

Comrie Community Council – Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 10^h of August 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

Members of the public in attendance: Approximately seven members of the public in attendance

Apologies: Cllr Noah Khogali, Donald McGillivray, Mary McGillivray

Previous Minutes:

- Minutes accepted by Gillian and seconded by Lorna.

Matters Arising & Action Points:

- Gillian has attempted to contact them again but has no response. A ward councillor will step in if needed.
- Andrew still has to inform Historic Scotland and PKC Building Standards about the condition of Melville's Monument.
- Gillian has informed PKC about the state of the road adjacent to Legion Park.
- Gillian is still waiting to hear back about setting up a Community Speed Watch.
- Neil Aitken has replaced the Union Flag at the White Church – currently, the Comrie Fortnight flag is flying.

Commanders Bulletin:

- Nothing on this occasion.

Relevant Planning Applications:

- Some more updates have been issued regarding the conversion of the former Flambeaux Shed into another public bar.
- There has been no further news on the conversion of the former RBS branch into a takeaway outlet.
- We are still seeing the sundry applications for extensions, etc.
- Stewart raised the proposed construction of a Buddhist stupa up Glen Artney. Objections have been lodged against this.

Treasurer's Report:

- Lindsay shared the report before the meeting but also provided paper copies.
- Outstanding monies have been successfully transferred into the new Hayride Committee's account.
- The admin account is down to £54. After tonight there will be no more money to spend until the next top-up.
- There is £18000 in the main CC account – the bulk of this comes from subscriptions to the website; some outstanding have been paid. Some new businesses have joined.
- Lindsay still has a cheque outstanding for the Twinning Committee. Gillian will contact George Lees to get account details.

Road Matters:

- Gillian has reported the potholes again.
- The yellow lines have been repainted. Gillian is confident this will stop people parking over Commercial and Ancaster Lanes.
- Gillian has met with Transport Scotland representatives about the dangerous village entrances.
- Gillian has emailed Blair from PKC again about Dalginross Junction.

- The roadworks have Monzievaired are complete.
- Karen has taken pictures of the state of her road. She will share these with Gillian. She is concerned about her elderly neighbours slipping in winter when it freezes over.

Secretary's Relevant Correspondence and Update:

- The secretary's email account continues to be busy. Andrew shares what he deems necessary and relevant with the rest of the CC.

Twinning:

- Diane is still waiting to hear from George Lees—no further updates.

Legion Park:

- Rhona is chasing up monies from PKC.
- Greenspace is still working in the background. Terri is going to check in after the school holidays.
- Lorna complimented Terri on what she had achieved so far. She asked if Terri would like a box for exchange books, etc. Terri accepted. Lorna will sort this out.
- The Notice Board is not in use yet. Terri added that once it is active, it will be used initially for Legion Park business only.

Local Access:

- Lindsay proposed that we use 'local access' to refer to this issue now, as the problem is more significant than one specific area.
- John King shared his concern about the poor drainage of the pathway between Melville Square and the School. Gillian replied that this is a private road, meaning that there is very little that PKC can do. Before he passed away, Charlie Gibbons had attempted to get the landowners together. Gillian will try and pick up where he left off. Gillian will draft a letter.

- Lorna acknowledged that the owners would be liable for damages in the event of an accident.
- Rhona highlighted that this route has not been designated as the 'safest route to school' by PKC.
- There have been further developments at Cultybraggan – fence posts have been installed, which are impeding on paths, plus he seems to have changed his mind about allowing people to walk along the edge of the field.
- Stewart has a new map with the core paths and rights of way in the Comrie area. The Cultybraggan path does link with a right of way.
- The landowner has been offered a self-closing gate. A style may be a possibility.
- Neither Stewart nor Rhona has heard if the landowner responded to PKC by the 27th of last month; the relevant council officers are on holiday.
- Stewart is hopeful that we will hear back soon about the fences at the Roman Camp.
- Stewart reiterated the point raised by Ruaridh Macintyre at the last meeting that we do not take matters into our own hands.
- There is still disagreement over what land the Comrie Development Trust owns. Ruaridh will share a copy of the deeds with Stewart.
- Ruaridh has engaged in a fruitful discussion with the landowner. He added that he has offered to assist him in finding funding to maintain the path.
- There is ongoing concern about the erosion of the path along the Ruchill side.
- Elaine Catton queried who is responsible for the maintenance of core paths. Stewart replied that PKC Greenspace is accountable and will invite Callum and Andy from Greenspace to a public meeting.
- Dr David Busby is worried that the newly installed fence posts are jeopardising the flood defences and encroaching on paths that have been walked for over half a century.
- John King is a volunteer with Scotways. He ruled a style insufficient for cyclists, riders or citizens with disabilities.
- The landowner needs to be aware that as the path erodes, the right of way goes with it. As a Scotway volunteer, John has shared his observations with PKC Greenspace.

- Felicity Martin has reported another fence blocking a green lane at West Cowden, forcing people to walk on the road, which is very dangerous given the speed of traffic and the absence of pavement for pedestrians.
- John King added that these issues are not exclusive to Comrie but occur across Scotland.
- Kate Craig, who has recently moved to the village, witnessed the landowner installing posts and was at the receiving end of abusive behaviour.
- Gillian reiterated that the CC and ward councillors will do their utmost. Stewart added that the ward councillors will contact those in attendance for further information.
- Complaints have been raised about the landowner using bird scarers.
- John King and Felicity Martin highlighted that dog fouling has increased on the paths. Walkers must abide by the countryside code.

Laggan Park:

- Gillian hopes to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in Laggan Park.
- Gillian and Rhona are going to collaborate on the planning application. The owners of Riverside Caravan Park are on board and will assist.
- Stewart noted there are similar facilities in operation in Blairgowrie and Scone.
- Gillian provided £50000 plus vat for the purchase and installation of the MUGA.
- Rhona stressed that we must remain mindful of whether the facility can be used all year round.
- Lindsay added that the MUGA can be incorporated into the Community Action Plan (CAP). This would allow easier access to funding. Lindsay is still looking for recruits for the CAP steering group.
- John King stated that a small community south of Inverness installed a MUGA, and it has been very successful.

Skate Park:

- The Laggan Park Committee are unhappy about taking responsibility for the Skate Park.
- Andrew has looked through some documents and found an email dated 19th December 2019 saying that the CC is responsible for the Skate Park from 24th January 2020. Andrew will contact Davie Robertson to see if there is further documentation verifying that we have taken ownership of the Skate Park. Gillian will contact Christine Grant at PKC to request copies of past minutes.

Councillors' Reports:

- Rosemary – Rosemary is going to inspect some junctions where bushes are infringing. Gillian will then send these on to PKC Greenspace.
- Andrew – 2 Bridgend: The rubbish on the doorstep has been cleared; unclear if it was a neighbour or PKC Environmental Health Team. The Hayride Committee met on Monday; weather permitting, the Hayride will take place on Sunday, 24th September. Andrew thanked the CC for their donation. Over £250 was raised at the Comrie Fortnight Street Stall. Andrew's colleague at Perth CAB is interested in contacting local groups such as the Men's Shed and Singing Group.
- Diane is waiting for PKC's reply about the second noticeboard. Diane has received numerous complaints about the CDT, including increasing rent for businesses using the camp and potential funding cuts to heritage facilities. Ruairidh replied that a board takes decisions and that it is unfair to scapegoat individual board members. Also, the CDT reserve the right to increase rents. Diane will draft a list of concerns and share them with Lindsay.
- Stewart – Stewart will raise the Comrie-Trowan core path and Glenlednock at next month's Finance and Resources Committee meeting. Stewart is also hopeful that there will be an update on the Flood Prevention Scheme following this meeting.
- Terri – In Queens Road, a bit of sharp metal pipe protruding from the gravel is a health and safety risk. Gillian will ask who owns the land.
- Lindsay – Lindsay will be on holiday at the next meeting.
- Lorna – Lorna continues to promote the library but is staggered by red tape and a lack of enthusiasm. Lorna still has to look through the materials provided by Evelyn Gray.

- Karen – As stated earlier, Karen is keeping an eye on the state of her road.
- Rhona – Rhona has received similar updates to Stewart on the Shaky Bridge and Crieff-Comrie Core Path. Stewart is keeping her in the loop regarding re-correspondence. Gillian thanked the ward councillors on behalf of the CC for their hard work.
- Gillian – Gillian is engaging with the family of the late Mrs Kay to install a bench in her memory. Gillian has put the family in touch with KC Plastics. Auchingarrich Pet Cemetery: Gillian has tried to mediate with the owner about removing memorials at the former Pet Cemetery on the site. Unfortunately, she cannot grant access as she wishes to use it as agricultural land. The owner is aware of the adverse reaction to this. She added that she would not disturb the graves. Gillian has no choice but to stand back. Gillian congratulated the Comrie Fortnight Committee on the success of this year's Comrie Fortnight.

AOCB:

- None of this occasion.

DONM: Thursday 14th September, 7 pm 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. Gillian to contact George Lees to get bank details for the outstanding cheque.
3. Karen is to share pictures of the damage to her road with Gillian.
4. Lorna to organise a book swap box for Legion Park.
5. Gillian is to draft a letter to the Melville Square landowners about the condition of the path to the school.
6. Stewart invites Andy and Callum from Greenspace to a public meeting.
7. Andrew to contact Davie Robertson about documentation regarding ownership of the Skate Park.
8. Gillian to contact Christine Grant at PKC to acquire past CC minutes.

9. Rosemary to share photos of the bushes infringing junctions will Gillian.
10. Diane to share a list of CDT concerns with Lindsay.
11. Andrew and Lindsay to contact Davie Robertson about Christmas Light Committee monies.

ADOPTED