

**Comrie Community Council – Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2023, 7 pm, 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, Cllr Noah Khogali

Members of the public in attendance: Approximately twenty-five members of the public in attendance

Apologies: Lindsay Brown

**Previous Minutes:**

- Minutes proposed by Gillian Brock, seconded by Rosemary Mitchell

**Matters Arising & Action Points:**

- Gillian has contacted the Christmas Lights Committee about their bank account but has not received a response.
- Stewart is still to contact George Lees regarding the twinning.
- The Community Council members have visited Cultybraggan for a site inspection.
- Martin Wallace has not shared information about himself or his plans for the land.
- Andrew has updated the new neighbours beside 2 Bridgend about the ongoing work to restore the property for housing.
- Gerry McPhail is abroad, so we are unsure if the disagreement between the Drama Club and White Church Committee over the panto has been resolved.

### **Commanders Bulletin:**

- No report – Gillian is going to follow up with Police Scotland.

### **Relevant Planning Applications:**

- The Royal proposes converting one of the empty buildings in Melville Square into a second public bar.
- Other items are the usual sundry extensions and garages.

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

- Lindsay shared the latest treasurer's report. Karen shared the highlights.
- An extra £450 from business listing subscriptions takes the total to £1275 for the year.
- Admin and Community Accounts are still the same.
- Hayride and Christmas Lights accounts are still there.

### **Road Matters:**

- Gillian has reported the potholes again.
- The Melville Square sign has been removed and will be replaced.
- We have new yellow lines, but the ones on the pavement have been missed – Gillian will raise this.
- Gillian has spoken to Blair about the Dalginross Junction following a near miss with an articulated lorry. She is waiting to hear back.
- Gillian has been approached for contact details for Monzievaird Hall, as road works will take place there. This matter has been resolved.

### **Secretary's Relevant Correspondence and Update:**

- No relevant updates

### **Twinning:**

- No further developments on twinning, as George Lees is in Canada.

### **Legion Park:**

- The trees and bushes are planted, and the benches are installed. Andrew's memorial bench is still outstanding.
- The noticeboards have been fitted too.
- Terri and the Legion Park Committee have met with the architect. In total, £140,000 worth of funding is available, though more is needed. The architect is enthusiastic about incorporating local themes, such as the three rivers, into the design.
- The Bingo Tea last month was quiet; however, they still managed to raise £818. Terri thanked those who donated the raffle prizes.

### **Cultybraggan Farm:**

- This is the third time this issue has been raised at the Community Council meetings.
- Gillian acknowledged that if attendees wish, an explicit public meeting will be held to discuss this matter.
- The Community Council has done its due diligence. We have taken the issue to ward councillors, who have taken this to the council officers.
- Rhona and Stewart provided an update:
  - There is little more the Community Council can do.
  - The blocked route is not a core path but is a right of way.
  - The real issue is whether it comes under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The legislation requires residents to observe the Outdoor Access Code.
  - Stewart read a response from Callum at PKC – Callum confirmed that a standard LM1 letter had been issued to Mr Wallace asking for the removal of the obstruction. The landowner has the opportunity to explain their side of things. If there is no word in fifteen days, PKC will attempt contact with Mr Wallace again. Under the 2003 Act, the owner should not be blocking access points. Mr Wallace has until the 27<sup>th</sup> of July to respond to the letter.
  - The installation of barbed wire is of great concern.
  - Stewart maintained that this is an operational matter in the hands of the council. Rhona concurred on this matter.

- The Community Council has tried to reason with the landowner, but this proved fruitless.
- Ruairidh Macintyre attending on behalf of the Comrie Development Trust (CDT), implored those in attendance not to cut the barbed wire as this would exacerbate the tension and likely result in legal action against the CDT. Gillian maintained that we need to do this by the book.
- Pat Silvey, the former secretary of Comrie Angling Club, noted that during his time in that role, he had numerous altercations with the previous landowner Dr James Irvine over access to the riverbank. However, despite seeking legal advice, Dr Irvine did not attempt to block access.
- An attendee (name not recorded) asked if we knew why Mr Wallace behaved that way. Gillian replied that it was unclear. Initially, he wished to stop people walking across his cropped field. Terri added that he wishes to rear cattle during the winter.
- Neil Aitken provided an update on his involvement with the matter.
- Pauline Toole formally requested that we have a public meeting to discuss this matter. We will wait until we get a response from PKC after the 27<sup>th</sup> of July before deciding. Those in attendance agreed.
- Elaine Catton thanked the Community Council for their efforts in resolving this issue.
- Donald McGillivray, who had previously managed the farmland at Cultybraggan, offered to help with some background information, including creating the footpaths. Gillian accepted his offer, and both will correspond in due course.

### **Councillors' Reports:**

- Rosemary – no update
- Andrew – Andrew provided an update on his work with PKC and Shelter Scotland on empty properties. Shelter Scotland and PKC continue collaborating on finding a solution to 2 Bridgend. Shelter Scotland has given him some literature, which he will print and share. Andrew is updating the *What Your Community Council has Done for you'* list. Andrew remains concerned about the path to Baird's Monument and the condition of the Monument itself. Andrew still has to report

Melville's Monument's poor state to Historic Scotland and PKC Building Standards.

- Diane – Diane was approached by someone from the council about abusive neighbour issues.
- Stewart – Stewart is disappointed that the Flood Prevention work has been delayed further – the advanced work will be finished by the end of this month. The tenure price is higher than expected due to inflation, which has lingered the work. Further details will be issued soon.
- Noah – Noah is due to attend the forthcoming road safety meeting. The Dalginross junction has been raised. Noah urged anyone with road safety concerns to contact the ward councillors. Gill Howcroft raised the possibility of community speed cameras. Noah added that this is an option though community speed groups have no legal powers. Gillian will look into this further.
- Lorna – She continues to promote the library.
- Terri – Terri is concerned about the road next to Legion Park. Gillian will report this to PKC and request a repair.
- Rhona – The Community Council welcomed Rhona back following her hip replacement surgery. Rhona informed Andrew that Baird's Monument landowner is working to resolve the issue. Rhona suggested that community speed groups be raised with the Community Safety Team.
- Karen – no update
- Gillian – Gillian engaged with a resident concerned about her home insurance and the flood risk. Rhona suggested that we signpost them to Peter Dickson at PKC. Gillian reiterated that we will publish what we have achieved as a Community Council. Gillian and Rosemary have been inspecting some bushes in private gardens that are beginning to obstruct paths. These must be dealt with as they are health and safety risks. Gillian was contacted about racist graffiti carved into a tree near Deil's Cauldron. This matter has been resolved. Gillian has passed information to the Church Youth Leader about using the noticeboard and advertising in the Quair. Crieff-Comrie Core Path is still ongoing, as is the Shaky Bridge. We are still looking to construct a cairn using the painted stones from the Coronation Street Party. The War Memorial Garden is a prospective site. The Union Flag at the White Church was defaced and taken down by the White Church Committee. We have purchased a new

one. Neil Aitken will re-fly it. Gillian proposed that the Community Council donate £200 to the new Hayride Committee yearly. Andrew abstained as he is a member of the Hayride Committee and is not impartial. The Community Council voted in favour.

**AOCB:**

- Neil Aitken acknowledged that further fencing had been erected at the Cowden path. Additional fencing will be put up by the landowner next week.
- Lindsay recently issued a cheque to the Hayride Committee for the monies still in our bank account. Unfortunately, it was for the amount destined for the Christmas Lights Committee. Andrew returned the cheque on behalf of the Hayride Committee.

**DONM:** Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August at 7 pm in the Royal Hotel Library

**Action Points:**

1. Gillian to follow up with Christmas Lights Committee about their bank account and take further action if needed.
2. Community Council to await the outcome of PKC actions to decide whether to hold a public meeting on access rights at Cultybraggan.
3. Andrew to raise the condition of Melville's Monument with PKC and Historic Scotland.
4. Gillian to inform PKC about the poor state of Strowan Road next to Legion Park.
5. Gillian to look into the possibility of community speed watch initiatives.
6. Members are to pass on any further road concerns to the ward councillors so these can be raised at the next ward meeting with council officers.
7. Neil Aitken to put up the new Union Flag at the White Church.