

Comrie Community Council – Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 14^h of September 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

External speakers: Callum Bachell PKC Greenspace, Oliver Bassie, new owner of Cowden Wood

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

Apologies: Lindsay Brown, Cllr Noah Khogali

Previous Minutes:

- Minutes accepted by Gillian Brock and seconded by Lorna Ramsay.

Matters Arising & Action Points:

- We still need to follow up with the Christmas Lights Committee about their bank account.
- Lindsay has sorted out the outstanding cheque with the Twinning Committee.
- Karen has shared pictures of the damage to her road.
- Lorna has organised the Book Swap for the Legion Park.
- Gillian will acknowledge the condition of Melville Lane on her upcoming road report to PKC.
- Andrew has corresponded with Davie Robertson about skatepark documents.
- Gillian and Karen have acquired copies of past minutes from PKC to ascertain who is responsible for the skatepark.

- Rosemary has shared pictures with Gillian of the bushes that are blocking pavements.
- Diane has still to share a list of CDT concerns with Lindsay.

Commanders Bulletin:

- None

Relevant Planning Applications:

- There are proposals for a temporary footbridge downstream from the Dalginross Bridge, possibly at the end of Manse Lane. We are unsure what it is for.
- Nothing else of particular interest.

Treasurer's Report:

- Lindsay shared the treasurer's report earlier this week.
- The CC will donate £500 to the new 'Tea and Tots' group.
- We are also going to donate £1000 to the White Church towards the repair of the roof.

Road Matters:

- Gillian has filed another report to PKC about potholes in numerous streets. PKC has conducted a site inspection. Karen added that the Dukes Road potholes are unfilled.
- The yellow lines are painted, but some areas have been overlooked, including the Dalginross-Bridge Street junction. People parking on that corner have been reported to Gillian, who has informed Police Scotland. Gillian will liaise with PKC to find a long-term solution.
- Gillian has shared her road report with the three ward councillors.
- Stewart will attend the road meeting. He suggested that we have a separate meeting with BEAR Scotland concerning the A85.
- Lorna is concerned about children crossing the A85 to use the east gate into Laggan Park to use the skate park.

Secretary's Relevant Correspondence and Update:

- Braco and Greenloaning Community Council have emailed asking for feedback on the effectiveness of the Dalginross speed cushions. Andrew will compile some feedback from tonight's meeting. We received mixed feedback from attendees. One resident felt that the speed cushions made no difference. Gillian disagreed; whilst they may not stop drivers exceeding 20mph on Dalginross, it had reduced those doing 40mph. Other residents shared this view.
- The speed bump in Braco was complimented by many in attendance.
- Gillian is happy to ask about pedestrian crossing again, but attempts to get them in the past have been fruitless.
- Andrew has shared all vital correspondence with the Community Council.

Twinning:

- Nothing to update at this meeting.

Legion Park:

- They currently have £15000 in the bank account.
- They are still waiting for some drawings from the landscape architect.

Skate Park:

- After some research, we have established that the Community Council are responsible for the skate park. Karen is going to represent the Community Council on the Laggan Park Committee. Those using the skate park do so at their own risk; however, we are liable for any harm due to the structure's neglect.
- The insurance document is outstanding. Andrew and Gillian will complete this.
- We will make a yearly donation to Laggan Park for the upkeep of the skatepark.

- Karen has asked for a risk assessment checklist from Perth and Kinross Council.

Land Access:

- Callum Bachell provided an update on Cultybraggan. He met with Martin Wallace before the meeting, and there has been some progress. Mr Wallace will install a stile over the barbed wire fence. The stile is a compromise, as this path does not have right-of-way status. There is an unlocked gate nearby that bikes can use.
- Stewart acknowledged that a stile was deemed inadequate at the last meeting, as not all can use it. Callum agreed that it is not an ideal solution, but it is preferable to legal action.
- Martin Wallace will move the fence posts further from the core path so they do not cause obstruction.
- It is uncertain whether he can block the path along the field used due to core path erosion. PKC will examine the existing right of way and remove vegetation to bring the core path away from the river.
- Dr. David Bushby reiterated that the path mentioned above has been used for decades, long enough for it to be protected as a path. The gains the farmer will get from blocking this path are minimal. He remains concerned that the route will remain too narrow, even after revisions. Callum replied, stating that those wanting to use this evidence to preserve the use of the path should submit this in writing to his team.
- There is no hard or fast rule regarding how wide a core path should be. The British Horse Society has issued guidance on the width of horse paths.
- The barbed wire fences that replaced the gates have been vandalised a few times. Dr Bushby is worried that the barbed wire will harm roe deer. Callum will raise this.
- Andrew noted a low concrete wall, partially concealed in the vegetation, as part of historic flood prevention schemes. Will this jeopardise efforts to move the path inland? Callum confirmed that there is enough room.
- Stewart asked if any existing case law involves paths that are not rights of way or core paths. Callum confirmed that there is.
- Callum will share a link to the Scotways website with Gillian about the right of way. The website has template letters residents can customise.

- On Stewart's request, Callum provided an update on the Comrie to Trowan core path. Progress has been made, and Callum is "*cautiously optimistic*" that we will get an agreement with the final landowner.
- Andrew confirmed how important it is to get this core path, as walkers between Comrie and Crieff are forced to use roads, which is potentially dangerous given the traffic speed.
- Callum verified that we are good to go with the work on the Shaky Bridge. It is too late to begin this year, but work will commence in 2024.

Cowden Wood Re-wilding:

- Oliver Bassie has purchased Cowden Wood. He is proposing to extend the woodland, creating a mixture of native and imported species of trees. They supplied maps of the proposed work.
- They are going to install some further paths.
- Oliver wishes to engage with the community for their feedback.
- Those in attendance were supportive of the initiative.
- A resident is concerned that various orchids are growing on that land, which the development will threaten. Oliver is aware of them and will strive to preserve them.
- Diane recalled that some local teenagers had constructed a hut in the woods in 2017, which led to friction with the landowner. Oliver stated that he would not want to take similar action should a similar situation arise. Still, he cannot say how he would handle a similar situation.
- Gillian will share Oliver's details should they have any further queries.

Community Action Plan:

- PKC are keen for the Comrie to create a Community Action Plan, as it is a helpful tool to acquire funding.
- We are struggling to get people to participate. Initially, the CDT strived to set this up; however, Karen maintained that the Community Council is the preferred group to spearhead the Community Action Plan.
- Karen is happy to join Lindsay as a representative from Comrie Community Council.

- The Community Council voted in favour of us spearheading the Community Action Plan.

Councillors' Reports:

- Lorna – Lorna provided an update on the Legion Park book swap.
- Rosemary – Nothing to report
- Diane – Nothing to report
- Andrew – Two Bridge End: Shelter Empty Homes have emailed again asking for the name of the owners, information that Andrew has already shared. Andrew will ask the Environmental Health Team at PKC if they cleared the junk mail from the doorstep. There are no further signs of falling masonry at Baird's Monument. Andrew still has to contact Building Standards about the state of the Melville Monument. Final plans are in place for the Hayride, which is going ahead on 24th September.
- Stewart – The Community Investment Fund, Strathearn Ward Panel meets on Tuesday night at the Community Campus. Stewart would like to see someone from Comrie on the panel. Lorna is interested, but she will be on holiday next week. Andrew and Rosemary will attend if they can.
- Rhona – She attended a meeting about twinning. Rhona is looking to speak with George Lees about this. Between now and 2026, the council will reach out to twinning committees. Rhona is overseeing Canada and Australia twinning.
- Karen – Nothing to report, excluding what she discussed earlier.
- Gillian – We have had a thank you letter from the Comrie Fortnight for our donation. We will apply for some work to take place at the War Memorial Garden. The Kays would like to put a bench on the western side of Laggan Park near where we will build the MUGA. Gillian will be absent at the next meeting; Karen will chair.

AOCB:

- James Stewart highlighted that the new flood barrier at the bottom of Camp Road has become very overgrown. Gillian added that the

contractors left a message at the Field of Refuge. Stewart and Rhona will look into this.

DONM: Thursday 12th October at 7 pm – the AGM.

Action Points:

1. Gillian will consult PKC about a solution to illegal parking on Drummond Street.
2. Andrew will compile feedback on the speed cushions for B&G CC.
3. Gillian and ward councillors to enquire about the possibility of pedestrian crossings.
4. Callum to share the link to the Scotsways website with Gillian.
5. Rhona will contact George Lees about twinning.
6. Andrew will contact PKC Environmental Services about the doorstep at 2 Bridgend.
7. Andrew will inform PKC Building Standards about the Melville Monument.