



Comrie Community Council Meeting

Thursday 4th April, 7 pm, The Royal Hotel

Community Councillors in Attendance: Gillian Brock (Chair), Terri Bacon, Lindsay Brown (Treasurer), Karen Donaldson (Vice Chair), Diane Kaye, Lorna Ramsay, Andrew Scobie (Secretary)

Elected Representatives in attendance: Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Cllr Noah Khogali

Colin Crawford – Comrie Development Trust (CDT), Simon Mair - Comrie Primary School Parents and Friends Association (PFA).

Members of the public in attendance: Nine

Apologies: Cllr Rhona Brock, Rosemary Mitchell

Previous Minutes:

- Lindsay proposed the minutes, and Karen seconded.

Action Points:

- Andrew has ordered the King's portrait.
- Gillian has shared Christine Grant's contact details with Davie Robertson.
- Gillian and Karen have updated PKC on the status of the Christmas Lights Committee.
- Gillian has reported the Duke's Road puddle to PKC.
- Andrew is still engaging with the community over the consultation for Invergeldie.
- Lindsay still has to share details of sessions run by Jen.

Commanders Bulletin:

- No report.
- There was a break-in on School Road.

- Gillian is concerned that Police Scotland is not returning crime reports to the village.

Relevant Planning Applications:

- Andrew provided details of a proposed housing development at Fordie that has been approved—details are available on the PKC planning website.
- Other than the above, there is nothing else worth discussing.

Treasurer's Report:

- As usual, Lindsay shared the monthly report with fellow councillors before the meeting.
- The admin account has paid for the printer ink.
- Lindsay has paid the auditor's fees.
- We are receiving annual subscriptions from businesses advertising on the website.
- We have paid PKC to remove the Christmas lights – Lindsay rectified an underpayment.

Road Matters:

- Gillian has provided a list to take to the PKC quarterly transport meeting.
- We remain determined to get speedbumps fitted on Strowan Road.
- Gillian has reported the large puddle outside the Post Office to Stewart Dahl at PKC.
- Karen raised the issue of tyres abandoned on roadsides. Gillian has reported to the relevant authorities.

Secretary's relevant correspondence and update:

- Andrew is working through a planning application for the installation of the Community Council noticeboard on Bridge Street.

Comrie Development Trust:

- Colin Crawford – the funding consultant for the CDT, seeks to consult the community on developments at Cultybraggan Camp.
- Colin is seeking funding sources, including Levelling Up monies from the UK Government and the Gannochy Trust to upgrade the facilities – he shared a list with the members.
- The CDT are keen for community groups to use the huts.
- Colin's ultimate goal is to restore financial stability to the CDT. Lindsay reinforced this point.
- Gillian remains concerned that there is a gap between the CDT and the rest of the village—an 'us and them' situation.
- Lindsay reiterated that copies of CDT meeting minutes are publicly available and can be accessed online. Paper copies are also in the library. Lorna suggested that the CDT publish periodic updates on the *Quair*.
- Colin emphasised that the above is why he attended tonight; transparency is fundamental.
- Colin will incorporate the museum at Cultybraggan into his plans for restoring financial stability.
- A new estate manager is in post at Cultybraggan.
- Gillian asked Colin if she could get his advice on the proposed Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Laggan Park. Colin is happy to help.
- A member of the public queried if the Steinmeier funding is still operational. The fund is still active.

King's Portrait:

- The portrait is due to arrive soon.
- The White Church has agreed to display the portrait. Andrew has approached other venues, including Rural Hall, who are also keen; others have not replied.
- The consensus is that the White Church will be the most appropriate location

as the community centre.

- A portrait of the late Queen in the White Church was donated by Carlton Place and displayed amongst other twinning artefacts.

- Andrew will inform the members when the portrait arrives.

The Shakey Bridge:

- Dave Stubbs contacted Gillian asking about the £5000 set aside for the Shakey Bridge.
- Terri reminded the group that due to project delays, the donor was happy for the monies to go elsewhere, and we chose the Legion Park.
- Terri will share this email correspondence.
- Lindsay will clarify the status of Shakey Bridge funding with Andy Clegg at PKC.

Core Path:

- Stewart recently emailed with an update.
- We need clarity on some developments, including a burn crossing.
- Funding from Sustrans may still be available once the path goes ahead.

Christmas Lights:

- Gillian read the following statement on behalf of the Community Council: *"Myself and Karen have spoken with PKC and have been given the minutes for 2017. There is no mention of a sub-committee affiliated with the Community Council, and nothing is minuted. In March 2023, the Community Council minuted that the Christmas Lights Committee was no longer a sub-committee. At that point, we were unaware that you were not officially a sub-committee. We have also confirmed that Comrie Community Council does not have charitable status, so even if you were a sub-committee, you would not have a charitable status for the Christmas Lights. Since you now have your public liability insurance, it makes sense that you also have your own bank account. We, the Comrie Community Council, stand by our decision in March 2023. We feel holding our own money and*

having charitable status would be more beneficial to you. We have the full backing of PKC”.

- Two members of the Christmas Lights Committee attended the meeting and provided their statement.
- This statement was followed by an exchange between both groups regarding the rationale for the 2023 decision and whether it was formally codified in the first place.
- Terri asked if the Christmas Lights Committee would get their own bank account. The reply was "no".
- They responded, *"We don't want the responsibility" when asked why.*
- The Community Councillors took another vote on whether or not we should continue to hold the Christmas Light Committee's money—the vote was unanimously in favour of no.
- PKC has sent an outstanding bill to the Christmas Lights Committee. Lindsay apologised that this was overlooked and will pay it immediately. He maintained that this (among other reasons) is why the Christmas Lights Committee should have complete control over the finances.
- Diane added that she is happy to remain a liaison between the Community Council and the Christmas Lights Committee.

Legion Park:

- Terri has met with PKC Greenspace. Terri has met the architect assigned to the project.
- They are getting £90000 from the Scottish Government and £50000 from PKC as part of the 2024/25 budget. These monies should be sufficient to replace equipment.
- Terri has been signposted to funding consultants in PKC to advise on future funding applications.
- Proposals for a perimeter path around the park are currently
- being processed.
- The architect has advised Terri to place benches only after the plans are complete.
- Andrew asked if the memorial bench for Andrew Edington would be installed discreetly or if there would be a ceremony. He wondered, as

another young person recently took their own life in Perth, an event may be an opportunity to raise awareness of mental health issues, especially among young people. Terri replied that this will depend on what the family wants.

Right of Way:

- On Wednesday, 10th April, the planning application for the new dwelling at Ruchillside will go before the PKC Planning Committee. The community lodged more than six objections against it. Those in attendance will strive to be there but are unsure where it is taking place.
- Stewart confirmed this will occur in the Council Chambers on 2 High Street.
- The planning officers recommend that the application be approved on the grounds that the site is deemed 'brownfield' by the Scottish Government as agricultural buildings were previously on the site.
- Attendees expressed concern that the farmer exploits the uncertainty surrounding the new categorisation of 'green' and 'brown' field sites.
- Rosemary Mitchell met with Jim Fairlie to discuss the issue. Gillian submitted further information to his aide, Michael Ironside.
- Altercation reports are still going to Calum Bachell at PKC Greenspace.
- Andrew acknowledged that a member of the public who could not attend tonight's meeting shared some written accounts of disagreeable encounters with the farmer. Andrew forwarded these to Calum. Andrew suggested that Police Scotland remain in the loop.
- Stewart will attend the planning committee meeting and ask the convener if he can speak for five minutes.
- Andrew works in Perth and will strive to be in attendance when this goes before the committee.
- A resident raised ongoing health and safety concerns with the erosion of the core path and the erection of barbed wire fences. Some of his fences have double-barbed wire.
- A resident is concerned that the site of the Roman Fort may have been ploughed against Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Regulations.

Low Cardon Wind Farm:

- Lorna attended the consultation event, deeming it little more than a public relations exercise. Those representing the group were very friendly but knew very little.
- Lorna remains concerned that Oxygen Conservation is ultimately pursuing a venture capitalist agenda.

Community Action Plan:

- Karen is still waiting for the funding to come through.

Update from Comrie Primary School PFA:

- Simon has recently taken over as chair of the PFA. He is looking for the Community Council's support on some proposals for the school.
- Numerous upgrades have taken place on the school estate.
- The school building is in relatively good condition. However, there are problems. The dining hall has no central heating, and the fabric is deteriorating. Some classes are eating lunch and attending assemblies in the classrooms.
- Simon is confident that repairs and updates would be relatively inexpensive.
- Gillian added that the school will use the MUGA once it is ready.
- The next PFA meeting will be on 17th April.
- The Community Council is happy to support the PFA in their project.
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Councillors Reports:

Terri: – Simon spoke on Terri's behalf.

Diane: – Diane raised the issue of items on the community noticeboard on Bridge Street being out of date. She wondered if she could add a notice requesting that items stay for a maximum of two weeks. We will also put a message on the Facebook page.

Andrew: – A resident reported dog fouling in the South Crieff Road New Cemetery on Facebook. Andrew has approached PKC Bereavement Services about this. Martine has contacted Andrew about the Ward Memorial bench. Once the flood prevention work commences, both parties will arrange to relocate it to South Crieff Road Old Cemetery. PKC has provided an update on 2 Bridgend. The empty homes officer has corresponded with the owners in Australia; they want to return to restore the property but are struggling to travel. PKC Environmental Services is working with the neighbours to address the mouse infestation. Simon, who also lives next to the house, highlighted that roof slates and masonry are falling off the house, putting his children at risk. Further deterioration is also visible. Andrew will send another update to PKC.

Noah: - No update

Lindsay: - No update

Stewart: Heartland FM will replace Radio Earn starting Monday. Stewart will check the geographical scope of this station. A video about Comrie at War is in the new Perth Museum.

Lorna: - Lorna continues to work on promoting the library.

Gillian: - A sign for the Skatepark warning those about cricket is in place. A statement will also be published on the Facebook page encouraging people to refrain from using the Skatepark during cricket games but not officially prohibiting them from doing so.

AOCB:

- Lorna and Gill have written a letter on behalf of the Community Council to secure funding to repair paths.
- A public member reiterated that Oxygen Conservation should extend the consultation for Invergeldie

DONM: Thursday 9th May at 7 pm.

Action Points:

1. Andrew will inform CC members when the King's Portrait arrives.
2. Terri to share emails regarding Shakey Bridge monies directed to Legion Park.
3. Lindsay to clarify the funding status for the Shakey Bridge with Andy Clegg at PKC.
4. Lindsay is to pay the outstanding bill sent to the Christmas Lights Committee.
5. Andrew will provide further updates to PKC on 2 Bridgend.

APPROVED