

Comrie Community Council – Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, the 13th of April 2023, The Royal Hotel



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

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

Members of the public in attendance: George Ferguson, Matt McLay

Apologies: Cllr Noah Khogali, Rosemary Mitchell

Previous Minutes:

- Minutes proposed by Gillian Brock, seconded by Terri Bacon.

Matters Arising & Action Points:

- Andrew still has to chase up the Christmas Lights Committee to see if they have a new bank account. Diane will have a word with Davie at the Men's Shed.
- Lindsay requested that Gillian add an update on the Comrie Development Trust (CDT) to the agenda as their AGM was on Tuesday. Gillian confirmed that there would be an opportunity to discuss this.
- Dalginross House will paint stones for the Coronation Street Party.
- Stewart has informed Lindsay of the next planning meeting.
- Lindsay has shared the list of those approached regarding the Community Action Plan.
- Andrew has discovered that the vacant property at Glasdale is undergoing renovation.
- Andrew is still thinking about acknowledging the fiftieth anniversary of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Once the Coronation is over, we can decide as a council how to proceed.

Commanders Bulletin:

- No update.

Relevant Planning Applications:

- Nothing other than the garden variety extensions.
- Karen queried if we had received any information from the planning department about the ongoing construction project on the Langside. We have not heard anything explicit as it falls within the jurisdiction of Braco Community Council. Lindsay added that citizens could make little difference unless they reside within one hundred yards of development.

Treasurer's Report:

- Lindsay shared the updated accounts before the meeting.
- PKC has topped up the Admin Grant.
- Compensation payment from RBS has been received.

Road Matters:

- Gillian has successfully established contact with PKC about the Dalginross junction. She is waiting for further correspondence.
- Gillian has submitted another report about the pothole at the Field of Refuge.
- She has also asked if the road markings at the Laggan Park junction could be re-painted.
- Terri expressed concern about the condition of Strowan Road between Dalginross and the Fire Station. The lack of suitable pavement makes it risky for those with prams and wheelchair users.
- Gillian reiterated that there is a lack of communication between BEAR Scotland, the Community Council and other authorities.
- Stewart added that Gavin Steele, the local corporate affairs manager at Scottish Water, can be approached for water pipe repairs. Stewart to share his contact details.

- Gillian has a site meeting with Neil McFarlane from Transport Scotland to discuss the entrance and exits of the village. Stewart will join.
- Gillian has asked for new road markings to prevent vehicles from blocking Ancaster Lane.
- Lindsay raised the issue of flooding on Dalginross. He expects BEAR Scotland to undertake some work in late May to resolve this issue.

Secretary's Relevant Correspondence and Update:

- Andrew received correspondence to the secretary account from a South Crieff Road resident concerned about Auchingarrich Gillian has dealt with this.
- The volume of 'spam' arriving in the secretary's email is excessive. Lindsay confirmed that the same is true for the others. Though they are easy to delete, 'genuine' correspondence is lost.
- Andrew attended an information session for Community Councillors at the Community Campus delivered by Christine Grant. The event was very informative. Amongst the new information learned was where our geographical boundaries start and finish. For instance, Monzievaird and Strowan are predominately within our jurisdiction, including local landmarks such as Baird's Monument.
- Stewart has community council maps and will share these with the members.
- Andrew shared the materials published after the meeting.

Coronation Street Party:

- There will be a meeting next week. A programme will be drafted for the event.
- The bins will arrive on Friday. These can be stored discretely in the War Memorial Garden.
- The bunting can go up on the Thursday before. Rhona suggested we ask the Fire Brigade, as doing it ourselves is a health and safety risk. Gillian will ask the Fire Brigade this evening.
- Karen asked if we could provide an estimate on numbers, more specifically, to see how many burgers and rolls we need. Gillian provided

a ballpark figure of two hundred. We agreed to request two-hundred and fifty, including beef, chicken, and vegetarian.

- Karen asked if the Men's Shed is allowed to bring donation buckets. Gill replied that all donations are for the Air Ambulance Charity.
- Posters are printed, and the banner has been ordered.
- The Comrie Fortnight Committee are supplying tables and chairs.

Twinning:

- Diane is still awaiting confirmation that she is on the Twinning Committee. Gillian will chase this up with George Lees.

Legion Park:

- Terri has engaged with Martine. Both are unhappy with the grass. It is unknown if it has been seeded. Work will commence in May.
- The Pipe Band cannot use the Legion Park at the Coronation Party, as any damage to the ground will delay any improvements.
- The Legion Park Committee will meet again next week.
- Terri will chase up her husband, Mark, on installing the Royal British Legion benches.

Affordable Housing:

- No update.

Community Action Plan:

- The deadline has been extended to August.

Comrie Fire Station:

- George Ferguson and Matt McLay attended the meeting on behalf of Comrie Fire Station.
- Recently, it was revealed that the number of serving retained firefighters in Comrie has fallen from thirteen to six. Fortunately, they have recruited four new applicants and three notices of interest. They wish to provide an update on the situation.
- Matt explained that recruitment is a long process. It takes up to eighteen months for a recruit to become a certified firefighter. Candidates are required to pass numerous medical tests before undertaking breathing apparatus training. The Station can only support a limited number of 'development firefighters' at once. Through recruitment is organised locally, the training is delivered on a national cycle. Henceforth recruitment has to be 'phased'. Recruits have to be trained at their local Station. George stressed that recruitment is more challenging now, given that residents predominantly work outside the village. They are also mindful of making recruitment appealing to women.
- Matt and George thanked the Community Council for supporting the recruitment drive.
- They emphasised that the Station is not a risk of closing, and we must be mindful of making this clear, as suggestions to the contrary are swiftly picked up on by the authorities, which puts extra pressure on those running the local stations.
- Matt can provide fire safety talks to local groups.
- The CC remain happy to share materials produced by Scottish Fire and Rescue on the website and Facebook page.
- The Station is planning a charity car wash later this year.
- Andrew asked if Scottish Fire and Rescue regularly publish publicity materials. Matt and George both confirmed that a quarterly report is published.
- Karen asked if the Fire Brigade would put the bunting up for the Coronation Party. They agreed. Gillian will drop off the bunting at the Fire Station.
- Matt and George reiterated that the Fire Brigade are still filling up the water containers in the South Crieff Road Cemeteries. Gillian thanked them for this on behalf of the Community Council.

Comrie Development Trust:

- AGM was held on Tuesday.
- The strategic plan produced in the last few years is incompatible with the available finances—virtually no income into the CDT during COVID.
- Colin Crawford was appointed as the new CEO and is working on stabilising the CDT's finances.
- Stewart attended the CDT AGM and spoke with Colin Crawford. He is optimistic about the CDT's potential to make a difference locally. However, he has concerns about the finances - chiefly the overdue invoices and the broken-down biomass boiler. Some businesses using the site are currently without hot water. Stewart has shared his concerns with some officers in PKC.
- Karen acknowledged that from her experience of leasing from the CDT, she had gone months without an invoice and learned her unit was subleased. Terri's husband experienced similar difficulties with invoices.
- Lindsay highlighted that each lease is individually tailored to the tenant, which causes problems.
- The CDT is making good progress in repaying debts.
- Funding is available for some vacancies within the CDT.
- Gillian emphasised that the Community Council are prepared to promote the CDT to get the village back on its side.
- Stewart confirmed that a cycle path linking Cultybraggan Camp directly with the village is being considered.
- Cultybraggan also has the potential as a tourist attraction.
- Terri proposed that we invite the CEO to a Community Council meeting.

Councillors' Reports:

- Andrew: Two Bridgend – Andrew will chase up Shelter Scotland next month. If the property becomes a public safety risk, he will approach PKC. Rhona suggested that he contact the Building Control Department. Andrew thanked the council for their feedback on the '*What your Community Council has done for you*' draft. He will incorporate the suggested revisions. A resident approached him about food pallets left outside the *Premiere* shop. These are health and safety risks. Diane added that she had noticed this too. Gillian will have a word with them.

Andrew is still trying to reach Martine about moving the Ward Memorial bench from the riverside to South Crieff Road Cemetery. Andrew has approached the PKC Planning Department about adding a second noticeboard on Bridge Street.

- Diane: PKC will not take any further action on the 20p Deposit Scheme until there is further clarification from the Scottish Government. Diane is regularly checking the noticeboards.
- Rhona: Rhona is delighted to see that COVID-19 Memorial Bench and tree for Strathearn are in South Crieff Road Old Cemetery.
- Stewart: Glasscorrie comes before the Planning Committee next Wednesday. As a Councillor, Stewart can talk for ten minutes, as can Rhona and Noah. Stewart will have a thorough read-through of the planning document. Residents attending also have ten minutes to speak. A new biodiversity survey is needed at Comrie Croft. Stewart has resolved the waste collection issues up Glenlednock. There will be a demonstration of the bread oven at 9 am on the 27th of April.
- Karen: Stewart and Karen visited a resident celebrating their one-hundredth birthday, bringing flowers. This visit was the first time that either had done this.
- Gillian: Gillian's update concerned the Coronation Street Party (see preceding section).
- Lorna: Funding for the Library has been extended, and she continues to promote the facility locally.
- Terri: Terri suggested we start a specific Facebook page for the Community Council. Gillian added that this was attempted in the past; however, she is willing to try again. Gillian will set up the page and make us all admins.
- Lindsay: Sandra is stepping down from maintaining the website's business directory. Lindsay will take over in the interim.

AOCB:

- Andrew noted that Scottish Water had felled the trees at the sewerage works. It is uncertain whether they are carrying out maintenance on the site or enlarging it. Gillian reiterated that Scottish Water should be publishing the details.

- Despite engaging via email, Sheree has been unable to attend the last six meetings. The Community Council agreed that she is required to step down from associate membership. This action is not punitive but an administrative formality, and she is welcome to get involved in Comrie Community Council again in the future.

DONM: Thursday the 11th of May at 7 pm in the Royal.

Action Points:

- Stewart to share Gavin Steele's (Scottish Water) contact details with Gillian.
- Stewart to share Community Council maps.
- Gillian to chase up Diane's place on the Twinning Committee with George Lees.
- Gillian to speak to Premiere staff about pallets being left outside.
- Gillian is to drop off the bunting at the Fire Station.
- Andrew shall chase up Martine on the ward bench.
- Andrew to review progress on 2 Bridgend with Shelter Scotland and report to Building Standards if the building is a risk to public safety.
- Gillian to set up a new Facebook page for the Community Council.
- CDT CEO to get an invitation to a future Community Council Meeting.