



Comrie and District Community Council

Minutes, Thursday 11th June, 2026, 7 pm, The White Church

In Attendance: Andrew Scobie (Chair) John Greer (Vice Chair), Ross Scobie (Treasurer), Lynn Stewart, Terri Bacon

Elected and External Representatives: Baille Rhona Brock, Stewart Donaldson, Fiona Blacke (Comrie Development Trust - CDT) Jen Newall (CDT), June Brown (Cameron Court), Karen Donaldson (Cameron Court), Ben Bidmed (Oxygen Conservation) Alastair Forsyth (Friends of Comrie Library), Martin Downing (Save Glenlednock)

Members of the Public: x 7

Apologies: Dee Thomas (Secretary) Andrew Thompson

Minutes from the last meeting:

- Andrew Scobie noted that Comrie in Colour had responded to the draft minutes to clarify that they had approached PKC Greenspace regarding weeding at Dalginross Bridge, rather than undertaking the work themselves. He confirmed that this amendment would be made before publication of the approved minutes.
- Comrie in Colour raised further concern regarding the poor condition of the bridge. Andrew reiterated that, although the situation was complicated by SEPA regulations and related constraints, inaction was not an acceptable option.
- Lynn Stewart proposed the minutes and Terri Bacon seconded.

Office Bearer Reports:

- There was no Secretary report because Dee Thomas was absent.
- Ross Scobie delivered the monthly Treasurer's report. Ross reported the account balances and confirmed receipt of funds from the Crieff Round Table for the Christmas Lights account.

Police Report:

- No updates from Police Scotland were provided at this meeting.
- No concerns relating to police matters were brought forward by attendees.

Relevant Planning Applications:

- Recent planning applications have not included any matters of particular note.

Resilience Planning:

- Lynn Stewart provided an update on the latest steps in resilience planning, including a climate resilience document that requires a response by June 23rd.
- The Community Council continues to monitor the presence of defibrillators.
- Lynn is still working to organise CPR courses on behalf of the Community Council. These will be delivered by a local paramedic.
- Lynn will chase up Frank Campbell about generators.
- John Greer queried if the Community Council insurance policy includes resilience volunteers. Andrew Scobie will ask Lorriane at PKC when the insurance is renewed in Autumn.
- Lynn raised the question of whether earthquakes and seismic activity should be incorporated into the resilience plan. The Community Council agreed that they should, in light of Comrie's position on the Great Highland Fault and the area's recent seismic activity.

Road Matters:

- Andrew opened this item by acknowledging the recent damage to the former RBS building caused by a passing bus. He thanked those who had assisted in clearing the broken glass and debris.
- Andrew Thompson asked that concerns about pesticide spraying by contractors in the village be raised in his absence. Residents have expressed health and environmental risks associated with the current pesticide practices, and the Community Council agreed to investigate the justification for using contractors.
- Issues with pavement conditions were also raised, particularly near the School where a large puddle remains a concern, and discussed the need for improved drainage and road maintenance.
- Andrew reiterated that problems with PKC maintained roads and pavements should be registered on the MyPKC portal.
- Bailie Brock provided an update arising from her committee work, noting that roads in Comrie, including Aberuchill, are scheduled for forthcoming repairs.
- Ross noted that a resident of Melville Lane had contacted him to express concern about the poor condition of the road surface. He added that he is exploring the possibility of Balfour Beatty undertaking the necessary repairs.

Library Update

- Alastair Forsyth delivered the monthly update from the Friends of Comrie Library Group.
- He acknowledged the recommendations set out in a recent Council paper on library services. The group welcomed the proposed plans, which would retain existing buildings as library facilities while recognising the broader economic and social value of investment in library provision.
- The discussion noted that the council paper is due to be considered on 17 June, with those present expressing cautious optimism that it will be approved in light of the level of administrative support and the growing recognition of the value of library services.

Caledonia Housing – Cameron Court Service Review:

- Prior to the meeting John Greer volunteered to take the lead on this issue. Councillors in attendance voted in favour.
- Yesterday, tenants, their families and advocates met with representatives from Caledonia Housing. The meeting was private, though Councillors Ballie Brock and Donaldson met with tenants for an update afterwards.
- June Brown, representing the tenants of Cameron Court Sheltered Housing Facility, reported that Caledonia Housing plans to repurpose the facility after an 18-month consultation period.
- Caledonia Housing presented three options: selling the property, converting it to long-term respite care, or developing it for another purpose, with a final decision expected in August and more details available by September.
- The tenants expressed deep concern about the potential loss of their homes and the wider impact on community life, given Cameron Court's role as a venue for a range of local groups. Caledonia Housing indicated that staffing costs were a significant factor in the proposed changes.
- Several participants raised questions about financial sustainability, with concerns about high overheads and empty rooms despite demand for housing.
- There was wholly universal agreement among participants that the community must strive to influence Caledonia Housing's decision on the future of the facility. Fiona (CDT) raised the possibility of a community buyout of the facility.
- John Greer queried the status of the tenants' contract with Caledonia Housing. Councillor Donaldson is currently investigating this.
- The Ward Councillors will consult the appropriate officers in the Council about Cameron Court.
- Andrew verified that this item will remain on the Community Council agenda until further notice.

Glenlednock:

- Martin Downing provided an update on behalf of the Save Glenlednock Group. He reported that there had been no significant developments in relation to either the Invergeldie application or SSE's Glen Tarken Wind Farm proposal.
- Ben Bidmed (Oxygen Conservation) shared further details of improvements to the Ben Chonzie car park.
- Oxygen Conservation will host a community evening event at Invergeldie on Tuesday 16 June.

Access and Land Use:

- In his absence, Andrew Thompson asked that the issue of tree felling at Ruchillside be raised. Local residents expressed concern that the works may be obstructing public access along paths in the area. However, those present were unable to provide any further detail at the meeting.
- A further concern was raised with Andrew Scobie regarding the lack of access from Monument Road to the Deil's Cauldron. The Community Council will continue to press for the repair or replacement of the access stairway.

Comrie Development Trust Update:

- Fiona and Jen updated those in attendance with the latest news from the Comrie Development Trust.
- The Museum, Café and self-catering facilities continue to attract visitors.
- The CDT Management Committee are conducting an audit of their governance.
- Waste water from Cultybraggan is discharged into the River Ruchill. Although it undergoes treatment before release and fully complies with public health legislation, Fiona expressed concern given that popular swimming spots lie downstream. To address this, a reed bed is being proposed to provide an additional stage of natural treatment prior to discharge.
- Jen continues in her role as Youth Worker and has been engaging with young people in Comrie who attend Crieff High School and Morrison's Academy. She is also seeking to extend this engagement to primary school pupils. In addition, she is preparing an interim report on youth engagement, which she intends to present to pupils before the end of term.
- Fiona is looking for funding to extend Jen's role as currently it is financed as a pilot project.
- Prior to the Community Council meeting, the CDT ran a well-attended public consultation on housing issues in Comrie and District.
- Fiona continues to ensure that all CDT decisions and policies align with environmental priorities.

Councillors Reports:

- **John** – No further updates.
- **Lynn**- No further updates.
- **Andrew Scobie** – No further updates.
- **Terri** – Terri raised the following matters:
 - On June 26 the Masonic Lodge are holding a musical evening. The event is ticketed and they are selling quickly.
 - PKC will be undertaking some improvements to the school in the coming months.
 - On behalf of the Comrie Primary School Parents and Friends Association (PFA) she thanked Ben for the recent donation of £500 from Oxygen Conservation.
 - As part of their ongoing 'Breaducation' Programme, the school are installing an outdoor pizza oven.
 - The next phase of the Legion Park renovation is due to start soon.
- **Ross** – No further updates
- **Councillor Stewart Donaldson** – Stewart provided the following update:
 - PKC and Balfour Beatty forecast November 12 as the completion date of the Flood Prevention Scheme.
 - Further context regarding ongoing housing issues including Cameron Court.
- **Ballie Rhona Brock** – No further updates

AOCB:

- June Brown thanked Comrie Primary School for a recent visit in which they delivered numerous painted stones. These have been placed in the facility's garden.
- Andrew confirmed that, following the Coronation of King Charles III in May 2023, the Lord Lieutenant's Office presented Comrie with an official portrait of the King. It had originally been intended for display in the White Church; however, it has since been gifted to St Kessog's Masonic Lodge, which was considered a more secure location.

DONM: Thursday July 9th, 7pm

Action Points:

1. Andrew will find someone to expedite matters related to the Dalginross Bridge.
2. Lynn will get dates for the CPR courses.
3. Lynn will raise the issue of earthquakes to the community resilience team for consideration.
4. Lynn will contact Frank Campbell regarding the generators for the next meeting.
5. Lynn will readdress the tree planting issue with Andrew Thomposn when he returns, and meet off-site to discuss.
6. Community and Ward Councillors will investigate the justification for PKC's use of contractors for manual herbicide spraying and the potential health and environmental risks.
7. Residents should keep raising the issue of the pavement on MyPKC to encourage action.
8. Andrew Scobie will approach Dalginross House for their thoughts on the rookeries and the debris issue.
9. Andrew Scobie shall contact Lorraine at the council to inquire about insurance coverage for volunteers.
10. Community Council to apply more pressure to get the steps down to the Deil's Cauldron repaired or replaced.
11. Ben will finalise the car park design and acquire planning permission if necessary.
12. Jen will compile an interim report on youth engagement and present it to the young people at schools and events before the end of term.
13. June will provide a list of community groups that use Cameron Court.
14. Stewart will investigate the terms and conditions in the contract regarding Caledonia's potential repurposing of Cameron Court.
15. Rhona and Stewart will Meet with the relevant council officers regarding the Cameron Court situation.