



Comrie & District Community Council Meeting

White Church, Thursday 10th October, 7 pm

In Attendance: Andrew Scobie (Chair), Lindsay Brown (Treasurer),
Fiona Connolly, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Amy Fenwick

Members of the Public x 40

Apologies: Terri Bacon, Baillie Rhona Brock

Annual General Meeting – Chaired by Cllr Stewart Donaldson:

Office bearer yearly reports:

- **Chair** - Andrew delivered the following report as chair:
This year, the position of Chairperson has changed three times. I want to thank my predecessors, Gillian Brock and Karen Donaldson, for their contributions and efforts to the Community Council, and I wish them every success in the future. I was formally appointed chair last month after holding the role on an interim basis since July. I cannot predict how long I will remain in this position; I will do my utmost to do it justice.
- **Secretary** – Andrew delivered the following report as secretary:
The secretary plays a central role in the Community Council's communication network. This year, they've been dealing with issues such as Invergeldie, right-of-way disputes, uncertainty over the Christmas Lights, harsh parking restrictions, and the possible library closure. I have continued as secretary since stepping into the chairperson role in July. I accept that it is not advisable to hold two roles. However, I will remain as secretary until we appoint a successor. I will seek assistance with administrative tasks, including minute-taking.

We are making sure that our communications reach as many people as possible. Paper copies of meeting minutes are available at the Post Office, Library, and White Church. In response to several requests, we have posted the dates of upcoming meetings on the Notice Boards at the Post Office and Bridge Street. Digital copies of minutes and other essential information are published on the Comrie Community website. On September 16th, we replaced the original Comrie Community Council Facebook page with the Comrie and District Community Council page. It's important to note that this page is meant to complement, not replace, our other communication channels. The secretary is the official data controller for the Community Council. I am pleased to report that no data breaches have been raised that require the attention of the Perth and Kinross Council.

- **Treasurer** – Lindsay delivered the treasurer's report – See Appendix.

Appointment of new Office Bearers:

- Lindsay proposed Andrew for the role of chair. Amy seconded this nomination.
- Andrew offered to remain as secretary until we can find a replacement. Amy proposed, and Fiona seconded.
- Andrew proposed Lindsay for treasurer. Amy seconded the nomination.

Community Council By-Election December 12th:

- A by-election will take place in Comrie and East Strathearn Community Councils on Thursday December 12th. Those interested should submit nomination papers by 4 pm on

Thursday, November 7th. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the PKC website.

- Diane Kaye has resigned from Comrie Community Council. Andrew thanked Diane for her service and wished her well for the future.

Community Council Meeting:

Minutes from the Last meeting:

- The Community Council still needs to meet with the Christmas Lights Committee to review the arrangements made on June 27th. Fiona has taken Diane's place as CC liaison and will contact them.
- The statement of accounts was delivered in the treasurer's report.
- The Community Council are still looking to recruit a minute clerk for future meetings.
- Stewart provided an update on the move to 20-mile-per-hour limits. BEAR Scotland has still to publish details on the trunk roads. Stewart wants Transport Scotland to confirm if they plan to use further variable speed limit signs.
- In response to the Comrie in Colour funding, Stewart noted that the PKC Funding Alerts have ceased. Fortunately, PKC will restart them. These are useful for signposting local organisations in need of funds.
- Lindsay moved to approve the minutes, and Amy seconded.

Office Bearer Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Lindsay provided an update on outgoings from the last month.
- It was agreed that we need to chase up the Laggan Park Committee for details of a recent invoice.
- Andrew continues to correspond with Joyce Carnegie regarding the monies for the Millenium Footpath. Lindsay noted that this arrived in the CC account in May 2020. The landowner did not authorise the path upgrade, and the money was unused. The funds came from a Crieff-based group. They went through the Millennium Footpath Group, which is a registered charity. An attendee confirmed that it was not their money.
- Attendees proposed using the money to restore the existing path or contribute to flood prevention work. Stewart added that Balfour Beatty, who is responsible for carrying out the flood defences, has a community fund. Funds for path restoration are also available from the Countryside Trust.
- Andrew asked the Community Council if they agreed to repatriate the funds. The Community Council is in favour of repatriating the money. However, after hearing from some other stakeholders in the audience, it was decided that we would add this matter to the next agenda and invite Joyce Carnegie.
- Fiona Connolly will replace Diane as our liaison on the Christmas Lights Committee.

Secretary's Report:

- Nothing to report on this occasion.

Relevant Planning Applications:

- The PKC Planning Department has published details of Laggan Park's proposed Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). The proposal is open for public comment and can be viewed on the PKC Planning website.

General Road Matters:

- None on this occasion.

Invergeldie:

- Tree Story is still publishing their newsletter. They have made some improvements to their rewilding strategy.
- Local discussions are underway with Oxygen Conservation on the community benefits from carbon credits. Future workshops and meetings are planned.
- Stewart and Rhona visited Invergeldie Lodge ten days ago to attend a presentation from Oxygen Conservation. They were also treated to a site visit to the proposed wind farm location. Oxygen Conservation will conduct computer modelling of the turbines, which will likely be presented at a future meeting.
- An attendee expressed concern about the access road's potential damage to the landscape. Stewart believes Oxygen Conservation is collaborating with SSE to share an access road for their Glen Tarken wind farm project.
- Concern was expressed that SSE has yet to consult with Comrie regarding the Glen Tarken development.

Footpaths and Rights of Way:

- An attendee is concerned about the structural integrity of the Lednock footbridge near Laggan Park. It is unclear who is responsible for maintaining the bridge. Andrew will try to ascertain who is responsible.
- Residents remain concerned that the open gate at Laggan Park will lead to an accident among the Skate Park users. Fiona added that the grass cutters use the gate.

Flood Prevention Scheme:

- A resident gathered some feedback on the recent drop-in session delivered by Balfour Beatty. While informative, the general impression was that further opportunities for consultation are needed. Fiona reiterated that Balfour Beatty pledged to provide regular updates at the last meeting. They will strive to attend future Community Council meetings where possible.

A85 Parking Restrictions:

- On September 16th, the offices of Pete Wishart MP and Constituency MSP Jim Fairlie held a public meeting to ascertain further information about the harsh traffic enforcement on Drummond Street. The report compiled from that meeting is available on the Comrie Community website. Paper copies are on the White Church and Post Office noticeboards and in the library.
- Amy contacted PKC Parking to ask if the Community Council could request a suspension of restrictions. This was refused because, despite other evidence to the contrary, Community

Councils allegedly do not have the power to request this. Jim Fairlie and Pete Wishart have also responded.

- Stewart shared an update from the Convener of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee. The Traffic Management Order has existed since 2011, perhaps even longer. The update indicated that enforcement has not increased since the markings were repainted. It also added that the Committee would be willing to amend restrictions if elected representatives requested.
- Those in attendance strongly disagreed with this interpretation, many expressing offence. The harsh enforcement persists. Local businesses have observed wardens noting registration numbers, then leaving the village, returning mere minutes before the parking time expires and issuing penalties.
- A local business owner in attendance read some recommendations, including parking permits for Drummond Street residents without off-street parking and extending the parking time limit from one to two hours.
- Attendees were divided over whether all restrictions should be lifted temporarily or permanently.
- Stewart and Rhona plan to speak with local businesses to ascertain how much they are affected by harsh parking restrictions.

Library Closure:

- Culture Perth and Kinross have announced that Comrie Library will close in April 2025.
- A Save Comrie Library group member read a statement. The decision to close the library was made in December 2023, but the community has only been told about it now. They seek clarification on the details from Cllr Stewart Donaldson, who is

on the board of Culture PKC. Furthermore, they asked if the Community Council would set up a public meeting to discuss the library closure in more detail.

- The Community Council is happy to set up a meeting and will seek to do so.
- Stewart outlined the potential alternative service delivery models after the library's closure. He also raised the possibility of an asset transfer to the community.
- A resident expressed dissatisfaction about not being able to locate the meeting minutes where the closure was agreed upon. Stewart confirmed that the minutes are available and that the recorded meetings are on the PKC YouTube channel.
- Attendees expressed mutual unhappiness at the transparency of the decision to close the library.
- An attendee confirmed that PKC does not own the library building; the Dundas Family of Comrie House gifted it to the village. This challenges the legitimacy of the closure.
- A representative from St. Serf's expressed concern that the library closure will adversely affect the church due to a mutual connection.

Councillors Reports:

- No reports were delivered at this meeting.

AOCB:

- The next meeting will take place at a different venue.

DONM: Thursday 14th November, 7 pm, venue TBC

Action Points:

1. The Community Council will meet with the Christmas Lights Committee. Fiona will take the lead on this.
2. Stewart will chase up BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland on their use of variable speed limit signs.
3. Andrew will add the Millennium Path monies to the agenda for the November meeting.
4. Andrew will find out who is responsible for the Lednock Foot Bridge.
5. The Community Council will organise a public meeting with representatives from Culture PKC to discuss the library closure.

APPROVED

COMRIE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st August 2024

<u>ADMIN ACCOUNT</u>	Sept 2023 - Aug 2024	Sept 2022 - Aug 2023
<u>Income</u>	£	£
Administrative grant	675.04	494.62
Interest received	5.14	1.42
Community Grants make up Balance		
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>680.18</u>	<u>496.04</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Publication of Minutes & Agendas	114.76	364.83
Room/Zoom Hire	30.00	0.00
Website Expenses	95.96	71.86
Examiners Fees	55.00	50.00
Telephone Calls		
Travel Expenses		
Other Exps. Remembrance Wreath	72.00	189.77
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>367.72</u>	<u>676.46</u>
Surplus / Deficit for period	312.46	-180.42
Balance brought forward 1st. Sept. 2021	24.96	205.38
Balance carried forward 31st August 2022	337.42	24.96
<u>Cash at Bank</u>		
Current account 00138162	<u>337.42</u>	<u>24.96</u>

Treasurer Lindsay Brown

Chairman Andrew Scobie

In conformity with the instructions given to me I have examined, without carrying out an audit, the annexed financial statements and found them to be in accord with the supporting informatic and explanations supplied to me by Comrie & District Community Council.

Signed Ian Wilcock MBA

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT

Income

Directory Subscriptions	1690.00	1525.00
Transfer from Flood Account		655.16
Transfer from Toilet Account		414.48
Transfer from Friends of the Square Account		0.74
Transfer from Hayride Account	2.12	
RBS Compensation		650.00
Skate Park Funds		

<u>Total Income</u>	<u>1,692.12</u>	<u>3,245.38</u>
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Expenditure

Donation - White Church Roof	1000.00	
Purchase of Memorial Table		
Flowers		71.00
Donations - Local Groups	1150.00	1200.00
Donation - Comrie Twinning Committee		500.00
Web/Facebook Maintenance/update		9.89
Gift	113.50	109.36
Coronation Street Party Expenses		584.71
Payment for Minutes and Preparation		
Skate Park Sign	175.62	500.00

<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>2,439.12</u>	<u>2,974.96</u>
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Surplus/Deficit	-747.00	270.42
Balance b/t forward 1st Sept 2021	17,222.46	18,452.04
Balance carried forward 31st August 2022	16,475.46	18,722.46

Cash at Bank

Current Account 00107535	16475.46	17222.46
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FLOOD ACCOUNT (Account Closed)

Income

Interest Received		
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3.17</u>

Expenditure

Transfer to Community Account		655.16
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>655.16</u>

Surplus/Deficit	0.00	-651.99
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Balance brought forward 1st September 2021	0.00	651.99
Balance carried forward 31st August 2022	0.00	0.00
<u>Cash at Bank</u>		
Current Account 00100629	0.00	0.00

HAYRIDE ACCOUNT (Account Closed)

<u>Income</u>		
Interest Received	2.12	
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>2.12</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Transfer to Community Account	2.12	
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>2.12</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Surplus/Deficit	0.00	0.00
Balance brought forward 1st September 2020	0.00	0.00
Balance carried forward 31st August 2021	0.00	0.00
<u>Cash at Bank</u>		
Current Account 00138189	0.00	0.00

PUBLIC TOILET ACCOUNT (Account Closed)

<u>Income</u>		
Interest Received	0.00	1.99
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1.99</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Transfer to Community Account		414.48
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>414.48</u>
Surplus/Deficit	0.00	-412.49
Balance brought forward 1st September 2020	0.00	412.49
Balance carried forward 31st August 2021	0.00	0.00
<u>Cash at Bank</u>		
Current Account 00138170	0.00	0.00

XMAS LIGHTS ACOOUNT

Income

White Church Christmas Lights Fair	934.94	1293.55
Public Donation		100.00

<u>Total Income</u>	<u>934.94</u>	<u>1393.55</u>
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Expenditure

Hall Hire		
Expenses/Gifts		
Public Liability Insurance	145.10	
Erection/Dismantling Lights	1188.00	900.00
Xmas Light /Tree Purchases		

<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>1333.10</u>	<u>900.00</u>
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Surplus/Deficit	-398.16	493.55
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Balance brought forward 1st September 2020	7880.53	7386.98
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Balance carried forward 31st August 2021	7482.37	7880.53
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Cash at Bank

Current Account 00107372	<u>7482.37</u>	<u>7386.98</u>
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