

Comrie Community Council – Minutes of Meeting

Thursday the 11th of May 2023, The Royal Hotel



Councillors in attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair), Karen Donaldson (Vice-Chair), Andrew Scobie (Secretary), Terri Bacon, Diane Kaye, Rosemary Mitchell, Lorna Ramsay

Elected representatives in attendance: Cllr Rhona Brock, Cllr Stewart Donaldson

Members of the public in attendance: Neil Aitken, PC Rory Bell, Murray Lachlan, PC Matthew Mason, Debbie Matthews, Lily McKiddie, Gerry McPhail

Apologies: Lindsay Brown Cllr Noah Khogali

Previous Minutes:

- Minutes proposed by Gillian Brock, seconded by Karen Donaldson

Matters Arising & Action Points:

- Andrew has emailed the Christmas Lights Committee, asking if they have set up their bank account. He is waiting to hear back.
- Andrew still has to edit the article 'What your Community Council has done for you'.
- Terri has chased up Martine at PKC about Legion Park. PKC has planted the grass seed.
- Andrew is still engaging with PKC Planning about installing the second notice board on Bridge Street.
- Terri has still to share details with Lindsay about the heritage mosaics.
- Gillian has contacted PKC Roads about re-painting the markings at the Laggan Park/A85 Junction.
- Andrew has been thinking about how we can commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Police Report:

- PC Bell and PC Mason joined the meeting this evening to deliver the Police Report.
- Motorists have raised reports of deer on the road.
- A disturbance was reported in March, and a crime scene was created.
- There have also been some Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) reported.
- A few fraud calls have also been reported in April and May.
- There have been some neighbour disputes. The instigator is known to the Community Council, Police Scotland, and Perth and Kinross Council. They are working to resolve the issue.
- Gillian shared her email address for correspondence with PCs Bell and Mason.
- Gillian raised the issue of speeding drivers entering the village. Stewart has enquired further about getting average-speed cameras installed on the A85.
- Neil Aitken is concerned about the speed of drivers on South Crieff Road and Braco Road. Both are very busy with fast traffic early in the morning.
- Later in the evening, lorries travelling through the village from the West often drive too quickly.
- The local division of Police Scotland will strive to make more frequent visits to monitor speeding.

Relevant Planning Applications:

- Andrew confirmed that other than the sundry items, there is nothing noteworthy.

Treasurer's Report:

- Lindsay will share the latest report when he returns from holiday.

Road Matters:

- Gillian is still looking into options for the Dalginross Junction.
- Neil added that PKC installed the current structure to facilitate safer school travel. A qualified traffic engineer should make the final decision.
- The preferred option with PKC is to have a T-Junction. Gillian does not think this will reduce speed. She asked if we should instruct them to install speed bumps. Those in attendance agreed that this is the best way forward.
- Rhona proposed alternatives to speed bumps as they can cause a noise disturbance to adjacent properties.
- Neil is concerned about the speed on South Crieff Road early in the morning.
- Gillian attended a site visit of the A85 to consider the issue of speeding traffic entering and leaving the village.

Comrie Drama Club update:

- Gerry McPhail and Debbie Matthews joined the meeting on behalf of the Comrie Drama Club.
- This year's Christmas Pantomime will take place the first weekend in December. Preparation would start from Sunday the 19th of November.
- In previous years, the White Church has granted the Drama Club the use of the Earn Suite a week before the Christmas Pantomime for preparation. They were allowed admittance the Sunday after for tidying up. This year, however, the White Church Committee are not allowing this.
- The Committee have not fully stated why not, other than it is a disruption to others using the White Church.
- Gerry and Debbie have consecutively approached the School and Toddler Group, and both are happy to use another room in the White Church or an alternative venue.
- Terri queried if we should approach the White Church for their version of events. Karen concurred, asking if something did happen last year that would sour relations. Gerry noted that there was a minor disagreement, which they resolved.

- Gillian expressed caution on how we deal with this matter, given that Community Councils are not permitted involvement in individual disputes. She will consult Christine Grant on the subject.
- Gillian will also approach the Reverend Craig Dobney, who may be more suited to mediate between the groups.

Secretary's relevant correspondence and updates:

- Andrew reiterated that there is excessive 'Spam' in the Secretary's Inbox, meaning genuine correspondence can be lost.
- Andrew got an email from some unknown person claiming to have been attacked by a dog locally, whilst the owner did not intervene. Though initially concerned, Andrew now believes this untrue, as the earlier Police Report did not refer to this incident.
- On Tuesday, Andrew participated in an interview with a researcher from the James Hutton Institute concerning local land ownership and management.

Coronation Street Party:

- Gillian confirmed that the event was a great success. She thanked all those who had helped out on the day. At one point, there were an estimated five-hundred people in attendance.
- Gillian will send thank you letters to those who contributed to the day.

Legion Park:

- Terri is still waiting to hear back from Martine about drainage and the benches' installation.
- The Legion Park Committee have met. They will have a Bingo Tea on the 16th of June and a 'Scare Wash' near Halloween to raise funds for the park.
- Half of the play park is fixed; however, the other half requires completion. There are still some trip hazards in the park.
- Terri hopes a drawing of the finalised design will be available to the public soon.

Community Action Plan:

- No update on this meeting as Lindsay is on holiday.

Affordable Housing:

- During his interview with the James Hutton Institute, Andrew acknowledged that a shortage of affordable housing locally is an ongoing problem for Comrie.
- Stewart added that PKC had conducted a Housing Need Assessment on Comrie. Stewart is hopeful that it will come before the Planning Committee soon.

Cultybraggan Roman Camp and Right of Way Issue:

- Murray and Neil both attended to raise this issue.
- The new owner of Cultybraggan Farm, Simon Laird from Forfar, is selling off the land piecemeal.
- Fencing posts have been driven across the site of the Roman Camp, which is a protected historic site. Dr David Bushby, who owns half the area, has reported this to Historic Environment Scotland (HES).
- Neil stated that, alongside the Roman Campsite, fence posts had been driven at the path from Cowden Road to Braco Road, one right in the middle near the gate. The fence post jeopardises the right of way protected by law.
- Rhona and Stewart will approach the relevant authorities in the Council.

Councillor's reports:

- **Rosemary** – Dr Bushby wrote her a letter expressing his concerns with the issue. Gillian will share this with the Community Council.
- **Stewart** – Normal service has resumed for rubbish collection in Glenlednock. Stewart spoke at the Planning Committee meeting after Gillian Fleming regarding the Auchingarrich Forestry Track. The revised planning application was approved; however, they agreed that lorries

would not move timber between 6 am and 8:30 am. Stewart attended the 'Breaducaton' event at the School. Stewart continues to oversee developments in the Crieff/Comrie Core Path. The detailed design work for the Flood Prevention Scheme has gone out to tender.

- **Terri** – Terri noted that the contractors working in the former RBS branch are parking precariously and obscuring the view at the Bridge Street/A85 junction.
- **Rhona** – Rhona reiterated that Gillian should contact Christine Grant for guidance on what role the Community Council can play (if any) in the dispute between the Drama Club and the White Church.
- **Andrew** – A resident shared their concerns about the state of Cultybraggan when visiting the Recycling Centre. Andrew will raise this with Lindsay, who is directly involved with the Comrie Development Trust. There has been some progress with 2 Bridgend. The Building Standards Team inspected it and deemed that, at present, there is no risk; however, they will continue to monitor the state of the building. The Environmental Health Team will investigate the unopened mail accumulation at the doorstep and a mouse infestation. Andrew is worried about the safety of Sir David Baird's Monument. It is frequently deemed Crieff's Monument, but geographically, it falls into Comrie and District. On a recent visit, Andrew noticed fallen masonry at the base. The Building Standards Team inspected the Monument and recommended that the owner survey the structure and repair the fence to prevent access to the bottom. The pathway up to the Monument is overgrown and blocked with fallen trees. PKC Greenspaces have been informed. Rhona suggested that the Community Payback Team be approached to clear the path. Stewart added that funding for repairs may be available from Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.
- **Lorna** - Culture PKC asked Lorna if she wished to deliver books to Comrie residents. She respectfully declined, as this was not why she got involved with the Library. She continues to promote the Library locally.
- **Diane** – Diane has corresponded with George Lees about participating on the Twinning Committee.
- **Gillian** – Gillian has bought a voucher for Derek for playing at the Street Party. Nicola Loxley has been commissioned to do George Ferguson's retirement picture. She does not want payment so we will make a donation to Sepsis Scotland of £150. Andrew has the stones from the

Street Party. The plan is to start a Coronation Cairn. We will have a think about where this can be located.

AOCB:

- None on this occasion

DONM: Thursday the 8th of June, at 7pm

Action Points:

- Andrew to follow up with Christmas Lights Committee about their bank account.
- Gillian to consult Christine Grant about Community Council involvement in the White Church/Drama Club dispute.
- Rhona and Stewart to report the right of way issues to the relevant authority in the Council.
- Gillian to share Dr Bushby's letter with the rest of the Community Council.
- Stewart to share details of PKC Heritage Trust with Andrew.
- Andrew to raise concerns about Cultybraggan with Lindsay.
- Community Council to have a think about where the Coronation Cairn should be constructed.
- Gillian to send thank you letters to those who contributed to the street party.