



## **Comrie & District Community Council Meeting January 2026**

**The White Church, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 7 pm**

**In Attendance:** Andrew Scobie (AS)(Chair), John Greer (JG) (Vice Chair), Dee Thomas (DT)(Secretary), Terri Bacon (TB), Lynn Stewart (LS)

**In attendance:** Alistair Forsyth- Library Rep, Martin Downing SGL Rep, Fiona Blacke (Chair CDT)

**Members of the Public: 6**

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

AS (Chair) welcomed all attendees to the January 2026 meeting.

Chair (AS) noted apologies from Elected Representatives Baille Rhona Brock and Cllr Stewart Donaldson and Community Cllrs Andrew Thompson (AT) Ross Scobie (RS) (Treasurer) and Pauline Smart (Police Scotland)

### **2. Approval of Previous Minutes from November 2025 EGM and Ordinary Meeting and Matters Arising**

Martin Downing advised of a small correction to the spelling of his surname needed and it was agreed that (AS)(Chair) would make the correction before publishing the approved Minutes. No other Matters Arising.

The Minutes were approved and accepted (JG) Proposed/ (TB) Seconded)

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

Secretary (DT) thanked Lindsay Brown for kindly setting up the Secretary email for her. Nothing else to report.

Chair (AS) reported that RS (Treasurer) was currently in the process of bank account verification and that by the date of the next public meeting in February 2026 would hopefully be fully set up and be able to give an updated financial report at the next meeting.

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

Chair (AS) advised that there was nothing to report other than usual local extension/home improvement applications.

### **5. Police Scotland Update**

Chair (AS) reiterated that he had received an apology from Pauline Smart (Police Scotland Community Officer) for not being available to attend, together with a short report from her that the Chair read out.

### **6. Traffic and Road Matters**

(AS)(Chair ) reported concerns that there had been a recent sudden onset of icy conditions causing roads and pavements in parts of the village to become very perilous. He advised that he had phoned PKC on 7/1/26 to let them know the seriousness of the slip/road traffic hazards and

reported that the pavement /road gritting was now underway. AS/LS to raise with Ward Councillors the possibility of installing more salt bins in the village particularly at important areas such as close to Primary School and Medical Centre. A member of the public raised the difficulty of icy surfaces forming on the new steeper pedestrian access to the much used Ruchilside path from Camp Road. A member of the public noted that the icy conditions at Strathview Place were also very difficult and hazardous.

(DT)(Secretary) advised that the Royal Hotel had enquired if the public paved parking area (outside the main hotel entrance) fell under a PKC obligation to repair as the edging strip was starting to become raised up and could potentially cause a trip hazard or burst tyres. (AS)(Chair) to ask Ward Councillors if they could find out.

A member of the public raised the issue of parking/access difficulties caused by shoppers/visitors parking on the half circles at the end of Ancaster Lane and blocking access in and out as well as the difficulties encountered due to large lorries unloading stock at Morrisons store. It was agreed that these comments on parking issues would be sent to Pauline Smart (Police Scotland) by way of a copy of the Draft Minutes.

Another member of the public suggested that it might be useful to explore the idea that an area of St Kessogs Square might be a location that could be used as a loading/offloading area. (AS)(Chair) said that he would ask the Church but that the area had been designed as a community space.

It was noted that the issue of enforcing speed limits in the village remains a challenge and it was agreed to let Pauline Smart (Police Scotland) know this and seek her advice on any possible strategies/solutions.

David Spaven (Comrie Resident) advised that he had previously, with the help of former CCC Lindsay Brown produced a draft report on speeding issues in towns and villages across Scotland and he wondered if he might pursue this work further perhaps with the involvement /help of Police Scotland. He suggested this might involve seeking help and advice from Pauline Smart (Police Scotland) on setting up a volunteer Community Speed Watch Group.

The matter of the traffic island/triangle at the southern end of Dalginross was raised. (AS) (Chair) indicated that this was an issue raised previously re signage/right of way and said that there had been several accidents at the junction. It was also a location prone to surface ice in cold weather.

David Spaven reiterated that it would be useful to find out PKC policy on road /pavement gritting and asked if it was possible to have more salt bins installed so that residents could salt pavements themselves. (AS) (LS) to ask Ward Councillors.

## **7. Community Resilience Planning (CRP)**

(LS) gave a very comprehensive update on the work she had undertaken since the last meeting including describing the enthusiasm of many local groups and organisations such as White Church/ Parish Church/ Medical Centre/Men's Shed / Thursday Club /CDT /Fire Service and many other individuals towards volunteering within the village in the event of a crisis event. (LS) explained the privacy challenges of identifying and approaching residents and that assumptions of "need " could not be made without consent. It was agreed that LS would invite the PKC Community Resilience team to the next meeting for advice on this and other key action points. (AS)(Chair) suggested approaching St Serfs Church regarding involvement. (AS) to investigate if Comrie Medical Centre employs a community link worker or social prescriber and if they would be interested in joining the CRP group. (LS) advised that she was already finding out more about CRP models in other communities and was making progress re possible funding for portable

generators. She also indicated that she could look into setting up of a volunteer WhatsApp group. (AS) (Chair) thanked Lynn Stewart for the hard work she had put in to improve resilience in our village. It was agreed that Pauline Smart (Police Scotland) should also be invited to take part in future CRP group discussions.

## **8. Friends of Comrie Library update**

Alistair Forsyth (AF) gave a comprehensive update on the difficulties faced by the group in interactions/progress with Culture Perth and Kinross (CPKC). He described the frustration of liaising via an outside consultant employed by CPKC and advised that the group would like assistance from the Community Council in triggering a formal Participation Request. (AS) (Chair) confirmed that the CCC would help with this. On usage of the library by outside organisations (out of hours) (AS)(Chair) suggested that the library might be a suitable venue for Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) outreach sessions that are much needed in rural villages. (AS) to contact CAB Perth to gauge interest.

## **9. Glenlednock Windfarm Update**

(AS) (Chair) asked Martin Downing (SGL) to update the meeting. Martin gave an upbeat report on the positive news from the PKC Planning Committee meeting where formal advice was given to Perth and Kinross Councillors to object to the proposed Low Carbon 19 Wind Turbine development at Invergeldie Estate in Glenlednock. He cautioned that there was a very real possibility of Low Carbon appealing the decision and the process moving to a Public Inquiry. He advised that SGL would be calling on Low Carbon to drop the application for the development in the face of strong local and Council opposition.

Martin further advised that SGL had achieved good media coverage of the matter.

Martin noted that the CCC were still to put in a written objection to the ECU (Energy Consents Unit of Scottish Government) and (AS)(Chair) confirmed that Andrew Thompson (AT) had indicated that he was finalising this.

## **10. Comrie Development Trust Update**

Fiona Blacke gave a very informative update on initiatives/achievements/projects and challenges at the CDT and at Cultybraggan Camp as at the start of 2026.

She advised that funding was now in place to employ a Youth Worker in partnership with Logos Youth Group in Crieff to canvas young people as to their needs and wants locally. Fiona further confirmed that the CDT are currently advertising for a Maintenance Assistant and would soon be recruiting for an Admin Assistant.

She confirmed that the Cultybraggan site would soon have funding for a Multi Disability Toilet facility and additionally, work was progressing with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society to offer workshops on climate issues. Fiona advised that there is also a plan to develop an area for solar panels laid out in rows to aesthetically mirror the lines of huts.

She advised that project work by the Community Housing group in line with the CAP was advancing with Jimmy Denholm scoping sites and indicated that an update on this and CAP in general would be presented at a forthcoming CCC meeting.

Fiona advised that access/gate issues to were not yet resolved and PKC were involved.

## **11. Councillors Reports**

John Greer (JG) nothing to report.

Terri Bacon (TB) thanked the Flambeaux Committee for again planning, organising and providing a marvellous Hogmanay programme of events.

Terri congratulated Comrie Primary School on writing and performing “Comrie Christmas” broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland live from class on the last day of term.

Terri confirmed that the new playpark had opened for use on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and had received a very positive response from locals and visitors. Terri confirmed that more funding had been awarded for an information board explaining the history of the Legion Park. An official opening ceremony would be organised in Spring 2026.

(AS) (Chair) advised that there had been some issues in the village with lit bonfires sending embers toward neighbouring buildings. He suggested that bonfires should not be lit too close to neighbouring fences/buildings as they can pose a fire hazard. He suggested that residents (if repeatedly concerned) should contact the Police, PKC Antisocial Behaviour Unit or PKC Environmental Services.

AS also reported complaints seen on social media regarding loud noise, for a short period from a private firework display on New Years Day. This had caused alarm to some residents and their pets and AS urged people to endeavour to notify nearby residents if fireworks are to be used.

AS finished by thanking the Flambeaux, the Amateur Dramatic group, the Primary School, Crieff Round Table, The Christmas Lights Committee and everyone in the village who put in so much work to make Comrie a truly festive place to be.

Dee Thomas (DT) nothing to report.

Lynn Stewart (LS) reported that Matt McLay (Comrie Fire Station) was soon hoping to offer CPR classes.

## **12. AOCB**

Martin Downing asked if there was any further progress on the Comrie to Crieff Old Railway path and asked if the CCC could investigate any progress with Councillor Stewart Donaldson. He also noted that the Monument path was very steep and hazardous in sections with roots and deep holes. He wondered who was responsible for upkeep/path maintenance.

AS and others discussed the physical structural integrity of the Monument and felt it could pose a Health and Safety risk. It was suggested that Dunira Estate could be approached to discuss remedial action.

It was noted that a section of the Deils Cauldron path has been closed for about one year. As it is a popular local feature the CCC will also investigate the status of repairs.

**Date of next Meeting: 7pm Comrie White Church (Downstairs) 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

DRAFT