart is hopeful that the ward Councillors will get an update on the Comrie to Crieff section. Jim Brierly will open the St Fillan's archives in the annexe behind Dundurn Church. This event may be of interest to Comrie residents. Andrew will try and speak with Jim about the cemeteries. The Community Investment Fund panel is looking for representatives from local communities.
- **Terri Bacon:** No updates.
- **Sandra McRitchie:** Sandra asked if there is an update on the puffin crossing in Dalginross. Gill replied, stating it was going ahead but would take some time.
- **Lindsay Brown:** Peter McNaughton's archive will go into the care of the heritage group at Cultybraggan.
- **Andrew Scobie:** Andrew reminded the council that he would happily correspond with the Canadians regarding the cemeteries. Andrew will attend Roberta McPhee's memorial service in Dundurn next week. Andrew has reported 2 Bridgend to Historic Environment Scotland; they will inspect it as it has a category C registration. Andrew has also contacted Shelter Scotland Empty Homes Group about 2 Bridgend and Drumearn. He also spoke with the last tenant on 2 Bridgend, who stated that they left the house as they were concerned about the state of the building. The neighbours have also expressed concern about dangerous trees in the garden. Gill will speak to Judy at Irving Geddes as they were the agents for the property.

- **Scott Broadley:** Scott remains concerned about traffic on Burrell Street and believes there will be an accident due to the speed. Gill will raise the issue again. Stewart added that St Fillans are trying to get a meeting with Neil McFarlane from Transport Scotland. Comrie could arrange a public meeting, too; Stewart and Gill will work together. Stewart is not giving up on installing average-speed cameras on the A85. Lindsay proposed that we set up a Community Speedwatch Group. We get training and equipment, though the group will not have the authority to issue penalties. Scott also suggested we compile figures for how many people have died annually on the A85.
- **Gillian Brock:** Over £450 was raised on the stall at the opening of the Comrie Fortnight. The Laggan Park AGM will occur on 29th August in the Royal Library. Gill congratulated the Comrie Fortnight Committee for their successful efforts over the last few months. She also reminded the community council members to submit their applications for the November election.

AOCB:

- Christine Grant from PKC has praised Comrie Community Council on their productivity.
- Lorna stressed that efforts need to increase to preserve the Post Office.

DONM: Thursday 8th September at 7 pm

Action Points:

- Lindsay to take control of the books from John
- Andrew and Gill to work together and fix account verification issues
- The community council needs a solid plan regarding the Ancaster Community Purchase.
- Sandra to email Ailsa Campbell.
- Gill to contact Judy at Irving Geddes regarding 2 Bridgend.