

**Comrie Community Council Extra General Meeting**  
**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 7 pm, The Royal Hotel**



Members in attendance: Terri Bacon, Gillian Brock, Lindsay Brown, Karen Donaldson, Diane Kaye, Rosemary Mitchell, Lorna Ramsay, Andrew Scobie

Elected Representatives: Cllr Rhona Brock, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Cllr Noah Khogali

Members of the public in attendance: Reverend Craig Dobney (Comrie and Dundurn Parish Church), Lily McKiddie

Apologies: Sheree Cunningham

**Extra General Meeting – Chaired by Cllr Stewart Donaldson**

**Appointment of chair:**

- Lindsay Brown proposed Gillian Brock as chair, seconded by Lorna Ramsay. No other proposers. The members voted unanimously for Gillian to continue as chair.

**Appointment of remaining office bearers:**

- Vice-chair – Lorna nominated Karen Donaldson as vice-chair. Gillian seconded. The Community Council members voted unanimously for Karen to be vice chair.
- Secretary – Gillian proposed Andrew Scobie. Terri Bacon seconded the nomination.
- Treasurer – Karen proposed Lindsay Brown as treasurer, and Rosemary Mitchell seconded.
- Data Controller – Andrew will continue to hold this post as secretary.
- Adoption of the constitution, standing order and code of conduct – Gillian approved the Constitution and Scheme of Establishment. Andrew seconded. Gillian and Andrew signed the document at the end of the meeting.

**The ordinary meeting commenced – Gillian Brock resuming the role of chair**

**Minutes from the last meeting:**

- Minutes proposed by Gillian and seconded by Karen Donaldson.

**Police Report:**

- Nothing on this occasion.

**Relevant Planning Applications:**

- Nothing is ordinary, just the usual extension, window replacement requests and minor property alterations.
- Andrew noted, however, that there has been some confusion about the conversion of the former RBS. The application has come back with some tweaks. Gillian contacted the Planning Department, and they have clarified that extra consent for further alterations is needed.
- Rhona highlighted that the Scottish Government overruled SEPA on the caravan park application for extra static caravans, and it is going ahead. Both Lorna and Rhona saw this in *The Courier*.
- SEPA had opposed it due to flooding risks.
- Rhona will pass on any further information.
- Stewart stated that Comrie Croft had resubmitted their application for affordable housing. Stewart has corresponded with Andrew Donaldson.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Lindsay now has limited access to the bank accounts.
- Lorna received another reminder and replied that she had already signed it. Lindsay clarified that this was for the change of address. John

Greer is still getting correspondence from RBS. Lindsay asked Lorna if she could complete the change of address form again.

- Lindsay will receive a card reader, which should arrive in the next few days.
- We are currently overdrawn on the admin account until we get a top-up from PKC. Lindsay will transfer some funds, so we are not charged.
- We also pay for advertising on Meta – the company that administers Facebook. Lindsay will chase this up.
- Pay-Right – the money we raised at the Hayride has covered its expenses with some left. Gillian has given some to the Handy Shop.
- We have six accounts; none of the money in the public toilet and flood accounts is ring-fenced. Lindsay proposed that we close those accounts and transfer them into the centralised Community Council Account. The Community Council agreed that this should apply to all ring-fenced monies.
- Noah queried what the flood money was. Gillian replied that Carlton Place, Canada donated funds as a gift following the 2012 floods. We have never needed this money, and we agreed at a previous meeting that we would give it to the Twinning Committee.
- Gillian thanked Lindsay for all his efforts regarding the banking.

#### **Road Matters:**

- Gillian is weary that Crieff, Methven and other settlements have priority over Comrie. She has contacted PKC again about getting the yellow lines re-painted and for a site meeting about speeding at the entrances to the village.
- Gillian has also asked that the gullies on Drummond Street get cleaned again.

#### **Secretaries Relevant Correspondence:**

- Sandra continues to get correspondence as the ex-secretary. Andrew is confident that when he took over the secretary post, he asked that it go to his email address. He will approach them again and request the change.
- Andrew received an email this evening asking *“why CCC has not posted any minutes on the website since July 2022. I have asked this question many times before and never received a satisfactory reply... residents keep asking me what the CCC is actually doing”*.
- Lorna added that paper minutes are in the library. There are no minutes for September as we did not formally meet as a mark of respect for Queen Elizabeth II. We could not post the October minutes as we would adopt them tonight.
- Andrew placed a copy of the August minutes on the White Church Noticeboard and in the Post Office.
- Lindsay will post the August minutes on the website.

#### **Legion Park:**

- The committee are ordering plants.
- Significant developments are on hold due to the ongoing flood prevention work in Strowan Road.
- We will keep the Legion Park on the CCC minutes until the work is complete. We need to keep the public informed.

#### **Comrie and Dundurn Parish Church – update by Reverend Craig Dobney:**

- Some significant restructuring will be taking place in the next few years, impacting the community. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, Comrie and Dundurn, Mid-Strathearn and Crieff are allowed 2.7 ministers. As part of the plan, we will drop to 1.5, including one full-time and one part-time. Craig and Andrew Philip from Crieff Parish Church will remain in place until one steps down. These changes will reduce pastoral care from the church. These changes are happening for human resources and financial reasons.

- We have formal authorisation for the Remembrance Sunday procession on Sunday. Craig is concerned as the closure of Strowan Road will reduce parking available.
- We will keep this on the agenda to remain updated on changes.
- We have managed to get the war memorial cleaned in time for Sunday. We are going to get the writing topped up in the coming months.
- A Christmas tree arrives in the square on Wednesday, and two will be at the church.
- Rosemary asked if there was damage to the arch caused by a resident who drove through it recently. Craig will inspect it for any damage.

#### **Comrie.org emails:**

- Currently, there are different addresses set up for the CC office bearers.
- Lindsay will add Karen to the chair email along with Gillian.
- The secretary's correspondence only goes to Andrew; however, there should be a backup.
- There is also [communitycouncil.org.uk](http://communitycouncil.org.uk); correspondence goes to Andrew and Gillian. Lindsay is happy to take this. Andrew added that there is no heavy traffic to the secretary's email. Karen agreed to be the second recipient of the secretary's email.

#### **Bus for Tay Avenue:**

- The 15 bus used to go around Tay Avenue. Those in the sheltered housing complex welcomed this. Unfortunately, the protocol was not followed, which attracted some complaints. Six complaints were submitted, though some of the complainers have left Comrie.
- Gillian would like to reinstate this service. Rhona suggested that Gillian contact Margaret Roy at Stagecoach.

- Andrew added that bus cancellations are becoming a regular nuisance, including the 7:02 am bus from Comrie to Perth. This bus is used by college students and those working in Perth. Terri elaborated, stating that her mum has been affected by this too.
- Karen highlighted that there had been reports of buses driving past stops with passengers at them.
- According to Stewart, the ward councillors on the 15 route are in contact with Stagecoach.

### **Affordable Housing:**

- Stewart has recently joined the PKC Housing Committee. Area assessments of affordable housing are complete, and the one for Comrie is imminent.
- They have recognised a lack of affordable housing in Comrie and that only eight affordable homes have been completed locally in the last two decades. The fields next to Cowden are zoned for housing construction. When developers raised this previously, there was an objection. Currently, the development does not have planning permission, and several issues need resolving.
- There will be a consultation on housing plans. Stewart urged the Community Council to get their input in
- Gillian highlighted that there was talk of housing being built at the 34 Acre field, though this has not gone any further.
- Lindsay commented that the results of the community housing survey would be available in the coming days.
- As part of the Local Development Plan, the Comrie Development Trust is looking for input. They would like the Community Council to be involved.

### **Website:**

- Lindsay has spoken to Jaclyn in the White Church, and she will start using the calendar on the Comrie website. Lindsay would like other groups to use it.
- A substantial chunk of the Community Council's income comes from advertising on the website. Sandra is still willing to do this, though Lindsay is concerned as she is now a third party. Lindsay will check with Christine Grant at PKC. Gill will speak to Sandra.
- Andrew will register the secretary's email to PKC to hear about events that the Community Council can share locally.
- Lindsay asked if we should increase the fees for advertisements. The Community Council is happy to leave the cost as it is due to the cost-of-living crisis.

#### **Glascorie:**

- The head of planning has confirmed that the current planning application will need amending. Once ready, the developer will resubmit it to PKC. The Community Council should scrutinise this once it is available.
- Gill congratulated Lindsay for his success in dealing with this issue.

#### **Dalginross Bridge:**

- The handrails need sanding and polishing, and Gillian has met with a representative from PKC to take this further. Materials will cost approximately £1600.00.
- Gillian proposed that I apply to Steinmeier for money for the materials. Lorna replied, noting that the Community Council should apply.
- Once we have monies, we will open an account at Bannerman's.
- As we are planning to hire the Community Payback team to carry out the work, Rhona suggested that we check if we would be eligible for funding from alternative sources.

## **Christmas Lights:**

- Gillian has spoken with Alison Henry, and the former agreed that we would ring-fence funding for the lights. We can only hold their money until they get their bank account. Alison informed us that the Christmas Lights are a sub-committee of the Community Council.
- Patricia Robertson has asked us for a copy of our public liability. We will need to prove to PKC that they are a sub-committee of the Community Council. Gill will contact Christine Grant.

## **Councillors 'Reports:**

**Stewart** – The first meeting of the Community Investment Fund will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Lorna will attend to represent Comrie.

**Lindsay** – The CDT AGM should be happening early in the New Year.

**Rosemary** – No update.

**Diane** – Diane proposed the creation of a 'food shed' for Comrie. The food shed would work similarly to the community garden in Crieff. Diane will approach Crieff Connections to get some more information, and Andrew will check the contacts used by Perth Citizens Advice Bureau for this organisation.

**Terri** – Terri has met with Martine (project manager) at PKC about plants at Legion Park. Terri expressed concern about the lack of information on the work on Strowan Road. Gill and Noah had attended a meeting but had received an unsatisfactory response. We need to distribute an information leaflet on what to expect. Lindsay will finalise the flyer, and Gill will print it for distribution. Terri will share Martine's contact details with Gill. We will have a leaflet drop once the leaflets are ready.

**Andrew** – Andrew has made progress with 2 Bridgend. Wendy Sneddon has been appointed as the empty homes officer in PKC and is working with Shelter Scotland. They have engaged with the owners and will meet with them to discuss the next steps. PKC can give no timescales. Andrew would like to know if we can clear those leaflets from the doorway. Friends of Comrie Cemeteries keep getting put to the bottom of the pile. Andrew will place poppy crosses on the Commonwealth War Graves in the old Crieff Road Cemetery. He received a



book about curling history from the *Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*; Comrie does not feature, but we will in its sequel. Andrew will donate this to the library. Andrew has emailed Gavin Bissett again about moving the Ward memorial bench from the riverside to South Crieff Road Cemetery, but he has not heard back. Terri suggested that he contact Martine.

**Karen** – Karen asked if PKC could clean the leaves from the road at the Dalginross Gardens junction.

**Lorna** – The library is still under threat. She is still working with the librarian to advertise and market the library. She would like it announced that the library would be open for late-night shopping on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Noah** - No update.

**Gillian** – Gill has received complaints about RS McColls' bin remaining on Drummond Street after emptying. Andrew drafted a polite letter asking that they move it back up the lane after. Following the Queen's passing, the Community Council replaced the Canadian flag overlooking Bridge Street with the Union Flag. Residents have asked if this could stay. Gill has contacted the White Church Committee asking if they could install a third flagpole to fly the Canadian flag. We must recognise our twinning with Carlton Place and their generosity towards the village. Gill has written to the White Church Committee, who will discuss this at their next meeting. She also spoke with Neil Aitken as we need to purchase a new Union Flag. Comrie in Colour asked for a donation towards the upkeep of the War Memorial garden. Excluding Gill, who is on the War Memorial Committee, the Community Council voted unanimously to donate £200.

Gillian has printed off and laminated the mental health leaflets. She distributed them to the medical centre and other venues. Gill presented Suzie Gardiner with a £30 gift card thanking her for running the youth club for forty-five years. PKC emailed about hampers, Gill got numbers from the school, and Andrew has them. He stated that the application asked for names. Gillian will contact PKC and see if we can apply without naming names. Gill said that it is essential that things are distributed by email and that things need to be dealt with between meetings. However, she reminded the members that we are a team and must uphold teamwork. We must be mindful of our conduct as we have a code of conduct to follow.

**Rhona** – Rhona noted that PKC had extended restrictions on parking in the Field of Refuge until December.

**AOCB:**

- The Community Council voted to donate excess monies raised at the Comrie Fortnight opening ceremony to local charities.
- Gillian passed the condolences book for Queen Elizabeth II, asking those who had not signed it when it was in the Post Office if they could.
- We are only supposed to meet four times a year, but we meet on average ten times. Gillian suggested that for 2023 we have Zoom meetings in January and potentially have February off. We will also take December off. We will meet next month as scheduled. Gillian will confirm this by email.

Meeting ended at 9:05 pm.

DONM: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 7 pm in the Royal Hotel Library

**Action Points:**

- Lorna is to resubmit the RBS change of address form.
- Lindsay to chase up with Meta regarding payments.
- Lindsay to move monies into the community account so there are no charges for being overdrawn.
- Andrew to contact Police Scotland to check that they have the correct address to send the Commander's Report.
- Lindsay to publish August minutes on the website.
- Gillian and Lindsay are to compose a reply to the resident who expressed concern about the lack of information published by the Community Council.

- Lindsay to add Karen to the secretary's email as a backup for Andrew.
- Gillian and Lindsay to contact Sandra and PKC consecutively to ask about third-party editing of the website.
- Andrew and Diane to research contact details for Crieff Connections.
- Lindsay will finalise the flood prevention leaflet, which the whole Community Council will distribute to the village.
- Andrew will contact Martine about moving the Ward memorial bench to Old South Crieff Road Cemetery.
- Gillian and Andrew to follow up with PKC about the hampers application.

ADOPTED