



## **Comrie & District Community Council Meeting**

**The White Church, Thursday 11 September 2025, 7 pm**

**In Attendance:** Andrew Scobie (AS)(Chair), Lindsay Brown (LB)(Treasurer), Tim Lucas (TL (Vice Chair), Ross Scobie (RS), Lynn Stewart (LS), Dee Thomas (DT)

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

**In attendance:** Alistair Forsyth- Library Rep

**Members of the Public:** 13

### **1. Welcome & Apologies:**

- a. AS welcomed all attendees to the meeting
- b. AF noted apologies Amy Fenwick (AF)(Secretary), Terri Bacon (TB), Andrew Thompson (AT) and Fiona Blacke- CDT Chair

### **2. Approval of Previous Minutes & Matters Arising**

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

### **3. Office Bearers' Reports:**

**Secretary via message to Chair: Nothing to report**

**Treasurer:** Accounts at year end 2025, and accounts will be audited in advance of the AGM

Current Balances

ADMIN ACCOUNT £316.16

(£485.92)

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT £4,797.46

(£4,797.46)

XMAS LIGHT ACCOUNT £5,375.89

(£5,375.89)

Admin Account. £120 to White Church for Hall Hire, £47.76 to L.Brown for printer ink.

Community Account. No Change

Christmas Lights Account. No Change

Additionally, LB noted and thanked the elected representatives for the recent increase to the Community Council grant to £1000 and advised that a top up grant of £683.84 would be applied for shortly.

### **4. Relevant Planning Applications**

Chair (AS) advised no relevant planning applications noted since August meeting but advised that progress on refurbishment of the Old Bank building (proposed restaurant business) was being monitored.

## **5. Police Scotland Update**

Police representatives were unable to attend the meeting, and no written update was received.

## **6. Road Matters**

The chair raised with the elected representatives the issue of a lack of clarity and clear signage for the works being carried out during September on the B827 between Comrie and Braco. Residents had noted ambiguous yellow signage and requested to know if a road closure was planned. Councillor Donaldson advised that he had only just received communication that afternoon from the Roads department and had emailed the Chair and Secretary as soon as he became aware. Latest information is that the road will be partially closed (8 am to 5 pm) for telecommunications work for the Greenscares Windfarm (9th Sept to 22<sup>nd</sup> September) and for PKC remedial roadworks from 15<sup>th</sup> September onwards, and in tandem with telecoms work to minimise overall disruption. A full road closure will be required from 15th September until the works are completed, which is expected to be within two weeks (weather permitting).

RS noted for information that road repair signage on A85 adjacent to Baird Monument between Comrie and Crieff indicated carriageway works would be carried out between 7 pm and 6 am nightly between 21<sup>st</sup> Sept and 4<sup>th</sup> October.

LB raised the issue of a recent car accident at the southern end of Dalginross at the junction with Cowden Way, and noted that there had been a few accidents in recent years and asked elected representatives if anything could be done to make the intersection safer. Councillor Donaldson advised that the PKC Roads Department had been to inspect the junction in recent months, and he would follow up. Chair noted that he felt some people do start to exceed the 20mph limit at that point, and a discussion regarding the suitability of the junction as a mini roundabout followed. Baillie Brock advised that the area had been surveyed by PKC 4/5 years previously, which had resulted in the speed bumps being installed for traffic calming.

The chair also raised the issue of speed limit signage entering the village from the B827. He noted that the change from 60mph to 20mph was perhaps too abrupt.

It was agreed to take up all the above with the PKC Roads department.

A resident noted that, while most of the village is now 20mph, Monument Road remains 30mph and wondered why.

The chair noted that the 20mph limit had also not been extended to Tullybannacher and, given the retail and restaurant business activity there, proposed that this issue be discussed at a future meeting.

## **7. Library**

Alistair Forsyth, a representative of Friends of Comrie Library, provided an update. No meetings with CPK have taken place since the last meeting, but I informed the meeting that there would be a public meeting with CPKC at Comrie Library on 17th September at 6pm (all welcome).

## **8. Low Carbon and Glen Lednock Wind Farm**

The chair thanked AT (absent) and other representatives present from the Save Glen Lednock Campaign (SGL) group for organising the informative public meeting held on September 2nd at the White Church and asked Martin Downing (MD) from SGL to share his thoughts on the meeting's outcomes.

MD (SGL) thanked the Chair for the opportunity to update. He agreed that the Public meeting had been very successful and that the campaign members had put a lot of work into the meeting, resulting in a raising of awareness in the local community, including the wider districts such as Crieff. He confirmed that around 200 people attended and that the Energy Consents Unit has received 260 objections to the development to date, with all submissions from individuals being objections. He advised on two representations of support, one from Oxygen Conservation and another, which came as a surprise, from the Perth and Kinross Business Partnership. MD assumed that they did not understand the level of disruption that would be created locally. He advised that monitoring of statutory consultee representations was ongoing and that the recent submission from NatureScot was damning, especially in noting the effects on Golden eagle, Red Kite and Sea eagle.

MD also shared with the meeting his concerns that Low Carbon have taken the previously unheard of steps of bypassing local government planning by requesting that the Government level statutory planning critical definitions be reworded to allow them to commence works on the access road ahead of any future successful agreement to develop the Windfarm development from the PKC planning department or any future Public Inquiry. MD concluded that he felt they were really pushing the boundaries of planning rules in a way he had not seen previously.

MD also confirmed that PKC Planning had formerly objected to the SSE Glen Tarken Development which is now likely to go to Public Inquiry within next two years. Still, he

wanted to note that during the decision-making process, one PKC Councillor had asked the planning department about the route of the Grid connection, and the planning officer had misinformed the Councillor by stating that the connection would route towards Loch Earn, when in fact the direction is towards Killin.

MD concluded with notification of an SGL meeting in Crieff with the Crieff and East Strathearn Community Council to further raise awareness in Crieff, particularly regarding the potential for road transport disruption. The meeting will take place on October 16, 2025.

### **Community Survey**

A resident raised the issue of a proposed survey that was mentioned in previous minutes and at the public meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

MD advised that SGL had designed a survey for online and paper distribution locally in shops and community venues, and that the survey was now ready to be distributed.

A discussion ensued regarding whether the survey should be administered by the Community Council or through the SGL group.

The Chair noted that some concerns had been raised among Council members regarding the logistics and wording of the survey in relation to GDPR, and that no consensus had been achieved on whether to take ownership of the survey from SGL.

A member of SGL expressed concern that the momentum from the night of the public meeting was being lost due to delays in the Community Councillors deciding on how the survey was to be administered, and whether the Community Council position was agreed upon regarding whether to support or object to the development.

After a very lengthy discussion between the floor and the Community Councillors present, it was finally decided that due to the high turnout at the Public meeting, the very informative presentation regarding the facts about the proposed development, wind energy capacity, grid connection delay and constraints in Scotland, plus the very well-articulated observations from residents and local businesses that there was a very compelling case for the Community Council to vote to lodge a formal objection to the Low Carbon proposed development with both the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) and with PKC planning department. It was also suggested that a vote be taken to agree that the SGL group should distribute and administer their online and paper surveys to inform further the community and the Community Council of the community's views. A vote was proposed by the Chair to reflect both recommendations and was passed by a majority. The Chair declared the issues resolved and made clear that SGL had the support of the Community Council going forward.

A further discussion ensued regarding potentially lost community benefit payments, and points were made both by the Councillors and from the floor regarding the sums proposed but not guaranteed by Low Carbon, set against the potential losses that could result from the adverse effects on local businesses and the economy.

MD (SGL) pointed out that Community Benefits are not included as a planning issue and that the proposed development planning decisions do not reference any promises of future financial benefits. He further added that, should the proposal be granted planning permission and proceed, a better approach would be to consider some form of community ownership.

### **Communicating Community Council Position**

A resident inquired about the Community Council's formal process for communicating its decision to object to the proposed wind farm development. The Chair responded that a statement would be published on the Community Council website and on the Community Council Facebook page as soon as possible.

MD (SGL) advised that the Independent report on Windfarm Planning issues, commissioned by SGL and forming the basis of the facts presented to the Public Meeting, would be made available to the Community Council to assist in composing their formal objection to both the ECU and PKC Planning Department.

A discussion followed regarding the likely timing of the planning decision by PKC, and Councillor Donaldson indicated that he believed the Planning Committee discussions on Glen Lednock would not convene until early November this year, and were more likely to be in December.

RS noted that PKC had initiated an essential general public consultation on renewable energy titled "Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Consultation" with a deadline of 17/10/25.

MD (SGL) urged everyone in the community to submit representations as soon as possible and asked if the Community Council would be submitting a response.

The Chair confirmed that a response would be submitted.

David Spaven (SGL) asked for Chair to confirm that the Community Council objection would be submitted to both PKC Planning and the ECU and noted that the Community Council formal objection should be lodged prior to the PKC planning committee meets, so probably by November but that the ECU deadline was much longer ( up until final decision at future Public Inquiry). He also urged the Community Council to engage with local media outlets in communicating the objection.

The Chair confirmed all the above actions would be undertaken.

### **9. Access & Rights of Way**

LB reported that Greenspace are speaking informally to all parties involved in access and Rights of Way issues with the aim of reaching a mutually acceptable agreement, but stressed enforcement action was ongoing in parallel.

The meeting also discussed overgrown pathways around the village and possible solutions maybe encouraging the help of volunteers. The Chair suggested that Scotways could maybe be approached for assistance.

There was further discussion regarding the ongoing Comrie to Crieff core path proposal. Councillor Donaldson indicated that Bid Strachan (Communities Officer PKC) was now involved which was a positive development and that if a tourism levy is introduced this may also be helpful in developing the route.

## **10. Councillors Reports**

Lynn Stewart (**LS**) proposed that the issue of a Community Resilience Plan should be revisited and that she would like to put together a team of people who had already expressed interest such as Frank Cambell at PKC, White Church, Fire Station etc. LS asked elected reps if funding available and Councillor Donaldson indicated that he would find out.

A resident noted that the Adaptation Scotland website had a wealth of resources including Posters and PowerPoints to assist in promoting community resilience.

Dee Thomas (**DT**) Reported that a resident had asked about the Parish Church clock time and chiming not working and asked if it could be investigated. DT to talk to Minister.

Lindsay Brown (**LB**) confirmed that the CDT had taken on a member of staff, that the financial picture was improving, that there were now 5 motorhome spaces generating revenue and that a small solar farm funding application was underway.

In terms of the Comrie Action Plan (CAP) LB reported that hard copies for reference in situ will be sited shortly at White Church, Medical Centre and the Library with downloadable copies online. Baillie Brock requested if a downloadable copy could be emailed to her.

Councillor Donaldson commented that the ongoing collaboration between the Community Council and CDT was good to see.

Ross Scobie (**RS**) delivered an update from Terri Bacon (**TB**) on the Legion Park stating that work was moving along with play equipment arriving soon and that the Architect had made a school visit to keep pupils engaged and up to date.

## **11. AOCB**

A member of public raised the issues of flags and asked why the Union flag was no longer flying. Chair confirmed that the Union Flag was in situ to honour the death of Queen Elizabeth but that it was custom and practice to more usually just raise the St Andrews and Canadian flag in recognition of the Twinning with Carleton Place.

The Chair stressed that the raising of flags was in no way political.

Baillie Brock confirmed that she had recently received a lovely letter with warm words from the Mayor of Carleton Place regarding the association with Comrie.

MD (SGL) asked if there could be an update on the Flood Prevention works and it was agreed to ask Gavin Bisset ( Balfour Beatty) to attend a forthcoming meeting to update the Community.

A member of the public asked if Balfour Beatty could be asked to provide up to date flood modelling as there were concerns among residents that there were still flood risk areas and that people wanted to be able to assess their own risk and evacuation routes in the event of flooding.

A member of the public raised the issue of the manned traffic lights still in operation at the eastern edge of the village and wondered if they were still necessary. **LS** confirmed that Balfour Beatty said that they were still needed.

A member of the public wanted to let the Community Council know about an upcoming planned youth led event upcoming in November called **VisionFest** with details to follow and a discussion ensued related to the perceived lack of youth engagement within Community Council meetings. It was suggested by a member of the public that the current format of the meetings was soporific and not at all youth friendly in a way that would encourage young people to engage. It was suggested that the current standing items were not relatable to a younger audience and should be revisited to encourage a younger demographic to attend.

The Chair noted the comments made and whilst he agreed that the topics that had to be covered by the Community Council were not by their very nature particularly exciting they were nonetheless important to our community in general.

**Date of next meeting: 7pm Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025**