



¹Comrie Community Council Meeting Minutes

White Church, Thursday 12th September, 7 pm

In Attendance: Andrew Scobie (Acting Chair & Secretary), Lindsay Brown (Treasurer), Terri Bacon, Gavin Bissett (PKC), Fiona Connolly, Ross Fletcher (PKC).

Elected Representatives in Attendance: Ballie Rhona Brock, Cllr Stewart Donaldson.

Members of the Public in Attendance: x 4.

Apologies: Amy Fenwick, Diane Kaye, Cllr Noah Khogali.

Minutes from Last meeting:

- The Community Council has been monitoring the harsh parking enforcement in Drummond and connected streets. Pete Wishart MP and Jim Fairlie MSP will host a public meeting on September 16th.
- Andrew has reported the excessive growth of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam to PKC.
- The Community Councillors are working to catch up on where Gillian Brock left off regarding the road matters.
- Terri Bacon has been added as a signatory for the bank accounts.
- The Community Council still has to arrange a meeting with the Christmas Lights Committee to finalise the arrangements agreed on June 27th.
- Correspondence with Police Scotland still needs to be reaffirmed.
- Due to recent events, Andrew has not made further progress on the Community Council noticeboard.

¹ Minutes revised November 20th 2024

- Scottish Forestry was contacted to request an extension on the public consultation for Bogton. Unfortunately, this was not acknowledged.
- Lindsay proposed the minutes, and Terri seconded.

Appointment of new Chair, Committee Members and by-election:

- Karen Donaldson and Rosemary Mitchell have resigned from Comrie Community Council, bringing us below the required quorum of five members. Andrew paid tribute to Karen and Rosemary, thanking them for their efforts and wishing them every success.
- Andrew is prepared to take on the chair following Karen's resignation. Lindsay proposed, and Terri seconded the nomination.
- Registration forms have been received from Fiona Connolly and Amy Fenwick. Both were co-opted into the Comrie Community Council.
- There are still spaces to fill. A by-election will be held in November to coincide with East Strathearn Community Council. Ballie Rhona Brock provided some further details.

Office Bearer Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report:** £69 has left the admin account to pay for venue hire and the D-Day wreath. We will get a top-up on the admin account as we are nearing the end of the Community Council financial year. Lindsay is preparing a statement of accounts for the auditors. He plans to do this before the AGM in October.
- **Secretary's Report:** Andrew has corresponded with Laggan Park regarding the planning application for the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). We are looking to recruit a minute-taker for

future meetings. They will be paid for using the admin grant. They will advertise this post in due course. The Community Council has a new Facebook page. From Monday, the 16th, the *Comrie & District* Community Council Page will be the sole page. A resident has expressed concern about material published by PKC Greenspace. They were signposted to Greenspace and requested a correction. Andrew and Joyce Carnegie have been corresponding over the monies for the Millennium Footpath. We hope to have this resolved in due course.

Invergeldie:

- Members of the public in attendance who are involved with the proposed Invergeldie developments delivered an update.
- Following pressure from local organisations, Tree Story and Oxygen Conservation held another meeting in the White Church last month. Over one hundred residents attended.
- The Community is working to ensure we get the best deal from Oxygen Conservation's wind farm. There is a sense of unhappiness about how Oxygen Conservation has treated the community. On the other hand, Tree Story has engaged well with the community despite a difficult start.
- Following a June meeting attended by delegates from the Community Council and Comrie Development Trust (CDT), plans are in place for communities affected by wind farm construction to collaborate to get the best deal. This strategy is based on one employed in Ayrshire. The CDT is participating in a steering group that is open to new members from the community.
- Stewart Donaldson reiterated the need for collaborative working between communities affected by wind farm construction. He praised the speakers who attended the

meeting in June. He would like a similar meeting to take place in Comrie.

Relevant Planning Applications:

- There are no items of interest to the broader community.

Flood Prevention Scheme Update:

- Gavin Bisset and Ross Fletcher from PKC provided this update.
- The contract for the construction work has recently been awarded to Balfour Beatty.
- Contractors will be mobilising on-site shortly beside the Field of Refuge.
- Before Christmas, they will focus on areas around the Field of Refuge and Garry Place.
- The construction phase should last two years, concluding in October 2026.
- A drop-in session in the White Church will occur on Thursday, September 26th.
- Gavin shared a newsletter with the Secretary. Andrew disseminated it among the councillors and on the Facebook page. Lindsay would like it to go on the website.
- Fiona asked if representatives from the Flood Prevention Scheme would attend CC meetings. Gavin replied that they could not guarantee this but would do their utmost to be accessible to the community.
- A public member raised the matter of tree clearance at the Field of Refuge. The communication for previous clearances was poor.
- Another public member expressed concern that vegetation clearance may disperse Japanese Knotweed seeds, causing the

plants to grow downstream on the Earn bank. Andrew reiterated that PKC Greenspace reported this to the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI).

- Terri acknowledged that the annexation of the Field of Refuge Car Park will diminish available parking for the school runs.
- Rhona urged those in attendance to inform the Community Council and the Ward Councillors about local preferences for parking restrictions.
- Stewart is quietly confident that once the Flood Prevention is complete, vulnerable properties should access home insurance more easily.

Road Matters:

- Andrew reminded those attending the meeting that Pete Wishart's team will facilitate on Monday. Stewart added that representatives from PKC will not be in attendance. This meeting gathers residents' views on parking issues, principally on Drummond Street.
- An attendee asked if the speed bumps on Dalginross could be replaced as they consider them dangerous and ineffective. Another is worried about how close lorries pass on Bridge Street.
- Terri stated that a pedestrian crossing on Drummond Street had been raised but was refused by Transport Scotland.
- Lindsay highlighted that creating a Community Speed Watch group was discussed at previous meetings.
- Rhona took notes and will raise these at the forthcoming PKC Road Safety meeting.

Rights of Way:

- Lindsay shared an update from Callum Bachell at Greenspace on Ruchillside. The core path has been upgraded and repaired. The back entrance to Cultybraggan remains obscured. This matter remains ongoing.
- Stewart updated the meeting on the ongoing issue of the Comrie to Trowan core path.

Councillors Reports:

- **Rhona** – Rhona updated further details on the Community Council by-election in November.
- **Fiona**—Fiona recently met with representatives from Comrie in Colour to discuss how the Community Council can support their work in the future.
- **Terri** – The Legion Park consultation is open for another three days. The plans have been posted on the Legion Park notice board. They held a drop-in session last Monday in the White Church. The Bowling Club approached Terri to request signage at the top of Camp Road so it can be located more easily. A resident has also asked her about the twinning with Carlton Place. This appears to have fallen by the wayside recently. Rhona has also been asked about twinning, as PKC wants to reaffirm connections with Commonwealth Countries. Carlton Place residents continue to contact the Community Council with local queries. The open Laggan Park gate was raised again. Currently, our relationship with the Laggan Park Committee is unclear. Terri provided an update from the latest Parent and Friends Association (PFA) meeting. There is ongoing concern about the fabric of the school buildings and the potential health and safety risks posed. Rhona and Stewart are prepared to visit

the school and get further information from senior management.

- **Lindsay**—We have a proposal from Community Enterprise to compile the Community Action Plan (CAP). We will discuss the proposal with PKC. Since he took over the Community Website, he has worked with Sandra, who managed the Comrie Facebook page. Lindsay has tried to contact the new administrators but has not succeeded. Business listings were a revenue stream for the website. Sandra used to promote these. Lindsay would like this to continue. Lindsay would also like to expand the use of the website to other organisations, including the White Church committee.
- **Stewart** – Funding alerts from PKC have ceased. Stewart is unhappy about this as they were helpful for local groups. Stewart will share a questionnaire about the future of libraries with the Community Councillors. The deadline for response is September 25th. The forthcoming weekend is 'Doors Open Weekend'. Though not included in the official brochure, the MacIntosh building on Dunira Street is open.
- **Andrew** – Andrew still corresponds with PKC and Shelter Scotland about the derelict 2 Bridgend on North Dalginross.

AOCB:

- A resident expressed their support for continuing the library for music and arts.
- Poor broadband connectivity east of the village was raised. Stewart suggested that those affected contact constituency MSP Jim Fairlie, who has broadband in his ministerial portfolio.
- The next meeting is the AGM.

DONM: Thursday, October 10th, 7 pm, the White Church

Action Points:

- 1.** The Community Council will arrange a meeting with the Christmas Lights Committee to review arrangements made on June 27th.
- 2.** Lindsay will prepare a statement of accounts for the AGM.
- 3.** Andrew will share details that the Community Council wants to hire a minute taker.
- 4.** Rhona and Stewart will raise the safety issues raised at this meeting with PKC at the forthcoming road safety meeting.
- 5.** Stewart will investigate the status of funds for Comrie in Colour.

APPROVED