**Comrie Community Council – Minutes of Meeting**



 **Thursday 11th January 2024, The Royal Hotel, 7 pm**

Councillors in attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair), Terri Bacon, Lorna Ramsay, Andrew Scobie (Secretary), Karen Ward (Vice-Chair)

Elected representatives in attendance: None

Members of the public in attendance x 3

Apologies: Cllr Rhona Brock, Lindsay Brown (Treasurer), Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Diane Kaye, Cllr Noah Khogali, Rosemary Mitchell

**Previous Minutes:**

* Karen proposed the minutes, and Lorna seconded.

**Matters Arising & Action Points:**

* Action points from the last meeting on 9th November were not reviewed, given the absences, including the acting chair. In addition, activity is lighter during the festive period.

**Commanders Bulletin:**

* None

**Relevant Planning Applications:**

* The first weekly planning update for 2024 was published by PKC this week – nothing concerning Comrie.
* Residents remain concerned about developments at Ruchillside, specifically a fresh planning application for a property. The initial application was unsuccessful. Gillian replied that PKC has published no details due to the holiday closure. Concerned residents will remain vigilant.
* Karen queried if we missed anything in the planning updates; perhaps it has fallen into a different CC jurisdiction. Andrew confirmed this was unlikely as Comrie District has a substantial southern dimension.
* When sending his apologies, Stewart shared an update from Calum Bachell at PKC Greenspace on installing a self-closing gate. Gillian read this to those in attendance.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Lindsay will share the report at a later date.

**Road Matters:**

* Gillian has submitted another report to PKC about the potholes on Dukes Road et al.
* She has also chased them up about the Strowan Road speed bump installation and replacing the Dunira Street sign.
* A resident has approached us again about extending the 20mph limit to South Crieff Road. Karen elaborated that she has requested that PKC consider this in the following review of speed limits.
* Gillian is mindful that progress is limited due to the Christmas holiday.

**Secretary’s Relevant Correspondence and Update:**

* Andrew has submitted the insurance form to Lorraine Hay at PKC. He requested that we get public liability insurance for the Laggan Skate Park.
* Over Christmas, a lady contacted us as she was concerned about the welfare of a local relative. Rosemary and Helen-Ann Stewart visited his home to discover that he had taken ill. They called an ambulance, and he made a good recovery. Andrew praised Rosemary and Helen for their outstanding efforts. He expressed his concern; however, as he could have overlooked the email or had nobody available to check, the outcome could have been tragic.

**Twinning:**

* There is no update as Diane is absent.

**Legion Park:**

* Terri and Lorna are working to install the book swap box in the Legion Park.
* Anna Howat has approached Gillian about installing the memorial bench for her late son Andrew. The bench is ready; we need to choose a suitable location within the park. Gillian and Terri will visit the park and choose a location.

**Rights of Way:**

* An attendee reported damage to the right of way at Cultybraggan. A tractor has driven across it. It is a potential health and safety risk and a disincentive for walkers. Andrew will contact him on behalf of the Community Council, asking if he can repair the damage.
* Andrew Thomspon acknowledged that another landowner at Cultybraggan is jeopardising local access.
* He also confirmed that the owner of Balmuick Farm has agreed to install self-closing gates to preserve access to the Circular Walk path.

**Low Cardon Wind Farm:**

* Low Carbon hosted a series of exhibitions before Christmas. Some CC members attended.

**Community Action Plan (CAP):**

* Karen confirmed that PKC employed a specialist coordinator to oversee the CAP data collection exercise.
* The relevant paperwork has been completed and filed.

**Councillors’ Reports:**

**Lorna:** She remains concerned about the open gate at Laggan Park. Gillian will raise that at the next Laggan Park Committee meeting. She continues to oversee operations within the library. She noted some further complications with White Church bookings.

**Karen:** No further updates

**Andrew:** Two Bridge End – No further developments. He will follow up with PKC Environmental Health on their progress in tackling the mouse infestation. He wants to relocate the Ward Memorial Bench to the Cemetery this year. He will follow up on this with the Flood Prevention staff.

**Terri:** She attended the latest PSA meeting at the school. They discussed the deteriorating conditions of the annexe huts. They are struggling to get funding for the council. She stressed that the Community Council should support the school in advocating for improvements. Gillian will speak with Rhona Brock about this.

**Gillian:** As Laggan Park is on community ground (as is the War Memorial Garden), the MUGA application has gone in under the Community Council. On behalf of the Community Council, Gillian passed our sincerest condolences to the Gairns family following the tragic passing of Nicola – her father and brother being former members. She also thanked the Flambeaux Committee and the Pipe Band for their efforts on Hogmanay.

**AOCB:**

* Lorna is concerned about the continuation of firework displays – the noise causes distress to humans and animals. She proposed that silent fireworks or light displays replace traditional fireworks.
* A member of the public has contacted the Community Council about the new owner's thinning and felling of trees in Cowden Wood. The site contains indigenous conifers as well as other protected species. He is concerned that the Community Council has received scant correspondence from the Forestry Commission (FC) about felling licence applications, as they only allow a twenty-eight-day window for public consultation. There will be more in due course, and the community needs to know, including Oxygen Conservation rewilding at Invergeldie. Andrew added that he had since signed up for updates from the FC, recently getting one regarding the proposed felling on Drummond Estate. Andrew and Andrew will correspond on how to keep the public informed.

**DONM: Thursday 14th March, 7 pm, The Royal Hotel**

**Action Points:**

1. Gillian and Terri will visit Laggan Park to choose a location for the memorial bench.
2. Andrew will email the landowner about damage to the right-of-way.
3. Gillian will raise the open gate at the next Laggan Park Committee meeting.
4. Andrew will follow up with PKC Environmental Health about the mouse infestation in 2 Bridgend.
5. Andrew will contact the Flood Prevention Team about relocating the Ward Memorial bench.
6. Gillian will speak to Rhona Brock about the Community Council supporting structural upgrades to the school.