



## **Comrie Community Council, Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7pm**

Community Councillors in Attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair), Karen Donaldson (Vice-Chair), Lindsay Brown (Treasurer) Andrew Scobie (Secretary) Terri Bacon,

Members of the public in Attendance: Gillian Fleming, Mark Hunter (Crieff Community Council)

Elected Representatives in Attendance: Councillor Stewart Donaldson, Councillor Noah Khogali

Apologies: Councillor Rhona Brock, Rosemary Mitchell

### **Minutes from last meeting:**

- Minutes proposed by Gillian Brock and seconded by Karen Ward.

### **Matters Arising:**

- Andrew still has to contact Martine at PKC about moving the Ward Memorial Bench for South Crieff Road Cemetery.
- Lindsay has requested the closure of the surplus bank accounts. He will need to visit the bank to sort this.
- We still have to approach Christine Grant to ask if the Admin Fund can be topped up.
- Terri still has to chase up Martine about the planting of new grass-seed in the Legion Park.
- Fiona Perry still has to share details of local warm spaces with Gillian B.
- Gillian B has ascertained that the resident Andrew was concerned about is fine.
- Rosemary was to ask the Handy Shop to keep the public toilets open for the Flambeaux Procession. This was done.

### **Commander's Bulletin:**

- Nothing of relevance in the latest Commander's Bulletin.

### **Relevant Planning Applications:**

- Andrew confirmed that there are nothing of note in the latest planning proposals.
- The latest stages in the conversion of the former RBS building have been approved.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Lindsay circulated the accounts before the meeting.
- Very little has changed, with only minor expenses leaving the account. This includes ink cartridges and the auditor fee.
- We are down to £73 in the Admin Account.
- We have the option to raise some extra funds if need be.

### **Road Matters:**

- Gillian B regarding the Dalginross junction to see if there is another solution such as a roundabout. She is waiting to hear back.
- Gillian B has also contacted PKC about flooding and gullies on Dukes Road.
- The lack of buses over the last few weeks due to cancellations, has resulted in many Comrie residents being restricted. Gillian has also reported this to PKC. The replied and would like some more information. She is waiting to hear back. Stewart and Gillian B inspected and took photos. Dalginross was accessible.
- Sadly the blue bin from McColls is causing obstructions on Drummond Street again. Gillian B has spoken to the staff about this again.
- Gillian B still wants to discuss the east and west entrances to the village with BEAR, as speed remains a problem. Stewart added that Transport Scotland are more effective. He will share contact details.

- Diane has raised the issue of the lane beside the school being in poor condition. Gillian B noted that this is private, however, she is going to see if she can get some mediation to resolve the issues.

### **Secretaries Relevant Correspondence and Updates:**

- Secretary email account has been quite quiet.
- Andrew is looking to compile a report on the Community Council's activities in 2022.
- Andrew submitted a planning application to PKC for a third flag pole in the White Church Cemetery overlooking Bridge Street. The planning department has initially rejected it as they want further evidence. Andrew will try and resolve this on his own, but will consult the CC if further assistance is required.

### **Legion Park:**

- Terri thinks it will be quiet for the next couple of months.
- Benches will be installed once the better weather arrives.

### **Affordable Housing:**

- Lindsay is still waiting for the steering group to publish the report.
- Stewart has the housing social wellbeing committee meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. Will the report be available before that meeting. Lindsay will ask Rory and the steering group. He (Stewart) would also like it to be available for the local housing strategy meeting. Noah confirmed that he sits on this committee.

### **Website:**

- Lindsay is trying to get as many local groups to use the website as possible. The White Church are able to do it, as are the Rural Hall. He is hoping to get the Cinema Club onboard too.
- Lindsay will share the contact details for the website with Diane, which she can pass on the Men's Shed. Lindsay is happy to visit the Men's Shed

## **Glasscorrie:**

- The planning permission needs resubmitted, however, the contractors are looking to start work in advance. In the last few hours the contractor has issued a statement following a community consultation. Lindsay believes the developers are merely looking to “*tick a few boxes*”.
- Gillian (Fleming) has received a letter from the developer stating that they will proceed with the original proposal, which will contaminate her water supply, which is a criminal offence. She believes that they going to seek an amendment later on. They have also utilised misinformation.
- Gillian F would like to know what to do, as the applicant are not complying with current planning.
- Stewart spoke with Gillian F’s husband earlier. He still has to read the plan. He is puzzled by what is happening, given that enough objections were submitted for it to go before the Planning Committee.
- Stewart suggested getting a legal opinion from the PKC Legal Department, or for the residents to publish a note expressing concerns, which will be endorsed by the CC. Stewart does not want to give misleading advice.
- Noah asked if elected councillors have the power to put plans to committee. Stewart is unsure but will check. He agreed that the combined impact of the three ward councillors would have prominent clout. Noah is confident that this would at least create an “*inroad*”.
- Gillian F is happy to put together the notes.
- Lindsay also suggested going to the *Strathearn Herald* and *The Courier*. Gillian F is happy with this. Lindsay has a contact for the former.

## **Community Action Plan**

- Lindsay circulated what this is. It allows a community to state their priorities, which can be fed into local government. The Comrie Development Trust (CDT) have taken this on board and applied to PKC for funding. They are tendering a contract for a consultant to draft one. The CDT are now in a position to go ahead and create the plan. The community need to be involved. They would like the CC to be a stakeholder.

- Lindsay proposed creating a small working group to feed into the Community Action Plan.
- Lorna expressed concern, having experienced similar initiatives in the past, especially the time they take. She is also worried that a Community Action Plan will merely create red tape, and will duplicate initiatives already in place.
- Lindsay disagreed on the basis that whilst there may be some overlap, there is no central document where community priorities are formally codified. Also, this is part of formal local government processes, and needed for the procurement of funding.
- Stewart concurred with Lindsay that this would be a helpful initiative. It was beneficial for Crieff Community Trust. It would be a passport for funding avenues.
- Stewart shared a copy of the Pitlochry Community Action Plan. Crieff also produced one as did Muthill.
- The CDT would like some members of the Community Council on the working group. The CDT are not leading this, they are enabling.
- Karen is supportive of collaborative working between the various Comrie groups.
- Karen suggested that we have a look at some the finished plans.
- Mark added that Crieff's plan can be downloaded from the website.
- Stewart will see if he can get hard copies of plans.
- Mark confirmed that plans are updated every five years.
- Lindsay is willing to work on the Community Action Plan on behalf of the CC.
- Terri is supportive of the Community Action Plan as it would increase transparency regarding the community's goals for empowerment
- Andrew can see both sides. Having endured continuous strategic planning exercises at work, it can be tedious and soul-destroying at times. In the long-term, however, it is a beneficial process.
- Diane is also supportive, supporting the inclusion of local businesses. As a small-business owner she is interested in being involved.
- Noah stresses that the Community Action Plan is beneficial, as at the very least, it bring issues of community empowerment to the surface.
- Gillian called a vote on taking the Community Action Plan forward. The motion was passed.

- Mark added that when the Crieff group was started, it was revealed that there were too many groups in Crieff, who did not talk to each other.

### **Councillors' Reports:**

- Diane – no update.
- Andrew – The Dunira Street sign is hanging off beside the Square. Gillian B will have a look and report this. No further developments on 2 Bridgend. Gillian B asked if he had chased this up with anyone. He has not as yet as Shelter Scotland could not give timescales. Andrew agreed to review in a couple of months. Across from the Royal Hotel there is another empty property, which is in a poor state of repair. Andrew will report this to Shelter Scotland Empty Homes. Gillian B will also raise this when she speaks to Edward Gibbons about Melville Lane. In the War Memorial Garden, Andrew places the wreaths back in an upright position if he notices that they have fallen. He asked if the wreaths are laid on the back for a purpose. Gillian B does not like the wreaths upright as they obscure some of the names. Mark noted that PKC normally lift wreaths after six weeks. Gillian B suggested that we leave the Comrie ones until the end of February then dispose of them. Andrew is also concerned about the amount of litter in the War Memorial Garden. Gillian B will alert Comrie in Colour who oversee the site.
- Karen – No update
- Terri – No update
- Lindsay – He is concerned about the email that went out earlier about mis-representation. Gillian B provided the background about that message. She will contact the person concerned.
- Lorna – No major developments on the Library as it has been shut. She provided an update on the activities of the Steinmeier Fund.
- Diane – No update
- Noah – No update
- Stewart – Update provided on the progress of the Flood Prevention Scheme. There has been progress on landowner approval regarding the Comrie Core Path. Hopefully work on the Shakey Bridge will start in the summer. The Bridge is fully accessible presently. Stewart is supportive of the housing development at Comrie Croft.

- Gillian B – The Community Payback Team will not be doing Dalginross Bridge. She has been signposted to alternative contractors. Since the last meeting it was revealed that we were liable for the Christmas Lights. The Christmas Lights Committee is no longer a sub-committee of the CC and has been advised to get their own insurance and bank account. The CC will not need a representative on the Christmas Lights Committee. We will check in with them about their new bank account. Gillian B thanked the Comrie Parish singers, Flambeaux Committee, and the Pipe Band for their efforts over the festive season. Gillian B called a few people on Christmas Day who she knew were alone. Ex-councillor Scott Broadley is in Canada just now. When he returned we will consider another twinning trip. The skatepark is in a similar position to the Christmas Lights. We are liable in the event of somebody getting hurt. Gillian B will contact Fran with a similar request to the Christmas Lights Committee. Gillian B put this to a vote and the CC voted unanimously that Fran be contacted.

**AOCB:**

- Terri thanked the school as they went out on the last day of term to sing and hand out gifts.
- Gillian reiterated that the hampers were handed to the school in time for Christmas.
- The Royal has the dates of the CC meetings for the remainder of 2023.

**DONM:** Thursday 9th March at 7pm, The Royal Hotel Library

**Action Points:**

1. Stewart to share Transport Scotland contact details with Gillian B.
2. Andrew to work on Community Council 2022 report.
3. Lindsay to ask when the affordable housing report will be published.
4. Lindsay to share website details with Diane.
5. Stewart to try and obtain hard copies of Crieff Community Action Plan.
6. Andrew to report empty property across from the Royal to Shelter Scotland

7. Gillian B to alert *Comrie in Colour* about rubbish in the War Memorial Garden.
8. Community Council to contact Fran Loots of the Skate Park Committee about public liability.

ADOPTED