

## Comrie Community Council – Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, November 9th, 7 pm, The Royal Hotel



Councillors in attendance: Linday Brown (Acting Chair, Treasurer), Diane Kaye, Rosemary Mitchell, Lorna Ramsey, Andrew Scobie (Secretary)

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

Members of the public in attendance: Approximately six in attendance

External delegates: Craig Cunningham, Sam Greer – Low Carbon

Apologies: Terri Bacon, Gillian Brock (Chair), Karen Donaldson (Vice Chair), Cllr Noah Khogali

Previous Minutes:

- Minutes for last meeting adopted at special meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Minutes proposed by Terri Bacon and seconded by Rosemary Mitchell.

Matters Arising & Action Points:

- Andrew has still to contact BEAR Scotland about water on the Monzievaird corner.
- Diane needs David Spaven's contact details to progress the crossing project further.
- Lindsay has drafted and shared a funding application form for local organisations. He brought copies to show attendees who approved its use.
- Lindsay maintained that we cannot commit to annual donations to the Hayride. He proposed rescinding the previous decision and deciding whether or not to donate year by year, assessing eligibility based on need. Rosemary asked if this would be the same for similar commitments like the Bonfire. Lindsay confirmed that this is correct. Speaking on behalf of the Hayride, Andrew maintained that the Hayride Committee is relatively autonomous in funding.

- Unknown if Lorna sourced affordable printing services (see had not arrived when we raised this).
- Lindsay has supplied Karen with the appropriate information to proceed with the CAP application.

#### Commanders Bulletin:

- Apologies submitted to Gillian Brock, who shared these with her apologies.
- Rosemary noted a recent break-in on Strathview Place. Police Scotland later apprehended the perpetrators. Strathview residents, including Rosemary, have been very cautious since. She shared details on social media, though reporting has been poor.
- Rhona suggested that we take this up with senior officers.

#### Relevant Planning Applications:

- Planning is in for a new telephone exchange in Dalginross.
- After the last meeting, Andrew reviewed recent planning applications. In August, an application was submitted to build a dwelling at Ruchillside. Details are available on the Perth and Kinross website.
- Sundry applications, including extensions, windows, etc, remain steady.

#### Treasurer's Report:

- Lindsay shared the treasurer's report before the meeting.
- £100 has been transferred from the community account to the admin account to cover expenses.
- The only expenses this month are £30 for printer ink.
- Donations from this month include £500 for Tea and Tots, £200 for Cycling without Age and £100 for PFA for fireworks. The PFA thanked us at the event. The 3D printer and White Church roof are outstanding. We have donated more money than usual this year, so we have devised an application process.

### Road Matters:

- A resident approached Andrew on Sunday afternoon about two road issues: the Dunira Street sign is still missing, and they would like to see the 20mph speed limit extended throughout Dundas and Burrell Street. Diane reiterated that residents had also approached her about the Dunira Street sign.

### Secretary's Relevant Correspondence and Update:

- Andrew is completing the form for the renewal of our insurance. He has approached Lorraine Hay at PKC to ask if we will complete the same form for the Skate Park. Andrew would like to know if one form will do both, given that we are responsible for the former. Lindsay replied that he did not know but wondered the same. Lorna queried if the Laggan Park Committee had any liability to the Skate Park. Lindsay reiterated that we do, not the Laggan Park Committee. Lorna remains concerned at the Skate Park's open gate as it entices skaters onto the A85. Lindsay suggested that we report this to the Laggan Park Committee.
- Lindsay queried if we are liable for the public toilets. Diane explained that PKC maintains them though the Handyshop opens and closes. Stewart will provide contact details for Claire Leishman, who can answer any questions.

### Christmas Lights:

- The Christmas Lights will go up next weekend. The Christmas Lights Committee know that they need insurance.
- We still have their money sitting in the account. Attempts to repatriate it have been unsuccessful.
- Lindsay asked if we could add the Christmas lights to our public liability. Rhona stated that the Christmas Lights Committee is liable because we do not own the lights.
- Diane suggested we approach them at the switch-on ceremony on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Twinning – update by George Lees:

- George was unaware of the recent meeting at PKC on twinning.
- George has recently visited Canada. The Twinning Committee in Carlton Place was incorporated into the Town Council, which demoted the committee members to 'advisers'. Regrettably, this has diluted its influence.
- George remains committed to running a 'cultural exchange' between Comrie and Carlton Place.

### Legion Park:

- Lorna has tried to contact Terri by phone to follow up on the book exchange in Legion Park, as it is at Co-op ready to go. Lorna will email Terri.

### Rights of Way:

- Stewart shared copies of correspondence with Calum Bachell. There have been no further reports of obstructions. Calum has approached the landowner for an update on the stile. Calum is still looking for testimonies on the historical use of the path dating from the last twenty years. These should be emailed straight to Calum. Lorna suggested that we approach Donald McGillivray for testimonials on using the path. We should also invite him to present at the next meeting. Lorna will make contact.
- Calum is happy for his email address to be public.
- Rosemary will submit a testimonial.
- Stewart has also reviewed the planning application and noted that enough objections were lodged for it to go before the PKC Planning Committee.
- PKC Greenspace is looking to reach an agreement with Lawers Estate but may have to issue a Path Order.
- Stewart reaffirmed that work on the Shaky Bridge will start next year.

### **Heritage Group:**

- The Heritage Group met at Cultybraggan last night and will continue. Lindsay is hopeful that they will expand their activities and remit.

### **Low Carbon Windfarm:**

- Craig Cunningham and Sam Greer provided an update on the proposals to construct a wind farm on the Invergeldie Estate owned by Oxygen Conservation.
- They maintained that the proposal is in its earliest stages. Copies of the briefing were issued, outlining the proposed development.
- In the long term, they will engage frequently with the Community Council.
- Those in attendance raised various concerns, including the following:
  - Disruption to roads and infrastructure caused by construction – how the site will be accessed and equipment transported.
  - The turbines will threaten wildlife and biodiversity, including birds and deer.
  - Wind turbines are costly, uneconomical and unproductive.
  - Turbines are unsightly and blighting the landscape.
  - The loss of sporting jobs on Invergeldie Estate.
  - Community benefits of wind farms are going unfulfilled as developers have abandoned communities in the past once turbines are operational.
  - Right of responsible access jeopardised.
  - Viable alternatives, including 'mini-reactors', are excluded.
- Craig and Sam attempted to address as many of these concerns as possible. They are hosting two exhibitions next week in Comrie and St Fillians.
- Lindsay proposed that we invite Oxygen Conservation to a future Community Council meeting.

## **Community Action Plan:**

- No update from Lindsay.

## **Councillors' Reports:**

Rhona – The Comrie Flood Prevention update was published recently.

Stewart – Ruchill Water was up during recent storms but did not breach the bank. Stewart remains frustrated with the delays. Schemes such as tree planting and rewilding can complement flood prevention measures.

Diane – Measurements are needed for the new noticeboard on Bridge Street. Andrew and Diane will collaborate on this. Diane has letters from school pupils thanking us for the 3D printer donation. Andrew agreed to scan and share these letters with the Community Council members.

Rosemary – There are some outstanding bushes obstructing paths and pavements that she needs to photograph.

Lorna – Lorna remains active in promoting the library as a cultural hub.

Andrew - He emailed Gavin Bissett and Martine Blake from the Flood Prevention Scheme to relocate the Ward Memorial Bench from the South River bank to South Crieff Road Cemetery. There is little more to do with 2 Bridgend; we must wait for PKC and Shelter to agree with the owners. He will follow up with Environmental Health on the mouse infestation. He has reported the state of the Melville Monument to PKC Building Standards. He has received a copy of *Comrie Our Village*, published in the 1960s by the WRI. He will donate this to Comrie Library. Lorna asked if copies of our minutes were still going to the library. Andrew confirmed that they are.

Lindsay – Comrie Outdoor Playgroup has submitted a funding application seeking £500 to build an outdoor structure. We agreed that we could not donate £500 but would give a smaller amount. We decided to donate £250. Rhona suggested that Lindsay contact James Gardiner from PKC to see other funding sources.

**AOCB:**

- None

**DONM:**

January 2024 date TBC.

**Action Points:**

1. Laggan Park Committee to be told about the open gate at the Skate Park.
2. Andrew will check with Lorraine Hay about including the Skate Park on the insurance renewal form.
3. Stewart to provide Claire Leishman's contact details.
4. Someone from the Community Council (perhaps Diane?) should approach the Christmas Lights Committee at the upcoming switch-on to progress the transition of outstanding monies.
5. Lorna will email Terri about the book exchange in Legion Park.
6. Lindsay will add Calum Bachell's email to the Comrie website for submission of path-use testimonials.
7. Rosemary is to submit a testimonial to Calum Bachell.
8. Lorna will contact Donald McGillivray about Ruchillside Path.
9. Lindsay to invite Oxygen Conservation to future Community Council Meeting.
10. Andrew and Diane will collaborate on the new Bridge Street Noticeboard.
11. Andrew will scan and share thank you letters.
12. Andrew will follow up with Environmental Health on mouse infestation at 2 Bridgend.
13. Andrew to hand *Comrie Our Village* book into the library.
14. Lindsay will contact James Gardiner about funding.