



Comrie & District Community Council Meeting March 2026

The White Church, Thursday 12th March 2026 at 7 pm

In Attendance: Andrew Scobie (AS)(Chair), John Greer (JG) (Vice Chair), Ross Scobie (RS) (Treasurer), Dee Thomas (DT)(Secretary), Terri Bacon (TB) Lynn Stewart (LS) and Elected Representative Cllr Stewart Donaldson.

In attendance: Martin Downing SGL Rep, Fiona Blacke (Chair CDT), Gavin Bisset (PKC Flood Scheme), Ben Bidmead (Oxygen Conservation)

Members of the Public: 5

1. Welcome & Apologies:

AS (Chair) welcomed all attendees to the March 2026 meeting. Chair (AS) noted apologies from Community Councillor Andrew Thompson (AT), Alistair Forsyth- Library Rep, and Elected Representative Baille Rhona Brock

2. Approval of Previous Minutes from Community Council Meeting held on 12th February 2026 and Matters Arising

The Minutes were approved and accepted (AS) Proposed/(LS) Seconded with no matters arising.

3. Office Bearers' Reports

Dee Thomas (DT)(Secretary) Nothing to report

Ross Scobie (RS)(Treasurer) gave updated financial report as follows:

Admin Account £537.64 Community Account £4747.46 Xmas Light Account £7417.64

Treasurer reported changes since last report as follows:

Admin Account expenditure of £30 for hall hire (Feb Meeting) and an outstanding invoice still to be paid to Laggan Park Committee (In hand).

Treasurer further suggested that it might be more efficient to update the Admin Account to a new Business account utilising online banking rather than physical cheques.

Community Account: No change reported.

Xmas Lights Account: No change reported although awaiting cheques from Crieff Round Table and an Invoice from Tayside Contracts for dismantling the lights.

4. Police Report

PC Pauline Smart not able to attend. No report submitted.

5.Relevant Planning Applications

Chair (AS) stated nothing to report.

6. Resilience Planning

Lynn Stewart (LS) reported that she had been in communication with Tayside Contracts regarding local salt/grit bins and access to gritting equipment. She reported that the hand carts are now fixed and located at the Fire Station. She noted, with thanks, interest from local Trades people to be included in any future resilience team communications and from a neighbour residing close to the Fire Station who could help as keyholder for access to mechanical and flood equipment (salt bags) out of hours. Lynn explained that the Comrie Medical Centre was keen to be involved but would have to act autonomously due to privacy issues.

7. Flood Prevention Scheme Update

Gavin Bisset of the PKC Flood Prevention team gave a comprehensive update on the progress of works and likely scheduled date for completion. He advised that due to poor weather across the winter season, the completion date was now likely to be end of November 2026.

He confirmed that the works associated with removal of the temporary bridge over the Lednock would now be pushed back to July 2026. Works would continue at Strowan Rd location until end of September 2026. He noted that a key milestone was that the river protection blocks were now in place and the main area of work was now concentrated behind the Fire Station with sheet piles to be removed early summer once the environmental restrictions were lifted. He warned that there would be a need for a large crane at that time.

He advised that Lochay drive garden reinstatement had now been discussed with affected residents and also on Boulevard. He noted that the path behind public toilets was now shut for Balfour Beatty to carry out works and that they had been liaising with Comrie in Colour and hoped to reduce ramp gradients. A resident noted that the area was badly overgrown, and Gavin Bisset agreed to look at resolving the issue. He confirmed that the area of works alongside St Serfs Church were near completion.

Gavin also announced a community drop in event at the White Church on 2nd April 2026 with the focus being on how reinstatement will look.

Gavin noted that there had been some issues again with the speed of some construction traffic and that he had spoken to Balfour Beatty about this, particularly noting that some vehicles were seen taking short cuts through Barrack Road. He advised residents to contact police if speeding/dangerous driving seen happening.

There was then some discussion regarding tree replacement and possible focus for community benefit such as filling in potholes on Melville Lane with Ross Scobie asking if it might be possible for Balfour Beatty to help with a temporary fix before the next Flambeaux procession at New

Years Eve 2026. The state of the car park surface at Laggan Park was also raised and Gavin Bisset agreed to talk to PKC GreenSpace.

8. Road Matters

A resident noted the state of the road out to Aberuchil Estate and the Chair (AS) agreed to flag up with PKC Roads Department.

The Chair (AS) also noted that birds were now nesting again over Dalginross Gardens, and that there were upcoming phased closures on the Langside with advertised road closures between 9am and 3pm throughout March. Martin Downing asked if the potholes forming around the drains on the Langside were to be addressed and it was confirmed that they would be included in the works.

Further BEAR advertised nighttime works were noted planned on A85 at Monzievaird with hourly amnesty in place.

Langside Road closure for one day on 10th April for a Youth Cycling event between 12 noon and 6pm was discussed and Councillor Donaldson agreed to follow up to make sure affected residents are notified.

9. Library Update

Jen Newall kindly gave a brief update on behalf of Friends of Comrie Library. She confirmed that meetings were ongoing with CPKC and that the relationship had improved. She also announced that there would be a street stall info event on 25th April to help to widen participation with a planning meeting happening on 18th March.

Councillor Donaldson gave an overview of PKC budget re Library and Museum provision. He noted £500K extra in this financial year with a further boost of £200k in 26/27. He said that the Council Leader had made a commitment to rural library provision, but efficiencies were needed.

10. Glenlednock

Martin Downing kindly updated the meeting on behalf of the Save Glenlednock group (SGL). He noted that following the PKC Planning decision the Low Carbon windfarm application was no longer showing on the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) website, but it was unclear as to whether the PKC planning department decision would be appealed. He also advised that the ECU had requested supplementary information on the SSE Glentarken windfarm application in terms of visualisations. He said that SGL group had to assume at this stage that the Low Carbon project would proceed to a Public Inquiry, but that SGL would continue to push Low Carbon to drop the application. He spoke of the importance of taking a unified approach by Community Councils and cited the success of a unified approach used by Community Councils to objecting as a group to windfarm developments in the Highlands and Islands. Martin then introduced a request from a local Community Council sent to all Perthshire Community Councils to come together and support a unified statement (read out at meeting) and asked for Comrie and District Community Council to support the statement.

The Chair (AS) asked for Community Councillors present to vote to ratify support of the Unified Statement and it was unanimously agreed that the Comrie and District Council supported the statement.

Councillor Donaldson asked Martin if the Unified Statement considered grid connection issues for both onshore and offshore windfarm applications and Martin confirmed that it was mainly concerned with onshore developments. Martin underlined that the key aim was to seek a moratorium on all developments from ScotGov given the huge challenges posed by lack of grid connection available currently and for many years to come.

Fiona Blacke (Chair of CDT) commented that there were, in her view, gaps in the Unified Statement concerning alignment of community benefits to Place Plans and the prioritisation of community led schemes.

Martin Downing also informed the meeting of a public consultation event that he had attended in Braco organised by Green Cat Energy to consult on a proposed Hydrogen storage facility above the Langside road close to the existing windfarm operation with an aim to produce and store Hydrogen. He advised that there were issues to consider such as increased haulage traffic both to build the facility and move the product out through Braco to the road network. He noted a further meeting would be held on 9th April at Braco Village Hall.

Ben Chonzie path Car Park

A resident asked if there was any possibility of remedial work being carried out by Invergeldie Estate to upgrade the parking at the start of the Ben Chonzie path. This was answered by Ben Bidmead the representative of and Estate manager for Oxygen Conservation at Invergeldie Estate who advised that he and the Estate Ranger were looking to use old surplus fence posts from the Estate to create parking bays and that the longer term plan was to build a new carpark at the location.

A resident noted that she had previously attended a public meeting on the Estate, organised by Invergeldie Estate to discuss Estate plans for forestry and nature restoration, where there had been a pledge made to sort out the parking situation for hillwalkers and asked if there was a recorded minute of that pledge. Ben Bidmead confirmed that to his knowledge there was not but that he would ask Oxygen Conservation if this had been discussed at the open meeting. He reiterated that he had limited resources but that the aim was to upgrade the location in the future.

Fiona Blacke (Chair CDT) noted the recent £3.3m grant of public money awarded to the Estate for Forestry projects and questioned the argument of limited resources.

Ben Bidmead (Invergeldie Estate Manager) then gave an update on the Woodland Creation project and confirmed that initial work had commenced on deer fencing and mounding and that planting had now been pushed back to Autumn 2026. He also confirmed that an application had been made for a Peatland Restoration grant. He advised that the proposed circular walk would be started in Phase 2 and that his particular interest lay in riparian restoration.

A Crieff resident noted that, in relation to all Forestry grant application details /scoping responses, details are only accessible on the Public Register on the Scottish Forestry website for 30 days and after this time are unavailable to the general public unless specific FOI request made.

11. Access and Land Use

The Chair (AS) reiterated that Community Councillor Andrew Thompson (AT) had sent apologies and that most current issues had been covered by previous contributors.

12. Comrie Development Trust update

The update was delivered by Fiona Blacke (FB) (Chair CDT).

Obstructed Access to Cultybraggan Camp from riverside path

Fiona advised that Callum Bachel of PKC had confirmed that an enforcement notice to remove an obstruction had been issued to the landowner on 12th March 2026 and that the landowner had 21 days to comply.

General News

Fiona was pleased to announce that Jen Newall had been appointed as the new Youth Worker charged with engaging with our young people to determine how their voices can be heard within our community.

She noted that a new signage board clearly showing businesses at the Camp was in hand.

A preplanning application for a community led new homes development behind the Ancaster has been submitted but no decision yet on whether the homes will be for sale or rent.

Fiona suggested a collaboration between CCC and CDT bringing other local groups onboard to progress the CAP through to a Place Plan.

Fiona advised that a date for the CDT AGM would soon be announced.

13. Councillors Reports

John Greer (JG) (Vice Chair) nothing to report

Lynn Stewart (LS) advised that she was waiting on Matt Maclay of Scottish Fire Service to confirm dates for CPR training.

The Chair (AS) said he was actively progressing the issue of the Dundas Street sign and also looking at the possibility of extending the 20mph speed limit out to Tullybannocher. Jen Newall (CDT Youth Worker) suggested that this might also be considered up Monument Road.

A Crieff resident suggested that there was an inconsistent approach to speed bumps/speed limits within both Crieff and Comrie and Councillor Donaldson explained that this was due to the differing responsibilities of PKC Roads Department and Transport Scotland responsible for trunk roads such as A85)

The Chair (AS) also advised that he had been contacted by George Lees to find out about the status of the twinning of our village with Carleton Place in Canada. The Chair said he had emailed Baille Rhona Brock about this.

Terri Bacon (TB) reported that phase 2 of Legion Park project would be in 2027 and that there had been some damage through use to the top of the mound in the park which was being resolved.

Elected Representative Councillor Stewart Donaldson (SD) gave an update on the outcome of the PKC budget setting for 2026/7. He reported an 8.9% increase in Council Tax to reflect challenges particularly in provision of social care in rural areas.

He clarified that, despite circulating rumours, there was no intention to withdraw support for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. He confirmed that PKC maintained a commitment to the environment and to roads and infrastructure.

He was asked if that might include the repair/repaint of Dalginross Bridge and he said that it had been suggested that a community payback scheme might be appropriate but had been vetoed on river quality/environment grounds. He added that if a tourist levy is introduced this might be an option for funding a refresh of the bridge but that in terms of PKC assets the Comrie Primary School would be the focus of spending on repairs.

14. AOCB

A resident raised the issue of the unsightly staircases installed on the flood prevention scheme to give access the river.

Gavin Bisset (PKC) replied that these had always been in the original plan and had not been significantly objected to at consultation stage. He accepted that they were intrusive but necessary for river access.

Jen Newall on behalf of Friends of Strathearn reminded the meeting that a pre-election Hustings would take place at Crieff Community Campus on Monday 30th March. Doors open at 6.30pm with all main political parties having confirmed attendance.

Lynn Stewart (LS) raised the issue of if there would be a positive effect on home insurance policies in Comrie following the completion of the flood prevention scheme and asked Councillor Donaldson to investigate this. Gavin Bisset (PKC) said that PKC could provide a letter of comfort for residents to submit to individual insurers.

The Chair (AS) read out a statement commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Dunblane Primary School shooting remembering the lives lost and families affected.

15. DONM

Date of next meeting 7pm White Church on Thursday 9th April 2026

Approved