



Comrie & District Community Council Meeting

The White Church, Thursday 13 March 2025, 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: Baillie Rhona Brock, Cllr Stewart Donaldson

In attendance: 3 representatives from the Laggan Park Committee

Members of the Public: 2

1. Welcome & Apologies:

- a. AS welcomed all attendees to the meeting
- b. AF noted apologies from Cllr Noah Khogali, PC Adam Denny, PC Donald Florence

2. Approval of Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

- a. Nil matters arising
- b. Minutes approved: Proposed by AT and seconded by TL

3. Office Bearers' Reports:

Secretary's Report (AF):

Draft minutes will now be circulated online, shared on social media, and paper copies available at The White Church, the Post Office, and the library.

Complaint received from a member of the public about traffic lights at Lednock Bridge; awaiting further discussion in future meetings.

Nominations submitted for the King's Garden Party.

Correspondence from Gavin Bissett regarding a new flood risk project focusing on surface water management; a community questionnaire has been issued recently.

Email from Tricia from Low Carbon about the Glen Lednock Wind Farm; planning application to be submitted to the Scottish Government by April 2025, with environmental impact assessment details to be announced in local papers and newsletters.

A community meeting on parking issues is scheduled with Blair Watt from Perth and Kinross Council, ward councillors, and the community council on Monday, 31st March, at 7 pm in The White Church.

Treasurer's Report (LB):

Outstanding Invoice: £250 from Laggan Park Committee remains unpaid.

Current Balances:

Admin Account: £572.31 (£662.31 previous)

Community Account: £4,292.46 (no change)

Christmas Lights Account: £6,273.79 (£6,350.89 previous)

Recent Transactions:

Admin Account: £90 spent on White Church Hall rental.

Community Account: No changes.

Christmas Lights Account: £100 donation received; £177.10 paid to Scott Knox for lights testing.

Laggan Park Committee Discussion

Representatives Present:

Laggan Park Committee: Janet Denholm (JD), Gillian Brock (GB), Andy Rogerson (AR)

Discussion Points:

The Laggan Park Committee has invoiced the Community Council £250 as a donation towards the park's upkeep.

It was noted that the skate park has not previously contributed to the parks running costs.

Community Council Ownership: AT noted that Community Councils cannot legally own property. GB clarified that when the Skate Park Committee disbanded, and no one took responsibility, the Community Council agreed to oversee maintenance and insurance.

Annual running costs of Laggan Park: Approximately £1,300, covering electricity, insurance, water supply, and maintenance.

Other Contributions: The Harriers, cricketers, bonfire night organisers, and Comrie Fortnight all contribute financially. The skate park is now expected to do the same.

Pavilion Facilities: Toilets and other amenities in the pavilion are available to skate park users upon request, but have never been used in this way.

Pavilion Costs: The pavilion is the largest expense for the park. JD previously considered disconnecting electricity, but the cost of removal outweighed any potential savings.

The Cricket Club donates £100 annually and also assists with maintenance. They are the largest users of the pavilion.

The Laggan Park Committee is a small group with limited fundraising capacity and is seeking contributions from all user groups to help maintain the park. They are actively developing additional fundraising initiatives.

The Community Council agreed to discuss the request further and provide a response at the next meeting.

4. Relevant Planning Applications:

Awaiting updates on the replacement of the ATM; no new information available.

The Glen Lednock Wind Farm application has been submitted. Public comment closes Sunday, 16th March 2025. AT noted that SSE has not directly consulted Comrie Community. AT will draft a letter to be circulated for Community Council input before submission.

5. Police Scotland update

No significant police incidents since the last meeting.

One recorded crime related to abusive behaviour; all enquiries completed, but it remains undetected.

6. Parking and Road Matters

The Community Council received confirmation from Perth & Kinross Council regarding recent parking enforcement issues in Comrie.

Parking tickets issued on Drummond Street were done so in error and will be cancelled. The council apologised for the mistake and has assured that measures will be taken to prevent this from happening again.

The removal of outdated parking restriction signs is still in progress but is expected to be completed before the start of April.

One ticket issued for pavement parking in Comrie will not be cancelled, as this remains an offence. DT expressed concern that, despite a widespread campaign, the public may not be fully aware that pavement parking fines are now being enforced. The Community Council will support further circulation of this information via social media, the website, and by checking for posters to distribute.

A public meeting has been scheduled for Monday, 31st March at 7:00 PM in the White Church to discuss wider parking concerns in Comrie. Residents are encouraged to attend and share their views.

A member of the public in attendance raised deep concerns about the speed of motorists through the village. She has written to Police Scotland, Perth & Kinross Council (PKC), and ward councillors to express her concerns. The Community Council is determined to tackle and support efforts to address this issue.

Councillor Stewart Donaldson (SD) noted that quarterly meetings are held with the PKC roads team, with the next meeting scheduled for 25th March, where this issue will be raised. However, SD highlighted that the A85 is a trunk road, meaning PKC has no jurisdiction over it, responsibility lies with BEAR Scotland.

To address the issue effectively, it was suggested that Transport Scotland be invited to a future Community Council meeting to discuss the ongoing concerns and possible solutions.

Additionally, AT has reported several potholes to PKC for repair.

7. Community Resilience Plan

LS is keen to move forward with discussions on how to develop the Community Resilience Plan. A previous draft plan exists, but it is now outdated and will serve as a starting point. LS is liaising with Frank Campbell, PKC Community Resilience Officer, and other stakeholders. The outdated draft plan will be used as a basis for development, with initial discussions to begin shortly.

Additionally, LS has compiled a list of defibrillator guardians, including their contact details. To consider where this information should be stored to ensure it is accessible when needed.

8. Councillors Reports

CLlr Donaldson Update:

- The Perth and Kinross Council has approved a 9.5% increase in Council Tax for the financial year 2025/26. This decision aims to address rising costs in health and social care services, as well as increased employer National Insurance contributions.
- In response to concerns about rural library closures, the Council has allocated £1 million over two years (£500,000 each year) to Culture Perth and Kinross (CPK). This funding is intended to support the sustainability of rural libraries. Over the next two years, the Council and CPK will collaborate with local library groups to develop sustainable plans for these facilities.
- The Council has committed an investment over four years to the Commercial Property Investment Programme. This initiative aims to provide more industrial units, particularly in rural areas, to support new and growing businesses.
- An allocation of £200,000 has been made to support Bloom groups, biodiversity initiatives, and Friends of Cemeteries. This funding is part of the Council's efforts to promote environmental sustainability and community engagement in green spaces.
- The Council has designated an additional £200,000 for a new round of the Green Living Fund. This fund supports community projects focused on environmental sustainability, allowing local groups to apply for grants to implement green initiatives.

AS added his thanks to the Save the Library campaigners, acknowledging their dedication and hard work in achieving this outcome.

AT expressed gratitude to the ward councillors for recognising the importance of library funding in the budget and described how a united campaign will continue with the five affected communities to develop long-term sustainability plans.

A member of the public and Save the Library campaigner also welcomed the decision, stating that he was pleased with the outcome and is keen to work towards a long-term solution in collaboration with PKC & CPK.

Baillie Brock update:

- Baillie Brock has been unable to reach the Ward Memorial Chair and has asked AS to assist in making contact
- CLlr Brock has also shared a funding link with Patricia Robertson of the Christmas Lights committee.

AT update:

- Access issues continue. Liaising with Callum Bachell and Dave Stubbs on the matter.

TL update:

- Raised that the white church clock is still not working

LB update:

- CAP update, around 10% of the village population have responded so far. Leaflets with QR codes have been distributed to all households. Survey closes on Sunday 16th March. Initial findings sessions on 18th March at the white church for all to attend either between 3:30-5pm or 7pm-9pm.

RS update:

- highlights that the large steel piling rods sticking out of the ground at Strowan Road will not remain in this state but believes they are currently left like this in this part of the construction for safety but assures that this is not indicative of where the wall is going and the pilings will be in the ground.

TB update:

- confirmed that the new carpets and lino in the primary school will be fitted in the Easter holidays along with painting.
- TB met with Legion park architect- increased to capital funding to total £255k which will allow more implementation of the master plan. Tender package to be live this month. Inperson event to showcase plans to be arranged.

AS update:

- continuing to monitor the empty home at 2 Bridgend. Reports of the fence being down with children accessing the garden. AS liaising with PKC and Shelter Scotland.
- AS reported the fallen tree to PKC on the section of grass at the top of Dalginross.
- AS reported that the headstone stabilisation work is part completed. He notes that several headstones at the White Church are dangerously unstable and will liaise with Jaclyn, White Church Manager.

DT update:

- has invited Neil Aitken to the next CC meeting to discuss volunteer drivers

LS update:

- noted that AM in the process of purchasing another defib. Also, MMCL organising installation of new defib to the Comrie Fire Station. Gaurdain list compiled and need to consider where to store for access.

9. AOCB

A member of the public raised concerns regarding timber being felled as part of the Flood Protection works and who retains ownership of it once felled. She has encountered specific issues with timber on her property, prompting broader concerns.

AT will liaise with Gavin Bisset, PKC Flood Protection Officer, and the member of the public to seek clarification.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 10th April 2025, 7:00 PM at The White Church

