



## Comrie & District Community Council Meeting

The White Church, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 7 pm

**In Attendance:** Andrew Scobie (AS)(Chair), Lindsay Brown (LB)(Treasurer), Amy Fenwick (AF), Tim Lucas (TL), Lynn Stewart (LS), Andrew Thompson (AT), Dee Thomas (DT), Terri Bacon (TB), Ross Scobie (RS)

**Elected Representatives:** Ballie Rhona Brock, Cllr Stewart Donaldson

In attendance: LowCarbon Ltd (Glen Lednock Wind farm developers) & Balfour Beattie representatives

### Members of the Public: 9

#### 1. Welcome & Apologies:

AS welcomed all attendees to the first Community Council meeting of 2025. No apologies were received.

#### 2. Appointment of Office Bearers:

The position of Secretary was unfilled at the last AGM with the Chair supporting interim duties. AF volunteered to assume the role. TB proposed AF as Secretary, seconded by TL.

#### 3. Approval of Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

1. Constitution Update: AS liaising with PKC to change the name to Comrie & District Community Council.
2. Lednock footpath: AS walked area but didn't identify specific issues
3. Laggan Park treasurer invited to attend March Community Council meeting to discuss donation request
4. Site visit to skate park completed. In good condition. Disclaimer board to be replaced re: use at own risk. AS added CCC insurance covers skate park

**Minutes approved:** Proposed by TL and seconded by DT

#### 4. Office Bearers reports

##### Treasurers Report

Paper copies were circulated, and a verbal update was provided by LB.

##### Summary of Finances (January 2025):

- **Top-up Grant:** £362.58 received from PKC.
- **Christmas Lights Account:** Alison Henry has been added as a signatory.
- **Outstanding Invoice:** £250 from Laggan Park Committee remains unpaid.

##### Current Balances:

- **Admin Account:** £662.31 (£298.09 available) – No expenditure; £362.58 top-up grant from PKC and £1.64 interest received.
- **Community Account:** £4,292.46 – No changes since the last report.
- **Christmas Lights Account:** £6,350.89 (£6,052.79 available) – Income: £989.30 credited; Expenditure: £691.20 to Tayside Contracts for Christmas lights installation.

LB confirmed that finances remain stable, with no significant concerns at this time.

### **Secretary's Report**

No significant updates to report. AS and AF will arrange Secretary role handover.

#### **5. Relevant Planning Applications**

AS discussed the process of Councillors receiving weekly PKC planning updates. ATM replacement on Bridge Street awaiting decision. Cllr AD offered support if needed regarding banking hub links.

AT discussed a current planning application that is proposed to move right of way. Formal approval from PKC required and should come through the weekly planning list

#### **6. Police Scotland update**

No officers in attendance. Police attendance will depend on officer availability. No issues raised

#### **7. Business listings**

LB discussed business listings through CCC website and through social media. Uncertainty around business listings still being of interest now social media page does not promote in the way the previous arrangement with a personal social media page had. LB not yet discussed any new arrangement with the "Comrie Perthshire" Facebook page owners. Member of public proposed utilising CCC's social media platform. LB to investigate community groups having access to uploading direct to website. LB can offer training for groups to upload to the website. Member of public offered Comrie Library as a training venue.

#### **8. Parking and Road Matters**

Roads Officer from PKC has offered to attend a public meeting to discuss parking issues, AS in discussion to arrange suitable date. Cllr SD gave an overview of situation and would propose a survey of residents & business' to gauge views on seasonal restrictions/time limits etc.

Additional parking provision limited due to congestion issues on Drummond Street. TL discussed school road car park being used by School staff and queried if staff could utilise space within the School grounds. Member of public suggested it would be detrimental to remove outdoor playing space for School Children if staff were to section off an area for parking.

#### **9. Flood Prevention Scheme**

Gavin Bisset PKC Flooding Team gave an update on works to date. Also in attendance, Ross Fletcher PKC project manager & David Crielly Balfour Beattie Site Agent.

The initial site setup and clearance phase is nearing completion, with main construction operations due to commence later this month.

#### Construction Update

Tree Works: Nearing completion, with a few areas on the north side of the Earn outstanding. Most trees required for removal have been felled, with materials being taken off-site over the coming weeks. Further tree removal may be required as works progress.

Haul Road & Piling Platforms: Constructed down the eastern side of Dalginross and at Field of Refuge to Camp Road (south side still to be formed). Work on the haul road to the rear of Lochay Drive/Garry Place will begin late February into March.

Compounds: Main compound established at the southeast of Dalginross. The Field of Refuge compound has been reduced to a single-storey satellite site.

Access & Junction Work: Temporary widening of the junction off A85 at Lednock Bridge is underway, providing construction access to the holiday park and boulevard. A temporary bridge is set for installation in April.

#### Road & Path Closures

Strowan Road Closure: Begins 17th February 2025, running until August 2026. The closure will be managed in three sections to maintain resident access where possible.

A85 Traffic Management: Temporary traffic lights will be in place to facilitate construction access.

Footpath Closures: Two key paths—behind the Fire Station/Lochay Drive/Garry Place and at the Field of Refuge—will be closed/diverted until summer 2026 due to safety concerns and space limitations.

Public Safety: Reports of people bypassing barriers and entering the site have been noted. The community is urged to refrain from accessing the site due to increasing construction hazards.

#### Community Engagement

- Ongoing liaison with affected residents to mitigate impacts and address concerns.
- A well-attended community drop-in event was held on 6th February at the White Church, with PKC and Balfour Beatty staff present.
- The next project newsletter is due at the end of February.

#### Community Benefits

Balfour Beatty is developing a community benefits plan, with outreach to local groups underway.

Ardreck School (Crieff) has expressed interest in using the project as a learning opportunity, with further engagement planned for other local schools.

The project team thanks the community for their patience as work progresses to reduce flood risk in Comrie.

LS requested clarity that Comrie Fortnight Float Parade will not be affected by traffic lights and roads closures. Balfour Beattie representative offered to walk route with LS in coming weeks to understand route of parade.

AT discussed that he has received comments from the public regarding the Field of Refuge path diversion being confusing. Balfour Beattie team offered to address this.

Cllr SD enquired if PKC flood team have liaised with Country Side Trust re: Core Path plans from Comrie-Crieff. Gavin Bissett PKC Flood team has had contact with Bid Strachan from PKCT

Member of public concerned about height of proposed flood wall on Strowan Rd (nr Fire Station). Gavin Bissett PKC awaiting clarity from design team but not a lot of scope regarding wall height reduction.

Member of public requested access to flood modelling reports- available on PKC website.

#### **10. Comrie Hospital Driving Service**

NA not been able to attend the meeting. DT gave an overview of the situation re: volunteers & CCC support to help with recruitment drive. Information shared within the Comrie Medical Centre.

#### **11. Legion Park**

TB discussed commencement timeline with construction commencement to start in August 2025. Funding secured in full for phase 1 works. Further fundraising required for phase 2. Gavin Bissett PKC flood team has a quantity of large stones at the Balfour Beattie compound. TB will liaise with Gavin.

#### **12. Library**

AT shared printed versions of full statement from Campaign Group and offered to email circulate if required. Petition ongoing, with recent protest held outside Perth Museum. Council leader met with campaigners. Full council meeting scheduled for 26th February. Updates expected. Save Comrie Library campaign Group thanked the Community Council for their support

#### **13. Invergeldie**

Craig Cunningham Senior Development Manager Low Carbon provided an update on the Windfarm proposals at Invergeldie.

- Proposal now for 19 turbines, with 2 removed from revised scope indicating 21.
- Application to be submitted to the Energy Consent Unit (Scottish Government) by the end of April.
- Local consultation to run for a few weeks, including exhibitions and hard copy plans at a central location (White Church/Library suggested).
- Community Council is a consultee and can submit representations within the consultation window.
- Concerns raised over peat bog damage and protected wildlife—developers to address in environmental reports.
- No fundamental collaboration with SSE, though Low Carbon hope that working relationships may be developed.
- Developers have approached landowners regarding tree lopping along the transport route. No major tree felling expected at Macrosty Bends, but street furniture may need to be removed.
- Turbines to be transported upright, with challenges acknowledged.
- Community benefit fund to be administered by Foundation Scotland.
- Concerns raised over transparency of community benefit discussions.

#### **14. Christmas Lights**

Patricia Robertson provided an overview of activities, including the Christmas Fayre, Santa's Grotto, school party, Baby & Toddler Group, and sing-along. The Fayre was a great success, with Shetland Ponies making a surprise visit and many varied stalls. Thanks were given to the volunteers who helped support the events. Thanks were given also to Davie Robertson, Jim Alexander, and Scott Knox for maintenance and testing of the Christmas lights. Liaison with Bear Scotland has been challenging due to increased public liability insurance requirements and detailed mapping. AS thanked Patricia, the Christmas Lights Committee, and all volunteers for their efforts in bringing festive spirit to the community.

#### **15. Community Action Plan**

LB gave an overview of the Community Action Plan engagements. Launch event on Saturday in the White Church. Further public meeting planned for end of March. Survey online with paper copies available. Community Enterprise & CAP steering group meeting with local groups to gather their views.

#### **16. Councillors Reports**

LB- thanked Baillie Brock & Councillor Donaldson for attendance at the Community Council meetings and noted that we have not had the presence of Councillor Khogali for some time with no apologies given.

AS- has raised 2 empty properties with PKC/Shelter Scotland. Liaised with The War Memorial Committee to add a name to the memorial and discuss maintenance of the grounds.

AT- Raised ongoing issue of blockage on path behind Cultybraggan Camp. Landowner has been offered a self closing gate by PKC. Also, storm damage being assessed by Greenspace PKC at Deil's Caldron wooden walkway

LS- funding available for additional defibulator and in discussion with Comrie Fire station regarding placement and guardianship. Also liaising with community resilience officer, Frank Campbell and Alan Moffat First Response regarding offering support for current defib stock. Member of public raised that defibulator not working at White Church and is aware of British Heart Foundation Scheme that is open for applications for fully funded defibulators, deadline for applications is end of February.

CLlr SD- Commends Frank Campbell's work in other areas and welcomes his input. Comrie to Trowan path plans in final draft. Path agreement to be shared with landowners.

#### **17. AOCB**

Member of public raised that Scottish Forestry do not inform Community Council of proposed plans. There is a new felling licence application on Dalchonzie Estate, above the power station, which involves timber haulage to the A85 along a Core Path. Requests representation from CC or PKC. Member of public will share the link with CC.