



Comrie Community Council Meeting

Thursday 13th June, 7 pm The Royal Hotel

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

Elected Representatives: Ballie Rhona Brock, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Cllr Noah Khogali

Members of the Public: x 30

Apologies: Rosemary Mitchell

Previous Minutes:

- Rhona queried a vote taken last month after the recording stopped. Gillian replied, stating that PKC advised us to add it to the minutes of this meeting. Gillian thanked Rhona for her vigilance to the community council's proceedings. Details of this vote will be minuted later (see Christmas Lights).
- Karen proposed the minutes, and Lorna seconded them.

Action Points:

- Karen has contacted PKC about abandoned tyres.
- Gillian has reported the malfunctioning lamp.
- The King's Portrait is in the White Church but still to be displayed.
- Lorna is still engaging with Joyce Carnegie regarding damage to the Millennium Path.
- Gillian is still challenging the standing charge against Laggan Park.
- Andrew has received conflicting information from PKC about applying for the Community Council Noticeboard.

Commanders Bulletin:

- No bulletin was received before the meeting.

- Gillian has spoken to Police Scotland about the break-in at Laggan Park
- Lorna remains concerned about the open gate at Laggan Park next to Skate Park.

Relevant Planning Applications:

- Fencing work is taking place at Tomperran, west of Lawers.
- Excluding the above, just the sundry extensions, new windows, etc.

Treasurer's Report:

- Lindsay circulated copies before the meeting.
- The request to close the Hayride Account will need to be re-submitted.
- We have had over £1500 income from business listings.

Road Matters:

- The lines have been painted. Residents are concerned about the lack of on-site parking and frequent ticketing – the double-yellow lines have been extended. Gillian is engaging with the appropriate bodies about this.
- Gillian suggested widening the pavement at the Drummond/Bridge Street Junction. She is waiting to hear back from PKC about this.
- She has asked again for chevrons to be installed on the A85 east of the village.
- A resident asked why we do not have a proper crossing. Gillian replied that we had raised this, but Transport Scotland refused. Gillian is willing to try again.
- Another noted the loss of parking spaces on Drummond Street and asked how many. The Community Council will look into this.
- East Drummond Street continues to flood when the rain is heavy.
- Drain cavities on the B827 are getting bigger and potentially dangerous.

Secretary's Relevant Correspondence and Update:

- A resident approached Andrew after the last minutes were published, asking if an error could be corrected regarding the ploughing of the Roman Camp Fields. Andrew made this correction.
- The Secretary received an official complaint letter from a resident regarding the conduct of the Community Council chair. PKC and ward councillors were copied in. The complaint will be discussed, and a response will be issued within twenty-eight days.

The Shakey Bridge:

- Work started on June 10th. It should be finished by the end of next month.
- A resident highlighted a lack of signage at the sight. Stewart will follow this up.

Legion Park:

- The public consultation on the plans will take place in August.
- The book storage unit is still at Terri's house.
- Terri has spoken to Anna Howat about Andrew's bench.
- A bench for George Watt, who bought the land as a park, will be added.
- Rhona congratulated the Legion Park Committee on their hard work and progress.
- The plans will be available to the public in due course.

Right of Way and Land Access Issues:

- Gillian still corresponds with Calum Bachell at PKC regarding Ruchillside. She reiterated that there is little the Community Council can do now. It is in the hands of PKC. Incidents of harassment should be reported to PKC.

- Andrew walked the path recently. The barbed wire fencing has been extended. Vegetation has been cut back to move the path away from the eroding river bank.

James Hutton Research Meeting:

- Andrew and Lorna attended this meeting in the White Church two weeks ago and reported back.

Low Carbon Wind Farm:

- Lorna continues to pursue Low Carbon and Tree Story for a proper public consultation.
- Progress has been made, but there is still a long way to go.

Flood Protection:

- Stewart hopes the tender will be awarded on July 8th. The forecasted start date is August 19th. Work will last until 2026.
- Staff gaps have been filled.
- It will be a difficult time during the construction. However, the long-term benefits will make it worthwhile.

Comrie Development Trust:

- Mark Temple has assumed the role of chair.
- Lindsay stated that further filming sessions for *Outlander* will take place soon.

Community Action Plan:

- Karen is still waiting for an update on funding. James Gardener will look into this for Karen.

Councillor's Reports:

Gillian- Laggan Park is having a fun day to raise funds. Gillian will advertise this soon.

Karen- No further updates.

Noah – Noah continues to support Gillian on road matters.

Andrew – A resident has expressed concern about the disused phone box at Blairinroar. We will look into this. Andrew is concerned about an abundance of Japanese knotweed on the riverbanks. Andrew walked up Baird's Monument today. Fallen trees continue to obscure the paths. Andrew will report both these matters to Greenspace.

Stewart—The Comrie to Trowan Core Path saga is still ongoing. Stewart continues to engage with Andy Clegg about this. Local Energy Scotland and the 9CC Group from South East Ayrshire will run a meeting in St. Fillans on the 20th about wind farms and community benefits. Stewart will attend. Funding is available for local resilience groups.

Terri – No further updates.

Lindsay – No further updates.

Lorna – No further updates.

Rhona – No further updates.

Christmas Lights:

- Karen introduced James Gardener and Karen Evans, who outlined their roles and remits.
- Karen verified that PKC does not have any authority over Community Councils. Complaints are forwarded to Community Councils, which deal with them. This is codified in the Scheme of Establishment (SoE) for Community Councils. They are unable to withdraw memberships.
- An attendee queried who the Community Council is accountable to. James replied that the Community Council is self-accountable as part of the SoE. It was noted that there has not been an entire election, as this is only required when more people come forward

and are needed. Otherwise, sitting members can continue. An 'election' took place last year. Spaces were advertised, but nobody else came forward, hence the current membership.

- A public member has collected over three hundred signatures (358) asking the Community Council to reconsider their decision to discontinue holding the Christmas Lights Bank account. These were presented to the secretary, as was a letter requesting a public meeting to discuss the issue. They asked directly if the Community Council would reconsider the decision.
- Both sides acknowledged miscommunication regarding responsibility for bank accounts and insurance. The Community Council's insurance does not cover Christmas lights. The Christmas Lights bank account is not protected in its current state. By becoming an independent committee, the bank account would have complete protection, and the group would be eligible for grants, etc. PKC are willing to support them in this transition.
- A member of the public raised 'Special Event Insurance'. The Community Council previously got this for the Hayride. Again, this does not cover Christmas Lights.
- It is unclear who *owns* the lights. In 2014, the Community Council took *custodianship* of the lights, which differs from ownership.
- A communication breakdown between both parties (the Community Council and Christmas Lights Committee) was acknowledged, which had adverse consequences.
- In April, the Community Council voted unanimously that they did not wish to hold the Christmas Light Committee's bank account. A second vote was held after the second meeting at the request of members whom concerned residents had approached. This time, members voted five to four against keeping the bank account.

A recess was called here, during which James, Karen and Ward Councillors examined the Standing Orders on subcommittees.

- A second vote was called on continuing the lights temporarily to allow the Christmas Lights Committee to transition to an independent committee.
- The vote was anonymous, with James acting as a teller.

- Four are in favour of yes, two are of no, and one abstention. Further details will be agreed at a meeting. The Secretary will arrange this meeting. It will take place in the White Church.

AOCB:

- None

Action Points:

1. The Community Council will look into lost parking spaces on Drummond Street.
2. Stewart to follow up on the lack of signage at the Shakey Bridge.
3. James will chase up PKC for Community Action Plan funding.
4. Andrew will contact PKC about Japanese knotweed and Baird's Monument paths.
5. Andrew will arrange a special meeting to discuss the future of Christmas Lights with the Community Council and the Christmas Lights Committee.