



Comrie Community Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday 8th of June

In Attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair), Lindsay Brown (Treasurer), Terri Bacon, Diane Kaye, Lorna Ramsay

Elected Representatives: Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Cllr Noah Khogali

Members of the Public: Dr David Bushby, George Lees, Shona Robertson, Gail Wallace, Martin Wallace

Apologies: Karen Donaldson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Rhona Brock, Rosemary Mitchell

Minutes from the last meeting:

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

Relevant Planning Applications:

- Amongst the recent planning applications was a proposal to construct a mast in Glen Artney. Stewart believes that it is a metrological mast but will investigate further.
- Other than this, there were just sundry applications for extensions and minor property alterations.

Treasurers Report:

- Lindsay shared the latest written report by email before the meeting.
- Progress has been made in centralising some of the various small accounts, though some are still outstanding. RBS made other errors, but these are fixed.

- The Hayride Committee have started their bank account. The Community Council approved the transfer of Hayride's monies into their new account.
- Gillian confirmed that there is no restricted funding in the CC accounts.
- We still have not heard back about the Christmas Lights Committee bank account status. Gillian will follow this up.

Road Matters:

- Gillian has reported the potholes.
- The Melville Square sign has been reported to Transport Scotland, who then stated that it was for PKC to sort.
- Speed bumps in Strowan Road have been raised again.
- Lindsay raised the issue of setting up a 'Community Speed Watch' in Comrie.

Secretary's relevant correspondence updates:

- Andrew has also received emails about the Melville Square sign.
- There continues to be a large amount of spam in the account, obscuring genuine correspondence.
- Andrew queried if correspondence from Christine Grant et al. goes to all the members. He will make sure anything of importance gets shared.

Twining:

- George Lees attended to provide an update on our twinning with Carlton Place.
- George believes it was agreed and minuted at a past Community Council meeting that the Community Council would serve as the Twinning Committee.
- George would prefer not to have a 'committee' but rather an informal group of interested residents.
- George wants to set up a 'cultural exchange' for those aged fourteen to sixteen in Comrie. October 2024 was proposed as a date.

- There has been mixed interest in twinning from the School. The Community Council agreed that the School is vital to the jigsaw in twinning.
- George acknowledged that our twinning with Carlton Place is not affiliated with official twinning programmes run by PKC. However, Stewart added that some funding may be available from PKC to support twinning activities. Stewart to take contact details for George.
- George has a cheque regarding the Twinning Committee, which he cannot cash. Lindsay agreed to take a look.

Legion Park:

- Terri will chase up Martine about the weeds.
- Terri, Rhona and Craig had an on-site meeting with the architect, but he did not attend. The engagement has been rescheduled.

Cultybraggan:

- At the last meeting, Gillian verified that all we discussed was that fence posts had been erected and obstructed core paths. The fence post issue was all we knew. The Community Council has not expressed ill feelings towards the new landowners.
- Martin Wallace acknowledged that the path which neighbours the land he purchased is not a 'core' path. He has planted crops there at some expense and is concerned about damage. He has no issue with walkers using the track as long as they keep off the field.
- Gillian and Stewart ascertained that both the law and common sense dictate that you do not walk through a field of crops.
- Dr David Bushby, who owns nearby land, supports Martin's efforts to restore agriculture. He also reiterated that he had heard similar concerns about using footpaths. The 'non-core' paths previously acknowledged have been used for over fifty years. However, he has noted some deviation which needs addressing. Martin agreed.
- Shona Robertson confirmed that she had experienced a disagreeable altercation with Martin, which caused distress. Martin denied this and

acknowledged that he had experienced similar behaviour. Both parties have involved Police Scotland.

- Martin maintained that he is happy for people to use the paths next to the fields.
- Gillian verified that the Community Council cannot get involved in individual disagreements. However, we can work with both parties to agree on a solution.
- Gillian proposed that the Community Council should have a site visit once she returns from holiday.
- Lorna proposed putting an article in the *Strathearn Herald* reminding people of the proper countryside conduct. Lindsay elaborated, suggesting that Martin may wish to publish some information about who he is and his plans for the land.
- Dr Bushby added that he had contacted Historic Environment Scotland about the Roman Camp. The ground can be ploughed and cropped but nothing else.
- Andrew added that the offending fence posts discussed at the last meeting are gone. Andrew also suggested involving an 'interpretation consultant' to communicate Comrie's Roman heritage, as we are missing a trick.

Community Action Plan:

- No further action on this issue until further notice.

Councillors' Reports:

- Lindsay – no report.
- Andrew – A resident expressed concern about the mess at Cultybraggan. Lindsay replied that the camp is owned partially by the Comrie Development Trust and local businesses, making it challenging to ascertain responsibility. 2 Bridgend – a bit of inertia; Andrew will chase up Shelter Scotland before the next meeting. New owners have moved into the neighbouring property. Andrew will update them on developments. A visitor emailed about an empty property in Glen Lednock. Andrew knows the one in question. He will report this to

Shelter Scotland in the future. Drumearn House is on the market. Andrew is concerned about the state of Melville's Monument. Trees are growing out the side. Andrew is going to report this to Building Standards. Diane asked if there had been any developments on Baird's Monument. Andrew confirmed that there had been no further developments.

- Terri - Terri brought some bread made at the School as part of the 'Breadeducation' programme. She remains an advocate of this initiative.
- Lorna - Lorna continues to promote the Library. She has also agreed to organise some old photographs and documents about the Community Council that were in the care of the late Sandy Gray.
- Stewart – Stewart is also supporting the programme above. He is hopeful that next term PKC will expand it. Stewart continues to work with the Comrie Development Trust to overcome their problems. PKC and the Countryside Trust are closer to an agreement with landowners over the Crieff-Comrie Core Path. Overall Stewart is pleased with the developments.
- Gillian – Gillian expressed sympathy on behalf of the Community Council on the sad news of the passing of former Community Councillor Judy McDowell. Gillian sent flowers and a card to Rhona, who had recently undergone surgery. A resident put an 'unofficial' short-term let notice on a house on South-Crieff Road. She has spoken to the owner, who has agreed to go through the proper channels. Gillian has organised a donation to Sepsis Scotland as a token of thanks for Nicki Loxley for George Ferguson's retirement portrait. Gillian proposed that we should have an event to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Community Council. She suggested having a gazebo where we can lay out some information, provide some music and invite local businesses to provide food. Gillian believes that the Panto and the White Church Committee dispute has been resolved. Gillian will follow up with Gerry McPhail.

AOCB:

- None on this occasion.

DONM: Thursday the 13th of July at 7 pm in the Royal Hotel Library

Action Points:

- Gillian to contact the Christmas Lights Committee about their bank account.
- George Lees and Stewart Donaldson to exchange contact details.
- Lindsay to look into the cheque sent to George.
- Community Council members to organise a site visit to the Ruchill paths.
- Martin Wallace to share some information about himself and his plans for the land.
- Andrew to update the new neighbours of 2 Bridgend about developments with the house.
- Gillian to follow up with Gerry McPhail on the issue of the disagreement with the White Church Committee raised at the last meeting.