



## **Comrie Community Council Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> July, Minutes**

### **The White Church, 7 pm**

In Attendance: Karen Donaldson (Acting Chair), Lindsay Brown (Treasurer), Andrew Scobie (Secretary), Terri Bacon, Diane Kaye

Elected Representatives present: Ballie Rhona Brock, Cllr Stewart Donaldson

Apologies: Rosemary Mitchell, Cllr Noah Khogali

Members of the public present: Sixteen

### **Minutes from the last Meeting:**

- The Community Council are monitoring the ongoing parking issues on Drummond Street brought about by the new road markings. A resident raised concerns about an aggressive parking enforcement campaign; residents and businesses are very worried. The Community Council will monitor the situation. Ballie Brock added that she has enquired about the possible parking permits for residents. Currently, these are not available for streets on the A85. The previous chair was our lead correspondent between the Community Council and transport authorities. We are looking to pick up from where they left off regarding correspondence.
- Stewart highlighted that progress is being made on the Shakey Bridge. A resident has spoken to Atholl Curtis at PKC about signage.
- As agreed, Andrew organised a special meeting on Thursday, June 27th, to discuss the future of the Christmas Lights.
- Andrew still needs to contact PKC Greenspace about the excess growth of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam on Earn's banks.
- Karen proposed the minutes, and Terri Bacon seconded.

### **Office Bearer Appointments:**

- Karen Donaldson, acting chair, formally confirmed Gillian Brock's resignation as chair of Comrie Community Council. She paid tribute to the outgoing chair and thanked her for years of service.
- Karen also acknowledged Lorna Ramsay's resignation from the Community Council. On behalf of the Community Council, she thanked Lorna for her time and effort and wished her the best for the future.
- Lindsay Brown nominated Karen as the new chair of Comrie Community Council. Terri seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Karen was officially appointed as chair of the Comrie Community Council.
- Two public members in attendance have submitted forms to PKC to join the Community Council. We are still waiting to hear back from PKC.

### **Administrative Matters:**

- Andrew proposed that we return to the White Church permanently for Community Council meetings. Lindsay suggested an amendment, specifically that we use an appropriate 'community venue' for meetings should the White Church not be available. This amendment was accepted. On behalf of the Community Council, Andrew thanked The Royal Hotel for all their hospitality.
- Since the last meeting, PKC has confirmed that we cannot share meeting recordings, as it breaches data protection regulations. The meetings are recorded solely for minute-taking and deleted afterwards.
- Following Lorna's resignation, we need a replacement signatory for the bank account. Terri offered and was accepted.

### **Office Bearers Reports:**

- Lindsay shared the latest accounts before the meeting. The admin account is in good condition. We closed the Hayride Account on the second attempt. The Christmas Lights Account remains healthy.

- A member asked whether the monthly accounts were published. Lindsay confirmed that they are not currently, but he is open to the possibility of doing so.
- As Lorna resigned, Andrew corresponded with Joyce Carnegie regarding the Millennium Path. Her letter was shared with the councillors.
- Karen has spoken with the Christmas Lights Committee following the June 27th meeting. We will arrange a meeting with them to formalise the terms of the arrangement we agreed on.

### **Relevant Planning Applications:**

- Nothing noteworthy this month, just sundry requests for extensions, new windows, etc.

### **Road Matters:**

- Karen reiterated that we are trying to pick up from where Gillian left off with the road matters.
- A resident has brought speeding on the A85 and the Langside to our attention. The Community Council are engaging with PKC and BEAR to consider potential solutions.
- The Community Council will seek to reaffirm their relations with the local police.

### **Rights of Way:**

- A resident acknowledged that it has been a year since the Community Council first engaged with PKC Greenspace about a new landowner blocking paths at Ruchillside. A year on, the situation is essentially unchanged. We continue to engage with Greenspace over this matter.
- Sadly, similar ongoing issues at Cultybraggan are attributed to the piecemeal farmland sale. Greenpeace is aware of these, but progress has not been forthcoming.

- Stewart has recently visited Cultybraggan to inspect the developments, especially the erection of barbed-wire fencing.
- Lindsay is prepared to take the lead on this issue on behalf of the Community Council.

### **Invergeldie:**

- Andrew has been liaising with Elanor Teel from Tree Story since Lorna stepped down. He is happy to continue with this.
- We are at a critical stage in negotiations with Tree Story and Oxygen Conservation.
- Andrew attended a meeting in St Fillans on the community benefit of wind farms. Neighbouring community councils are keen to work together to ensure the maximum benefits from wind farm developments.
- Andrew circulated the latest newsletter from Tree Story.
- Tree Story is having another public meeting in the White Church on August 21<sup>st</sup>. They would like a pre-meeting with the Community Council and the Comrie Development Trust (CDT) to formalise the agenda.
- Oxygen Conservation has been conducting its own environmental surveys. Those with existing knowledge of the area have questioned the validity of the findings and are concerned about their practices.
- There have been some staffing changes in Oxygen Conservation. Stewart is looking to update his contact list.
- A public member urged us to treat Tree Story and Oxygen Conservation differently despite being part of the same company. The former has engaged proactively with the community and genuinely has our interests at heart.

## **Councillors Reports:**

- **Rhona** – No update.
- **Stewart** – Stewart an update on the Flood Prevention Scheme. The tender has been delayed, but he hopes everything will be agreed upon in the coming days. Construction work is likely to commence in September. The office of Jim Fairlie MSP is looking to set up a Community Transport Group along the same lines as Kinross-shire. Stewart has corresponded with the local fire station to establish a local resilience group.
- **Terri**—The Legion Park group will display their plans for the new park at the Comrie Fortnight Street Market. Further details will be available in August. Wildfire Pizza has started a pop-up pizza stand in the park on Fridays.
- **Diane** – No update.
- **Andrew** – Andrew has been contacted about the Community Council Noticeboard. He has been struggling to complete the planning application forms but will persevere. The board will be on Bridge Street next to the existing public noticeboard. The Handy Shop has the key to the current noticeboard. The new one will solely be for Community Council business. On behalf of the Community Council, Andrew thanked those who staffed the polling station in the White Church on Election Day last week. Joan Robertson has staffed the polling stations for over forty years.
- **Karen** – Karen has received an update about the Community Action Plan (CAP). PKC had appointed a consultant. Upon request from a public member, Karen (supported by Lindsay) provided some context on what CAP is and how it will work.
- **Lindsay** – No further updates.

## **AOCB:**

- Scottish Forestry has opened the consultation on the proposed development at Bogton Braes. The consultation closes at the end of July. As the Community Council is not meeting in August, we will contact Scottish Forestry to request an extension until the end of September so that any issues can be raised at the next meeting.

## Action Points:

1. The Community Council will monitor the parking situation on Drummond Street, including harsh enforcement of parking penalties.
2. Andrew will report the invasive plants on the Earn bank to PKC Greenspace.
3. The remaining community councillors will pick up where Gillian left off regarding road matters.
4. Lindsay will contact the bank to add Terri Bacon as a signatory for the Community Council.
5. Karen and the Christmas Lights Committee representatives will meet to formalise the agreement reached on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
6. Community Council to resume regular contact with Police Scotland to reaffirm connections.
7. Andrew will carry on with the planning application form for the Community Council noticeboard.
8. Andrew will write to Scottish Forestry and request that the consultation period for Bogton be extended until late September.