



## **Comrie Community Council – Minutes of Meeting**

**Thursday, March 14, The Royal Hotel, 7 pm**

Councillors in Attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair), Karen Donaldson (Vice-Chair), Lindsay Brown (Treasurer), Rosemary Mitchell, Lorna Ramsay, Andrew Scobie (Secretary)

Elected representatives in attendance: Bailie Rhona Brock, Councillor Stewart Donaldson,

Members of the public in attendance: Alison Henry, David Robertson, Patricia Robertson – Christmas Lights Committee, Ian Wilcock – White Church Committee, Jen Newall, six anonymous

Apologies: Terri Bacon, Councillor Noah Khogali,

### **Previous Minutes:**

- Minutes proposed by Karen seconded by Gillian.

### **Matters Arising**

- None

### **Action Points:**

- PKC and ward councillors have approached the farmer at Cultybraggan about damage to the path.
- Andrew has emailed PKC Environmental Health about the mouse infestation at 2 Bridgend.
- Andrew has contacted the Flood Prevention Team about moving the Ward Memorial Bench from the south riverbank to Comrie Cemetery.

### **Commanders Bulletin:**

- Police Scotland delivered no bulletin at the meeting.

- A resident reported that a group of teenagers stalked her daughter. They called 111 but found the service unhelpful.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- There are no significant changes on the Admin account.
- £1000 donation for a new roof appeal for the White Church.
- Lindsay will close the Hayride account, which has 30p interest.
- £840 went out of Christmas lights to pay for the erection of lights.

### **Road Matters:**

- By 2025, the 20mph speed limit should be throughout Comrie. Plans are in place to make South Crieff Road 40mph.
- A blocked drain at the Post Office has been reported.
- The Cameron Court and Field of Refuge potholes have been fixed.
- The roads group in the council are due to meet soon.
- Davie Robertson highlighted that Dalchonzie Road is deplorable and is affecting local access. Rhona will inform the roads team.

### **Secretary's relevant**

- Nothing of relevance.

### **King's Portrait:**

- In January, the Lord Lieutenant's office offered us a portrait of Charles III.
- The Community Council agreed that Andrew would acquire a portrait, and we would choose a location in due course and invite someone to unveil it.

### **White Church update:**

- Ian Wilcock – White Church Chair, issued a thank you letter for the donation. They are still waiting on an estimate for the roof repairs

- The White Church has started a newsletter. Hard and digital copies will be available.
- They will consider a portrait of Charles III at their meeting next week.

### **Christmas Lights:**

- Davie Robertson, the chair, asked for clarity on the Christmas lights.
- Gillian confirmed that the Christmas Lights Committee is no longer a subcommittee of the Community Council. This change was made for insurance reasons. Christine Grant confirmed this. We are required to give the Christmas Lights Committee cheques. If cheques are not accepted, we will give cash.
- Karen added that the Community Council minuted at the November 2022 meeting that we can only hold their money until they get a bank account. Currently, the Community Council needs a representative on the Christmas Lights Committee.
- In attendance, members of the Christmas Lights Committee quoted minutes from 2017 verifying the former's status as a subcommittee of the Community Council.
- Karen will pass on Christine Grant's email to the Christmas Lights Committee.
- Gillian reiterated that the Twinning Committee has a bank account. Davie replied that the former opted for this, while the Christmas Lights Committee has not.
- They need to prepare to be a separate committee. Gillian and Karen will escalate this with PKC.
- They queried the public liability insurance and why we hold it for Laggan Park. Gillian reiterated that they have their own insurance. We have liability for the Skate Park as agreed by the vote.
- Patricia confirmed that the Christmas Lights Committee has public liability insurance.
- Gillian added that the Community Council had to surrender the Hayride based on insurance.
- It was minuted in November 2022 that Diane had volunteered to sit on the Christmas Lights Committee and that Lindsay was happy to look after the money. This was changed on advice from PKC.

- There appears to be conflicting information from PKC.
- Lindsay and Lorna suggested that we approach Christine Grant again for clarity. Stewart and Rhona agreed that Christine should be approached again.
- There is £7040.53 in the account. The monies will be passed on to the Christmas Lights Committee.
- Davie requested that the following be minuted: If no lights go up in December, it is down to the Community Council.
- Lorna proposed that we disband the Christmas Lights Committee and set up a new one with a bank account. The members in attendance agreed.
- Stewart added that the Community Council cannot be a registered charity. The Christmas Lights Committee is not registered as a charity with OSCAR. Stewart added that if it was it would be eligible for the affiliated benefits of charitable status. Patricia thinks that the Christmas Lights Committee has a registered charity number. She will share this with Lindsay.
- Patricia is concerned about the Christmas Lights Committee's existing fundraising status. Gillian added that they are allowed to fundraise.

#### **Legion Park:**

- Gillian and Lorna will collect the book box and sort out Andrew's memorial bench.
- Funding granted from last year's budget will be available in the new financial year. The architect will visit the site on March 22.
- Wildfire Pizza is looking to establish a pop-up pizza shop in the Legion. Pending he gets the appropriate licensing, we have no objections.

#### **Right of Way:**

- The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) published a report by the owners of Ruchillbank to support their planning application to PKC. A member of the public quoted extracts.

- The planning officers will likely approve the application for the new building at Ruchillside, Cultybraggan. It will then go to the next stage. This is not authorisation for construction to go ahead. As a ward councillor, Stewart can ask questions at the committee and speak for five minutes but cannot vote. Stewart will read the report.
- A member of the public raised potential caveats within the planning application. They need clarification as to why the planning department is looking to accept this. Stewart is happy to discuss this further.
- They enquired if PKC Greenspace had requested a report as the site is not brownfield.
- Stewart shared an update from Calum Bachell regarding the gate and barbed wire. He is compiling a case to take enforcement action for non-compliance.
- The planning meeting is open to the public. We will confirm the time and place.
- Stewart will ask if we can do an on-site visit.
- Lindsay proposed that we bring forward the next Community Council Meeting to April 4 so there is an opportunity for discussion before the PKC planning meeting.

#### **Low Carbon Wind Farm:**

- Lindsay shared an update from Sam Greer. An Environmental Impact Assessment Team has been appointed.
- There will be opportunities for public contributions, including objections further down the line.
- There will be another exhibition/public consultation in Autumn this year.
- Oxygen Conservation is also running an exhibition of its woodland creation. It has corresponded with the Comrie Development Trust.
- Lindsay proposed that we contact St Fillians and Crieff for joint work.

#### **Community Action Plan:**

- Karen is awaiting further details on Scottish Government Funding for the Community Action Plan.
- A member of the public asked how they could get involved. Karen replied that once funding has been allocated, they can start formal recruitment.

### **Councillor's Reports:**

**Karen:** The puddle on Duke's Road is still causing problems, including people being soaked by cars driving through it. Gillian will raise this again with PKC. The debris from the Dalginross rookery is a health and safety risk.

**Andrew:** Andrew is still trying to move things forward on 2 Bridgend. He is joining a webinar next week on empty properties and keeping an eye on the cemetery. As part of its headstone stabilisation programme, PKC is partially burying headstones, but this has yet to take place in Comrie. Gillian asked if PKC lifted wreaths from graves. Rhona and Stewart replied that they did not.

**Lorna:** Nothing specific.

**Stewart:** Stewart recently visited Cultybraggan (see Lindsay's update). He remains interested. He is due to meet with Andrew Donaldson from Comrie Croft about affordable housing. Stewart provided further details on the Flood Prevention Scheme. Balfour Beattie is re-submitting their tender, and the Scottish Government is contributing to the costs.

**Rhona:** At the budget two weeks ago, £20,000 was awarded to keep the Comrie Library open for another year. Other venues are being considered, such as the school, White Church, etc. This involves the five rural libraries, including Comrie and Birnam.

**Rosemary:** She asked if Gillian raised the Barrack/Strowan Road junction issue again.

**Lindsay:** Four new CDT directors have been appointed. He is hopeful that improvements will be forthcoming. Gillian added that there should be more transparency regarding the CDT activities, which would nurture better relations. Lindsay agreed that this was something that both parties could pursue. A question was raised regarding rumours that the CDT had sold

land to it's chairman. Lindsay confirmed that this was incorrect, the land had been purchased from Cultybraggan Farm.

**Gillian:** She proposed that we re-examine the monthly meetings. We should not take February off. We will take January off and think about the rest. Gillian passed on her condolences to the family of former community councillor Ian McLellan.

**AOCB:**

- Davie asked if we are still having regular litter-picking sessions. Gillian is keen for the Community Council to get involved; we have Pickers et al. in our care. Gillian will follow this up.
- Lorna asked about the timber harvesting at Glasscorrie. Lindsay replied that things seemed to be under control. Andrew is sharing updates from Tilhill on the Community Council Facebook page.
- Jen Newall wants to run some 'sense-making sessions' regarding community issues. This is a voluntary remit. She asked if the Community Council would be interested in co-working. Lorna expressed concern as we already have the Community Council for this task. Jen emphasised that she is not looking to create any divisions. Lindsay is happy to share this on the Comrie Community Website.
- Jen added that the scaffolding erection has blocked off the lane behind the Post Office. PKC has provided no details, and the residents would like some further information. Rhona advised her to contact the planning officer.
- Jen shared posters regarding an upcoming 'TreeStory' session covered by Oxygen Conservation. This needs to be a proper community consultation. She asked if we could take this forward as a Community Council. The Community Council agreed that we would. As secretary, Andrew will look into this. Jen is happy to run one of her sessions about this issue.

**DONM: Thursday, April 4, 7 pm, The Royal Hotel**

### **Action Points:**

1. Andrew will request a portrait of the King from PKC.
2. Karen will share Christine Grant's contact details with Davie Robertson.
3. Gillian and Karen to update PKC on the status of the Christmas Lights Committee.
4. Monies in the Christmas Lights Committee bank account are to be passed to committee members.
5. Patricia Robertson will share the Christmas Lights Committee charity number with Lindsay.
6. Stewart will formally confirm the time and place of the planning committee meeting where Ruchillside will be discussed.
7. Gillian is to report the Duke's Road puddle, the condition of Dalchonzie Road, and the Barrack/Strowan Road junction to PKC.
8. Gillian will follow up on future Community Council litter-picking sessions.
9. Lindsay will share Jen Newall's 'making sense sessions' details on the Comrie website.