

Comrie Community Council Annual General Meeting 2022

Thursday 13th October, 7 pm,

The Royal Hotel

In Attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair) Andrew Scobie (Secretary)

Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Cllr Noah Khogali, Karen Donaldson, Diane Kaye, Rosemary Mitchell, Lorna Ramsay

Members of the Public in Attendance: Mary-Ann Campbell, Lynn Duke

Apologies: Terri Bacon, Lindsay Brown (Treasurer), Cllr Rhona Brock, Sheree Cunningham, Sandra McRitchie

Matters Arising:

- Gillian proposed the minutes from the last meeting. Karen seconded.
- The office bearers and members will be appointed at the Extra General Meeting (EGM) next month.
- Gillian proposed Rosemary Mitchell. Lorna Ramsay seconded the nomination.
- Gillian co-opted Sheree Cunningham as an associate member of the Comrie Community Council. Andrew Scobie seconded.

Chair's Report:

- 2022 has been a productive year. Some long-serving members have left. Gillian paid tribute to John Greer for his efforts as treasurer. New members have joined, including Lindsay, who has taken over from John as treasurer.
- We have a dynamic community council, reflected in the diversity of current projects, including Legion Park, the Library, flood prevention, and the Post Office.
- Gillian thinks we need to focus our energy on issues that matter to the village; we have been slightly distracted.

Secretary's Report:

- Andrew paid tribute to Sandra McRitchie for her work as the secretary. He also thanked her for her help and support in ensuring a smooth transition into the secretary post.
- Correspondence is primarily from the Council's planning department, though some locals use the secretary's email address.
- Andrew is looking to re-introduce some practices suspended by Covid restrictions, including providing paper copies of minutes to the Library and Post Office.
- Some residents have expressed concern that communication from the community council has lapsed. The Community Council has taken this on board and will strive to make ourselves more transparent.

Treasurer's Report:

Comrie Community Council are currently responsible for the management of six funds which including an administrative account, funded by PKC. The Community Council were also managing an account for the Legion Park play park, but this was handed over to the Legion Park committee during the year.

The **Administrative** fund is restricted for use by the Community Council for all their operating costs. Perth and Kinross Council gift a yearly grant of up to £700.00 towards this fund on the condition that it rigorously adheres to the guidelines on the legitimate use of the fund.

Since part of the year covered meetings when we couldn't physically meet up due to Covid restrictions, subscription costs for Zoom were incurred to allow remote meetings to take place. Remembrance Day poppies, our yearly accounts Examiner Fees, website fees, the purchase of a voice recorder to enable us to maintain an accurate account of meetings, and ink for the provision of printed material makes up the remainder of the costs. The year-end account balance is now **£350.65**. It has been agreed to maintain a Zoom subscription to enable meetings to carry on throughout the year when face to face meeting prove impossible to hold.

An application will be submitted for a council grant for this year.

The other five funds we are responsible for include the **Community Account** which is an unrestricted fund. This fund has been utilised for all other unrestricted income and expenditure. This includes income from the Business Directory Listings displayed on the Community Website, Map Sales and other donation. Subscriptions this year raised **£1375.00** and together with the other items the income was **£1765.00**. From this account the council donated funds to the School PTA, Christmas Lights fair, two local resident funeral collections, and a new Canadian flag for the flagpole at the White Church. £846.36 was spent on a bench to commemorate a long-standing member of the Community Council – Gordon McCartney, and £5,000 was donated to the Legion Park committee. In total, £7,112.24 was gifted.

At the end of the financial year the balance of this account is **£16,452.04**.

There was no activity in relation to **The Flood** and **Public Toilet Accounts**, other than bank interest payments. The balance of these accounts are **£651.99**, and **£412.49** respectively. Given the continuing lack of activity on these accounts, it is proposed that they be closed and the money absorbed in to the general Community Account.

Although the Hayride again did not take place, the return of the Comrie Fortnight saw us raise £450.15 from the Tombola Stall. This raises the balance of the **Hayride** account to **£1495.86**.

The **Legion Park** account had donations totalling £4,302, which together with a grant of £8,000 from PKC saw the balance reach £13,284.25. It was agreed that this should be directly managed by the Legion Park Committee, so the full **£13,284.25** was transferred to

the Legion Park committee on the 12th November 2021, and the CC Legion Park account closed.

The final Account is the **Christmas Lights** account which is organised by its own committee assisted by council members. A Christmas Fair at the White Church raised £1019.70, which with a couple of other donations saw the total raised to £1245.70 for the year. Costs of £987.85 were incurred with for the erection and dismantling of the lights, and a number of Santas gifts, saw us finish the year with a balance of **£7386.98**

Many thanks must go to this group for coordinating and putting together their display over the Christmas period and the hard work leading up to it. The display of lights was splendid.

We currently do not have any authorised signatories for any of the Community Council accounts. We are in the process of adding current councillors to the account, but I apologise that we are unable to access these accounts, or write any cheques until this has been resolved, hopefully within a couple of weeks.

The Treasurer would like to thank the outgoing Treasurer, John Greer, for maintaining the accounts during the year, and to volunteers for maintaining the Community Website and encouraging so many local businesses to provide their directory subscriptions. Also, thanks to local resident Ian Wilcock who examines our accounts and finally to my fellow councillors for their support throughout the year.

- The accounts were approved.

Police Report:

- No police report

Road Matters:

- A resident on Braco Road has expressed concern that the 20MPH limit stops at the top of Dalginross. Traffic enters Comrie too fast from the B827 straight. He has raised this before, and it is a long-term concern. Gillian has contacted PKC to discuss options.
- Concern remains about Strowan and Barrack Roads being used as 'rat runs' by drivers wanting to avoid the Dalginross speed cushions.
- Karen noted that her neighbours asked her to raise the issue of flooding on Duke's Road. They have spoken with the Council, but they have made no progress. Gillian will look into this. The Council also neglects Duke's road compared to Queen's Road.
- Puddles in Drummond Street continue to be a problem, especially outside McColls.

Secretaries Relevant Correspondence and Updates:

- There is nothing out of the ordinary in the secretary's correspondence, just the regular updates from the PKC planning department.
- Andrew asked if all members receive the emails from the generic Comrie Community Council email address. We checked, and all members got these.

Legion Park Update:

- Gillian delivered Terri's report in her absence.
- Nothing major; the flood prevention work is carrying on.
- The benches have arrived. We will place Andrew's bench once the flood prevention work is complete.

Affordable Housing:

- Stewart noted that a briefing session on affordable housing is being delivered to the councillors later this month.
- Comparative data between the different communities in PKC would be helpful. Gillian commented that many new houses are going up in Crieff right now. New affordable housing in Comrie over the last decade has been practically non-existent.
- The prevalence of second homes in Comrie continues to eat into the local housing supply.
- PKC could replicate similar initiatives to those implemented in the Hebrides to reduce depopulation in Comrie for the same purpose.

Website:

- Gillian applauded Lindsay for his work on the website to date.
- We could improve its appearance by adding more graphics, including pictures of local landmarks. Scott Broadley (former vice-chair) is going to supply some drone footage.

Glasscorie Road:

- Stewart praised Lindsay on his recent correspondence over this issue. A revised proposal is in production. A new planning application would need to be submitted, and there would be more objections.
- Residents are concerned about damage to private water supplies by the timber lorries. Concerns also exist about the lorries blocking traffic on the road.
- The planning permission granted is still in place, though nothing is going to happen at the moment.
- The use of existing forestry tracks is an option. Rosemary queried this as she recalled that foresters built routes in 2011.
- Mary-Ann Campbell, directly affected by this issue, attended this evening to represent herself and her neighbour whose husband is unwell. Neither had received any information; her neighbour had written to the ward councillors. Both are concerned about their route to Crieff. The neighbour is worried about what will happen if there is an emergency with her husband and an ambulance cannot reach her home because of the lorries.
- Stewart did not recall getting a letter but will double-check. Noah added that he expected a letter but never actually received one either.
- Diane clarified that his issue has nothing to do with the wildlife park. Gillian will put this on the Facebook page to clear up any misunderstanding.

- Stewart highlighted that a complaint had gone in, and the deadline for action was 20th October.
- Stewart will also read up on the guidelines published by the Timber Transport Forum, as this may be useful in resolving this matter.

Councillor's Reports

- **Cllr Noah Khogali** – Noah asked if they have been clear about what they are doing about flood prevention. Information has been available in the local media; however, this is not accessible to everyone. Gillian suggested we ask Gavin Bisset for a leaflet of key facts we can deliver to households. We will also look at inviting Gavin Bisset back for another information session. Lynn Duke is happy to publish further details in the *Strathearn Herald*.
- **Andrew Scobie** – Andrew is still engaging with Shelter Scotland regarding 2 Bridgend and Drumearn House. He will need to move things along as correspondence has stalled. In addition to 2 Bridgend and Drumearn, Lorna remains concerned about the neglected state of the new build at Cultybraggan, which she believes is a hazard to those using the camp. Diane elaborated that the CDT wants to put proper fencing around the site. We will raise the matter with the CDT. Andrew has officially registered the Friends of Comrie Cemeteries Group with Robert Ross at Greenspace. Unfortunately, other commitments keep de-prioritising this group; however, Andrew is determined to get it running. The first act is to relocate the Ward memorial bench from the riverside to Crieff Road Old Cemetery. He will need assistance to lift it.
- **Karen Donaldson** – no update
- **Rosemary Mitchell** – no update
- **Cllr Stewart Donaldson** – no update
- **Diane Kaye** – Diane asked what was happening with the upcoming Comrie Calendar. Gillian suggested that Scott did this before he left and asked if she was interested in taking this on. Following Scott's departure, Diane is happy to take his place as the Community Council representative on the Twinning Committee.
- **Lorna Ramsay** – Lorna is carrying on with her work in the Library. She is also looking at ways the community can support Marlene in the Post Office. As of 2019, postmasters/mistresses receive no funding from Royal Mail. Marlene has to subsidise the Post Office with monies from the shop. She has been unfairly attacked by having to tweak the opening hours. Gillian added that we could use the Facebook page to share information on the Post Office's opening hours.
- A resident approached Lorna about rouge car parking, which may block the path of the fire engine. The Comrie engine could not respond to a local call out, meaning that Auchterarder had to step in, adding an extra 45 minutes to the waiting time. Lorna and Lynn are looking into this.
- **Gillian Brock** – The Hayride was a fantastic turnout. We raised a record-breaking £311 at the raffle. This event will be the last Comrie Community Council Hayride. Mark Bacon, Craig Gillies and possibly Ross Scobie are looking at setting up an independent committee to organise future Hayrides. The Laggan Park AGM took

place recently. The Laggan Park Committee verified that the Community Council does not own the skatepark. We will need to ascertain which group is responsible. The Horticultural Show went ahead last month. Gillian has spoken with Comrie in Colour about re-painting the Dalginross Bridge. She has got a quote on the paint. Stewart added that the Community Investment Fund could partially cover the costs. The War Memorial is due to be cleaned in the coming months. Gillian laid a wreath at the War Memorial on the morning of the Queen's funeral. Gillian would like to buy a separate printer for Community Council printing. The members approved the purchase. Gillian would like to purchase a gift voucher for Suzie Gardener (nee Sharp), who has run the Youth Club for the last forty years. Those in attendance also approved this. Gillian has organised wreaths for Remembrance Sunday.

AOCB:

- Lynn asked if we knew the location of the Comrie Fortnight flag. Gillian suggested that she ask the White Church Committee or Neil Aitken; Karen thought it might be in the Laggan Park Pavilion.
- Lorna asked if we could publish Kirsty's mental health leaflet soon. Sheree is still working on this, and it will be ready for publishing soon.
- Stewart suggested that a member of Comrie Community Council should join the Community Investment Fund board. Lorna is interested.

DONM: 10th November 7 pm – The Extra General Meeting

Action Points:

1. Gillian to follow up on speed cushions for Strowan Road and road surfacing in Dukes Road.
2. Stewart and Noah to check if they received any letters from concerned residents affected by Glasscorie lorries.
3. Stewart to read up on the Timber Transport Forum Guidelines.
4. Gillian to share on the Facebook page that the Glasscorie disruption has nothing to do with the wildlife park.
5. Community Council to invite Gavin Bisset to deliver more information sessions on the Flood Prevention Scheme and produce a leaflet outlining the bare essentials.
6. Andrew to follow up with Shelter Scotland on 2 Bridgend and on moving the Ward memorial bench to South Crieff Road Old Cemetery.
7. Gillian to purchase a printer for the Community Council business.
8. Gillian to arrange a thank-you gift for Suzie Gardener.