



Comrie & District Community Council Meeting

The White Church, Thursday 10 July 2025, 7 pm

In Attendance: Andrew Scobie (AS)(Chair), Lindsay Brown (LB)(Treasurer), Amy Fenwick (AF)(Secretary), Tim Lucas (TL)(Vice Chair), Andrew Thompson (AT), Ross Scobie (RS)

Elected Representatives: Baillie Rhona Brock, Cllr Stewart Donaldson

In attendance: PC Donald Florence, Alistair Forsyth- Library Rep, David Spaven, Martin Downing, Gavin Bisset- PKC Flood Engineer, Fiona Blacke- CDT Chair

Members of the Public: 4

1. Welcome & Apologies:

- a. AS welcomed all attendees to the meeting
- b. AF noted apologies from Lynn Stewart (LS), Terri Bacon (TB), Dee Thomas (DT)

2. Approval of Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

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

3. Office Bearers' Reports:

Secretary: Nil to report. Relevant items covered in the agenda

Treasurer:

Little to report

Current Balances

ADMIN ACCOUNT	£485.92 (£484.34)
COMMUNITY ACCOUNT	£4,797.46 (£4,722.46)
XMAS LIGHT ACCOUNT	£5,375.89 (£5,539.39)

Changes since last report:

Admin Account. Income – Interest £1.58

Community Account. Income – Community website business listing subscriptions - £75

Christmas Lights Account. Expenditure - £163.50 Public Liability Insurance

4. Police Scotland Update

It was agreed to accept a change of order in the agenda to allow for PC Donald Florence to give an update as an early agenda point.

PC Florence outlined operational needs and shift patterns meant that there had been a prolonged period of no Police Scotland attendance at recent C&DCC meetings.

PC Florence gave an overview of local crimes: 12 reported crimes this year with 1 recorded crime of fraud since the last C&DCC meeting.

5. Access

It was agreed to take this item after the Police Scotland report so that PC Florence had an opportunity to input into an access matter that has resulted in multiple Police attendance.

PC Florence read out the Land Access Act and highlighted that the Police' responsibility is to act as observers and to protect the peace and not to take sides. AT outlined that there is an ongoing access issue on land at Ruchillside leading to Cultybraggan Camp.

Fiona Blacke (CDT Chair) gave an overview of the CDT position and that written correspondence with the landowner had reached an impasse with the landowner warning of potential litigation if the CDT go ahead and reinstate the gate.

Greenspace have given the assurance that they are now pursuing a legal route and are clear that they intend to resolve this issue with urgency. Greenspace are currently liaising with Police Scotland to gather Police incident numbers.

AT outlined his concerns of intimidation, aggression and potentially harassing behaviours towards the public in this area. AT reported that he is aware of many separate reports that have required Police assistance. AT shared a statement from a member of the public which outlined her experience of intimidation & aggression from the landowner towards her whilst walking in this area. PC Florence is aware of a recent Police report and gave his intention to visit the member of the public in the coming days.

AT shared concerns that prevention of escalation element missing from Police Scotland approach.

PC Florence reiterated that complainers must report all incidents.

Cllr Brock agreed that it is not acceptable for members of the public to feel frightened and distressed when walking in the area and asked Police Scotland what they are doing to support the member of public who shared these concerns. PC Florence said that he would visit the member of the public and follow up with Cllr Brock.

AS summarised and set out the intention to keep dialogue open with all parties and determined to seek a prompt resolution. AS thanked all who contributed to this item and PC Florence for attending. *PC Florence left the meeting.*

6. Parking & Road Matters

AS provided an update that no recent reports received on road/parking issues from members of the public. AF shared that the C&DCC had hoped to keep conversation going with Blair Watts from PKC Road Dept to explore wider parking issues and resolutions, but Blair has left his post and awaiting post backfill.

7. Library

AT continues to be the link between the C&DCC and the Friends of Comrie Library Group. AT introduced Alistair Forsyth from the Group to provide an update. Alistair shared that the CPK meeting on 2 July had been frustrating in terms of progress and that the previous minutes had not been able to get agreement from members.

Alistair reflected that officers had struggled as not trained in public consultation. It was agreed that the participation request would be postponed until further discussion at the next meeting which the Friends of Comrie Library intend to host.

Cllr Donaldson outlined that he is happy to receive any issues/complaints regarding CPK rather than being directed to Library staff.

AT reminded all that the Participation Request is in the C&DCC's name.

8. Legion Park

AF shared correspondence from Simon Garnett- Landscape Architect with PKC Greenspace who is leading the legion park upgrade works. Perth and Kinross Council has been working in collaboration with the Legion Park Friends Group and the wider community in order to establish and implement a masterplan refurbishment of Legion Park in the coming months. A recently completed tender process has identified a contractor to implement the works. Legion Park is not owned by Perth and Kinross Council but is owned by a public trust whose intention was to confer the park to the inhabitants of Comrie. The trust at the time of the acquisition was a County Councillor, a District Councillor and the Chairman and Secretary of the Comrie branch of the British Legion Scotland. It is unclear as to who is the actual owner of Legion Park, but the Council requires permission from the owner to carry out these works. Greenspace are therefore writing to the Community Council, as potential successors to the trust, seeking approval to the proposed works. It was agreed that the C&DCC would confirm its support in principle for the proposed works to refurbish and enhance Legion Park. We welcome the improvements planned and recognise the value this project will bring to local residents. However, we would make it explicitly clear that, to the best of our knowledge, the Community Council is not the legal owner of Legion Park. While we understand the original trust may have conferred responsibility to community representatives, ownership/title has not been formally established. Cllr Brock agreed to pursue clarification on this matter. We agreed we are happy to offer our support for the project in principle but note that this does not constitute formal permission from a legal landowner.

9. Low Carbon Glen Lednock Wind Farm

AT outlined that Low Carbon's proposal to develop a Wind Farm on Glen Lednock is now live on the Energy Consents Unit (ECU). AT updated that the short window for representations does not allow C&DCC adequate time to gather community views to give a credible public consensus. Members of the public with an interest have subsequently created a 'Save Glen Lednock' campaign group. They are commissioning an independent consultant to review the documents provided by Low Carbon and provide a detailed report.

Martin Downing- Save Glen Lednock Group representative gave an update on the group's activities and shares that they would use the independent consultant report to form their representation and agreed that they would be happy to share the report with the C&DCC however this is likely to be available after the ECU deadline. The group are hosting a public information session in the White Church on the 11th July 2025 and are happy to share any key theme outputs with the C&DCC.

AT thanked Martin Downing for his update and shared that he had received many contacts asking what the C&DCC's position on the matter is. AT was contacted by The Courier for a statement which was read out to the meeting and C&DCC members were in agreement with the contents and 'Neutral' stance at this stage given lack of appropriate time to engage with the public. Statement below;

"Comrie & District Community Council(C&DCC) position Statement at 10/07/25

The community council is aware that the proposed windfarm would have major environmental, social and economic impacts on our community not least on the residents of Monument Rd and upper Glen Lednock.

We expect to make a representation on behalf of the community to the Scottish Government Energy Consent Unit (ECU). Their public consultation on the planning application submitted by the developers runs for only one month and closes on 21st July.

Such a short timeframe makes it impossible for the CC to carry out a robust community engagement process, which would be needed to give us a mandate and the confidence to speak for the whole community.

At this stage we are unable to declare a firm position, either for, or against, the windfarm plan. We are aware that views within the community are diverse and divided, so overall we have to remain neutral.

What we are doing is to encourage all community members with strong views and interests in the outcome of the planning process to become informed about the environmental and social impacts on the community. We are encouraging submission of as many responses as possible to the consultation before the 21st July deadline.

We advise that responses be founded on facts and valid points, which planners must take into account. Responses which are purely emotional will carry no weight.

We urge people to attend the community information event organised by the Save Glen Lednock campaign where advice will be available on how to make an effective response ...in the White Church, Friday 11th July from 10:30 -12:00noon

In our submission we will highlight key points of concern raised in consultation responses from individuals. This will let the Community Council make a robust call on ECU planning officials to take full account of, and give due weight to all concerns raised."

Cllr Donaldson updated that PKC Planning Officer Andy Gudgeon is the case officer, and the application will go to the PKC Planning committee. RS asked for clarity on the decision maker. AT outlined that If PKC planning Committee move to object the proposal, then this triggers a 'Public Planning Enquiry'. AT raised that it is important for members of the public to share views and representations with Ward Councillors.

10. Councillors Reports

TL- requests permission for The Comrie Cancer Shop to display a sign on the White Church railings to advertise weekend sale at Cultybraggan Camp. All in agreement. AF commented that she was unaware that permission to display signs on the railings came from the C&DCC.

TL also reports that Laggan Park car park is in a poor state and asks if any further update. AF reports that no further forward since Blair Watt leaving his post. Cllr Donaldson agreed to enquire who the new appropriate PKC officer is to take this forward.

AF- proposed to gift a voucher to Brian Henley and thank you card for all of Brian's many dedicated hours to maintaining the grass cutting at the Skatepark. Brian has served the community with this helpful task for many years which has now come to an end. The C&DCC agreed to recognise his contribution by purchasing a voucher for a local business. AF will arrange & AS will deliver.

AS- Comrie in Colour has been in touch re: signs obscuring planter at Melville Square. They are exploring options of re-positioning the planter and will liaise if C&DCC support is required.

Public toilets-AS has discussed with the Handy Shop regarding giving Post Office a key to public toilets and will liaise with the Post Office manager to enquire if they would support a later closing of the public toilets by locking them when the shop closes at 10pm.

AS informs that all Community Councils in P&K will go to election in November 2025. Application process is likely to be announced by PKC in August. AS seeks to assure the community that there will be no disruption in C&DCC business. If there are more than 10 applications then this will trigger a public postal vote.

RS- wishes to thank the Comrie Fortnight Committee for all their hard work and dedication to the organising of this years Comrie Fortnight. The C&DCC shared his well wishes and thanks and look forward to taking part in the upcoming events.

Cllr Donaldson- shared that there is a public meeting regarding the Tourism Levy proposal in August. Cllr Donaldson also reports that leisure facilities in Crieff is earmarked for capital investment and will report any significant updates at future meetings. Also, phase 1 of the core path works from Comrie- Crieff is expected to start this year and he is liaising with Bid Strachan- Countryside Trust for updates.

Cllr Brock- Requesting information regarding Twinning Committees. PKC Provost is gathering all twinned communities' details with a view to bring Twinnings together next year. AF reported that George Lees had a large involvement in Comrie's Twinning with Carlton Place and suggested he would be a good contact.

11. AOCB

AS-Planning- Bowling Club licence to increase hours for sale of alcohol. Club has given the assurance to residents that this is not for a public bar and is for use of members and visitors only. Cllr Brock reported that licence was granted at committee last week and that parking issues were raised but this would not affect the licence application.

Date of Next Meeting: 7pm Thursday 14th August 2025