



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

**The White Church, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7 pm**

**In Attendance:** Andrew Scobie (AS)(Chair), John Greer (JG) (Vice Chair), Ross Scobie (RS) (Treasurer), Dee Thomas (DT)(Secretary), Lynn Stewart (LS), Andrew Thompson (AT) and Elected Representatives Cllr Stewart Donaldson and Baille Rhona Brock

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

**Members of the Public: 6**

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

AS (Chair) welcomed all attendees to the May 2026 meeting and noted apologies from Community Councillor Terri Bacon (TB) and PC Pauline Smart (Police Scotland)

### **2. Approval of Previous Minutes from Community Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and Matters Arising**

The Minutes were approved and accepted (JG) Proposed and (RS) 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 £478.97 Community Account £4647.46 Xmas Light Account £7517.64

Treasurer reported changes since last report as follows:

**Admin Account** expenditure of £30 for hall hire (April Meeting)

**Community Account:** No change

**Xmas Lights Account:** £100 paid in received from Comrie Flambeaux. 2 x cheques from Crieff Round table totalling £1610.66 received but not yet processed.

Treasurer (RS) further reported that the new online banking Admin Account was now open and that he would transfer the total funds from the existing Treasurers account and then close that account. He confirmed that PKC had been notified of this change, particularly in reference to the future annual administration payment.

#### **4. Police Report**

Chair (AS) read the Police Report sent from Police Scotland which focussed on discussions with Community Councillor Terri Bacon re vandalism and some fighting at the 2025 event and confirmation that there will be an increased Police Scotland presence at the November 2026 Bonfire event.

No other Police Scotland matters were in the report.

#### **5. Relevant Planning Applications**

Chair (AS) stated nothing of note to report.

Fiona Blacke (FB) (Chair CDT) added that the Comrie Community Housing Group had gained preplanning approval.

#### **6. Resilience Planning**

Community Councillor Lynn Stewart (LS) updated the meeting on Resilience planning and confirmed that she would be attending PKC funded CPR training on 28/5/26. Chair (AS) asked if Frank Campbell is the Resilience Planning lead at PKC and Lynn confirmed that he is.

#### **7. Road Matters**

AS (Chair) noted that surface water by the entrance to Aberuchill Estate, which had been previously reported via PKC portal, was scheduled on the next Programme of Works.

Treasurer (RS) said he had received further local concern re the condition of the lane access to the Primary School past the Royal Hotel. He confirmed that he had spoken to Gavin Bisset at Balfour Beatty to ascertain if Balfour Beatty could assist in any way. RS to update asap.

Chair (AS) noted that he had reported to PKC the bird detritus just by Dalginross Gardens. A resident asked if there was a dedicated road /pavement sweeper assigned to Comrie.

The resident reported that there had been falls and that the Main Street pavement and roadside were dirty and potentially a hazard and should be swept right down to Laggan Park. Community Councillor Andrew Thompson (AT) reported that a local person (David Spaven) had already surveyed the state of cleanliness of pavements in local adjacent villages and towns and had concluded that Comrie was amongst the worst. (AT) suggested that Comrie and District Community Council could ask David to produce a formal report to submit to PKC with photographic evidence. Secretary Dee Thomas (DT) asked the elected representatives Councillor Stewart Donaldson (SD) and Baille Rhona Brock (RB) if they could take on progressing the concerns if a report were submitted. The Community Council agreed to contact David Spaven and ask if he would be able to submit a formal report.

Chair (AS) turned to the state of Dalginross Bridge and confirmed Comrie in Colour had kindly contacted PKC Greenspace to request they undertake some weeding, but that repainting the bridge was a complex challenge due to SEPA legislation on water contamination.

## **8. Library Update**

Alistair Forsyth (AF) kindly gave a brief update on behalf of Friends of Comrie Library (FOCL). He said that the Open Day held in April had been considered a success with a number of new signups. He informed the meeting that a paper questionnaire survey re Library provision was available in shops in the village and online at FOCL via QR code and he asked if Comrie and District Community Council could place a post on Facebook promoting the online survey and the availability of paper copies in shops in the village. (AS) confirmed that he would post it up.

Re Library matters Councillor Stewart Donaldson (SD) confirmed that papers would be going to PKC Council meeting on 17/6/26 and that he would have sight of them by the date of the next Comrie and District Community Council meeting in June and would update then.

## **9. Christmas Lights Committee Update**

This item was moved to later in the meeting to allow time for CLC representative Patricia Robertson to arrive.

## **10. Glenlednock**

AS (Chair) asked Martin Downing (MD) (Save Glenlednock) to update the meeting.

He reported that the planning objection to the developers application had been referred for appeal and at the current time that was likely to be scheduled towards end of 2026. He added that due to a recent Supreme Court judgement on another matter the application was now back with Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) and that the ECU were likely seeking further information and additional surveys. The ECU were also seeking additional visualisations and information from SSE re the Glentarken application.

MD said this had given the campaign group breathing space to approach the press which they had done and further the group had sent letters to SSE and Low Carbon regarding the flawed applications. SSE acknowledged the correspondence but Low Carbon are yet to respond.

MD reconfirmed that local community councils facing the same developments locally were stronger if working together to object and he advised that there would be a local convention of Community Councils held on 20/6/26. Councillor Andrew Thompson (AT) agreed to attend on behalf of CCDG.

Councillor Stewart Donaldson (SD) reported that he had sight of a local Landscape report for Upper Strathearn produced by a company called Land Use Consultants (LUC). He said that it recommended that the landscape area boundary should be extended up to the dam at Glenlednock. (AT) said this could be very relevant regarding the proposed access routes by Low Carbon to transport the turbines to the site.

Fiona Blacke (Chair CDT) (FB) asked that we keep in mind the matter of Community Benefit if the developments are ultimately approved. AT advised that Community Benefit is never included in planning application decisions and is never guaranteed. Two local residents who had moved to Comrie from the Borders confirmed this viewpoint from their own experience.

MD said from his own experience, Community Benefit is minimal and is discussed at consultation stage but not included in planning decisions.

## **11. Access and Land Use**

Fiona Blacke (FB)(Chair CDT) gave an update re the access issues along the river to the Camp.

She confirmed that access was now open and that PKC had removed obstructions and that a self-closing gate access to the Camp had been fitted. She said that Felicity Martin had kindly produced a safe walking route from the village. FB said CDT also looking to enter into a long term lease on an adjoining field in return for an access gate.

AT proposed that there was a strong case to look at changing the currently classified bridleway into core path status. He asked the Elected Representatives if this could be put to PKC. SD suggested talking to GreenSpace, Colin Elliot and Bid Strachan at PKC.

A local resident asked if the self seeding trees now growing on the Boulevard were going to be removed as they hindered sight of children playing in the river and could pose a safety issue. AT and LS advised that they would like to consult with Residents about tree planting on the Boulevard. The resident suggested that children should play a part in that.

AT said he had noticed that Japanese Knotweed was seen near Balloch as well as evidence of Himalaya Balsam and Giant Hogweed and thought that advice from the Scottish Invasive Initiative could be sought.

LS asked about who to contact regarding a dead animal further upstream from Comrie. It was thought to be a SEPA matter.

### **(Return to item 9) Christmas Lights Committee Update**

Chair (AS) thanked Patricia Robertson (PR) for attending and asked her to present an update on the Christmas Lights.

PR reported on a fundraising event held in November 2025 and thanked the 22 stallholders, Comrie Pipe Band, Leckin Ponies, Earnsong Choir, 27 volunteers, local businesses and of course Santa in his Grotto for making the event a success. She thanked Jim Thompson for the Reindeer and Fir tree branches used to make the Grotto, The Drama Group and Scouts were also in attendance, and she thanked Balfour Beatty for supplying the selection boxes for the 95

children who came to see Santa. She also thanked the Hideaway for sponsoring the Christmas tree in St Kessogs Square (£200) and thanks was given to Jim Alexander and Davie Robertson for maintenance of the lights. Patricia reported that without their hard work in maintaining the units there would not be any Lights to enjoy. She thanked Scott Knox for PAT testing.

PR said she had gained a grant of £1800 for the erection and dismantling by Tayside Contracts.

She noted the generous donations from local businesses and thanked everyone who had donated raffle prizes.

She reported that PLI cover through PKC is now £10m (previously £5m) as this was a condition imposed by BEAR who were also supplied at their request with detailed maps and electrical information on each sited light unit.

BEAR had contacted the CCC to offer a £250 donation, but this has not yet been received.

In summary PR presented to the meeting a detailed Income /expenditure breakdown showing (excl BEAR donation to come £250) Income of £3556.76 and Expenditure of £1043.05 leaving a surplus of £2513.71

Chair (AS) thanked PR for all her hard work. Treasurer (RS) confirmed that he had now received two outstanding cheques totalling £1600 that would be processed to the Christmas Lights Account.

## **12. Comrie Development Trust Update**

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

FB reported a well-attended AGM where attendees were presented an improved financial position, FB confirmed two Trustee resignations (Lindsay Brown and Jeremy Spurway) FB also noted the imminent relaunch of the CDT website with a facility for local groups to have dedicated pages. She further reported on a forthcoming feasibility study for a Solar farm at the Camp that could produce Community benefits.

FB thanked Balfour Beatty for releasing staff to volunteer for a few days at the Camp and noted the work of the Community Led Housing Initiative and noted that Community Councillor Terri Bacon represents the CCC on this project. She talked of the challenges of finding suitable sites particularly in rural glens outside of the village and how to maximise existing vacant housing stock. Fiona said the CDT were now seeking funding for a Development Officer.

FB reported that the Youth worker initiative led by Jen Newall was now in full swing with Jen asking young people their views on how their voices can be heard and represented.

She said that Craig Dobney had offered use of the Church Hall on Friday Nights as a space for our young people to meet.

Chair (AS) thanked Fiona for the update and said that Comrie and District Community Council would like to acknowledge all of the hard work put in by Fiona and her team at the CDT to reduce the financial deficit and put the CDT in a stronger position moving forward.

### **13. Councillor's Reports**

**Baile Rhona Brock (RB)** Nothing to report

**Cllr Stewart Donaldson (SD)**

SD noted various PKC Council papers coming out soon such as the Library papers and Visitor Levy and that he will update at future meetings.

He noted that in terms of the Snowdrop initiative there had been issues in moving Snowdrops too early in the year and that Greenspace would be making restitution.

He noted the Comrie Croft Clachan initiative and thought this an innovative way to approach rural housing.

Discussion then turned to Comrie Fortnight limited Access to the Lednock Dam Road and carpark. SD asked if this was to be allowed as previously and AT and LS said it was their understanding that Oxygen Conservation were not allowing even limited vehicular access during the Comrie Fortnight celebrations.

**Andrew Thompson (AT)** Nothing further to report

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

**Dee Thomas (DT)**(Secretary) nothing to report

**Andrew Scobie (AS)**(Chair) reminded the meeting that there were three additional spaces now on the CCC and that anyone interested should approach him for information. He urged everyone at the meeting to consider applying /or to spread the word locally.

**Ross Scobie (RS)**(Treasurer) reported that he had notified PKC of the changed online bank details and that they had acknowledged this for future annual administration payments.

### **14. AOCB**

**Chair (AS)** thanked Susan Young, Joan Robertson and all the team at PKC responsible for facilitating the recent Scottish Parliament Election voting at the White Church.

**Date of next meeting 7pm White Church on Thursday 11th June 2026**