



Comrie & District Community Council Meeting July 2026

The White Church, Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7 pm

In Attendance: Andrew Scobie (AS)(Chair), 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 (Comrie Library Rep), Ben Bidmead (Invergeldie)

Members of the Public: 8

1. Welcome & Apologies:

AS (Chair) welcomed all attendees to the July 2026 meeting and noted apologies from Community Councillor John Greer (JG) (Vice Chair), Ross Scobie (RS) (Treasurer) and Terri Bacon (TB)

2. Approval of Previous Minutes from Community Council Meeting held on 11th June 2026 and Matters Arising

Chair (Andrew Scobie) reviewed action items from the last meeting and asked Community Councillors present for relevant updates. Andrew confirmed he was still following up with PKC on various issues to do with pavement condition and debris, Dalginross bridge weeds, contractor herbicide spraying practices and insurance cover for volunteers.

Lynn Stewart confirmed that she was addressing matters concerning tree planting, generator contacts and working on finalising dates for CPR courses.

Ben Bidmead (Invergeldie) confirmed he was still finalising the Ben Chonzie car park design and planning application.

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

3. Office Bearers' Reports

Dee Thomas (DT)(Secretary) reported attending an informative session hosted by PKAVS at Strathearn Arts which was aimed at promoting the services provided by PKAVS and gaining an insight to Community needs throughout Perthshire with a view to reviewing provision to better reflect needs. For more information on services search pkavs.org.uk

Ross Scobie (RS)(Treasurer) not present but provided updated June /July 2026 financial report dated **8/7/2026** as follows:

Balances:

Admin Account £419.87 **Community Account** £4647.46 **Xmas Light Account** £8964.80

Treasurer reported changes since last report as follows:

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

Community Account: No change

Xmas Lights Account: No Change

Chair (AS) asked for agreement from other councillors present to send to the Treasurer a small Zoom Meeting subscription fee for payment. It was agreed that this should be sent to the Treasurer (RS) to pay.

4. Police Report

No Police Scotland Officer in attendance or report received.

A resident reported a recent incident of car and van racing/speeding on Dukes Road and confirmed it had been reported to Police Scotland. Chair (AS) confirmed that for any incidents of antisocial behaviour residents would be generally best to report the behaviour in the first instance to Police Scotland.

Chair (AS) reported resident concerns re the bird scaring unit sited on farmland close to the path along the Ruchil. Resident felt it was firing too frequently and loudly and had alarmed her and her dog. Andrew Thompson (AT) suggested that there are strict regulations surrounding use close to residential areas and paths and that it might be useful to approach Environmental Health to report the concerns. AT to follow up.

5. Relevant Planning Applications

Chair (AS) noted an application in at West Lodge Estate for glamping Pods and that he had received concerns from residents re potential hot tubs and associated noise when used by guests in the evening and increased traffic issues on A85 at the Milton. Chair (AS) said that the CDCC had not submitted an objection but that objections from other parties had been lodged.

6. Resilience Planning

Community Councillor Lynn Stewart (LS) updated the meeting on Resilience planning and confirmed that she would be following up dates for CPR training with Fire Service.

She confirmed that there was a lot of concern in the village re the missing Defibrillators and that she was investigating with Strathearn Defibrillators and Colin Crawford as to why they were missing and when they will be back in service. Chair (AS) to write to concerned resident.

Fiona Blacke (CDT Chair) confirmed that she had submitted an application to host a Defib Unit at Cultybraggan Camp.

7. Road Matters

A resident raised concerns about the weeds and overgrown areas on pavements and paths throughout the village and expressed frustration at the lack of response from PKC re this issue. This led onto a discussion concerning invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and a need for the Council to implement a proper tree management survey/maintenance programme to address this. AT enquired if there was still a Council funded Tree officer who could assist. It was suggested that two trees on Gowanlea Place needed attention, overgrown weeds throughout the village and potentially rotten trees on Strathview Place needed looking at.

Possible Adder sightings on Gowanlea Road

The discussion then turned to the concerns of some residents that there have been reports of adder sightings in the unmowed "Grow Wild" initiative on Gowanlea Road specifically where it intersects a busy connecting pathway to Strathview Place. The resident reported lack of interest from the Council when reported and this had led to contacting the SSPCA who confirmed that it would be the Council's responsibility to address concerns as Adders were a protected species. It was reported that the council had erected bollards on the pathway but felt this was ineffective and that the problem was the uncut grass areas. It was agreed that Alistair Forsyth (AF) who has experience of working with snakes would carry out a survey to confirm if Adders are present at the location mentioned. AT discussed the need for a licence to translocate Adders. Chair (AS) to look into the legislation. Ben Bidmead (Invergeldie) offered to find suitable sites on Invergeldie if legislation allowed the translocation.

It was also reported that because of the length of the uncut grass at the location it was entirely possible it would contain dog excrement posing an additional human and canine health problem.

Elected Councillor Stewart Donaldson suggested the involvement of the local Ranger and confirmed he would also be following up the issue at PKC.

Other Road Matter Chair (AS) noted concerns re wheelchair access at the bus stop for wheelchair users crossing to the bus stop pavement. The missing Dundas Street sign was again raised and AS confirmed he was following this up.

A resident raised the issue of whether or not Comrie had a council funded road sweeping operative.

8. Library Update

Alistair Forsyth (AF) kindly gave a brief update on behalf of Friends of Comrie Library (FOCL). He confirmed that the Council had voted for option 2 to use the library as a Community hub and that Comrie Library would benefit from a share of the £375k investment agreed for rural library services. He also confirmed that a new Community Development Office role had been created at CulturePKC specifically to support rural library provision. AF thanked the Elected Councillors for their support and thanked Friends of Comrie Library Campaign team for their hard work to achieve this outcome.

9. Caledonia Housing-Cameron Court Service Review

June Brown confirmed that there was to be a consultation meeting for residents only on 15/7/2026 at Cameron Court to discuss 3 options and a report to be submitted to the Board of Caledonia Housing in August. She reiterated that it was a time of great stress for all residents and that the uncertainty was affecting their health. She confirmed that she would be attending the meeting and would report back at the a future CDCC meeting.

Chair (AS) agreed to keep the issue as a standing item on the monthly CDCC meeting agenda and that he and Fiona Blacke (CDT) have written to Caledonia Housing seeking clarity on plans.

Elected Councillors Rhona Brock and Stewart Donaldson agreed to raise the issue with PKC Health and Social Care team in terms finding out the contractual terms and conditions regarding the Caledonia Housing plans for Cameron Court.

Fiona Blacke (CDT) suggested forming a sub-group particularly aimed at gaining access to the Minutes of the Caledonia Board meeting and plans going forward.

June Brown agreed to supply a list of community groups that use Cameron Court

June Brown thanked the CDCC meeting attendees for their support.

10. Glenlednock

Andrew Thompson (AT) updated the meeting on the status of the Low Carbon (Windfarm Developer) application to develop a windfarm operation at Invergeldie and confirmed that there was now a significant delay re next steps as information sought by the Energy Consents Unit regarding the EIA was still outstanding and that a Public Inquiry would not be scheduled until this information was supplied by Low Carbon. He also noted a significant legal ruling concerning a windfarm development in the Borders of Scotland to which Low Carbon were yet to comment on. AT further noted that in terms of the Save Glenlednock Campaign (SGL) this pause would enable the group to concentrate on putting together their approach/strategy for any future Public Inquiry.

AT noted that there was to be a convention of concerned local Community Councils to discuss the number/impact of Windfarm and Battery Storage developer applications across Perthshire, with a meeting to be held in Methven in late August and that he would be attending.

11. Access and Land Use

Invergeldie Woodland Creation

Ben Bidmead (Invergeldie) updated the meeting on the woodland creation scheme at Invergeldie and AT thanked Ben on behalf of the Community for hosting a recent open evening with 41 local people attending to hear about progress and next steps.

Ben confirmed that tree planting is about to start with peat restoration works also commencing.

Ben confirmed that future open evenings were planned to keep the community informed.

Comrie to Trowan Core Path

Councillor Stewart Donaldson (SD) noted that landowner agreements about to be signed (hopefully by 22/7/26) but that Phase 4 of the project would require a Road Traffic Audit which may cause a delay.

Path to Cultybraggan

Fiona Blacke (Chair CDT) asked if she could pursue applying for/ gaining core path status for the path linking the village to Cultybraggan noting that Councils have an obligation to review.

Deils Cauldron Boardwalk Path

Chair (AS) advised the meeting that he had heard from PKC that the path structure needed full refurbishment (starting in 2027) as there were complications after removal of an oak tree and a problem caused by a dislodged boulder. Local Countryside ranger to put up closure signage. It was noted that the path is important to local tourism.

12. Comrie Development Trust Update

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

FB reported that the CDT had just submitted a second phase bid for for a solar farm installation that would soon progress to a planning application. She said this would benefit tenants with lower energy costs and EV chargers would be cheaper to use and hopefully any excess generated energy could be sold on and proceeds put into a Community benefit fund.

FB advised that the Housing group work continued in a positive direction and was looking for suitable sites and best use of current housing stock in the village.

FB promoted a family CDT event (Big Sleep Out) to be held at the camp on 31/7/26

She further advised that work on the Changing Places toilet facility would commence soon.

13. Councillor's Reports

Chair (AS) noted an interesting rural business opportunity fund advertised in the Quair local magazine for Oxygen Conservation and urged any interested businesses to apply.

He also communicated that Ross Scobie (RS) (Treasurer) had been approached about the state of Melville Lane which is not PKC responsibility and that Ross would be looking to see if Balfour Beatty could help in any way.

AS reported that a resident had enquired as to whether the iron steps would be reinstated at Field of Refuge. AS to find out.

AS noted, that Terri Bacon had reported cracks /holes in the concrete of the Laggan Park skatepark and a broken bench. AS to follow up and he suggested reinstating a skatepark user sub- group to report faults to CDCC as they happen with the CDCC retaining guardianship of the Skatepark for the Community.

AS noted, that Terri Bacon noted thanks to the Masonic Lodge for a donation to Comrie Primary PFA and that the PFA Car Wash event had been a great success with £800 raised.

Andrew Thompson (AT) Nothing further to report

Dee Thomas (DT)(Secretary) nothing to report

Baille Rhona Brock (RB) Nothing to report

Cllr Stewart Donaldson (SD) Nothing further to report

14. AOCB

Local resident raised witnessing the issue of excessive use by heavy plant using Dalginross Bridge and said at one point 5 large individual vehicles were crossing the bridge simultaneously and wondered if there was a safety protocol in place. AS to raise with Gavin Bisset at PKC.

Chair (AS) to post up a schedule of remaining 2026 planned Community Council meetings online.

Date of next meeting 7pm White Church on Thursday 13th August 2026

Action Points:

1. **AS** to continue following up with PKC on pavements, debris, Dalginross Bridge weeds, herbicide spraying, volunteer insurance, wheelchair access, missing Dundas Street sign, Field of Refuge steps, Laggan Park skatepark/bench damage, and Dalginross Bridge heavy plant concerns.
2. **LS** to progress resilience matters, including tree planting, generator contacts, CPR training dates, and missing defibrillators.
3. **Ben Bidmead** to finalise the Ben Chonzie car park design/planning application and identify possible Invergeldie adder relocation sites if permitted.
4. **RS** to pay the Zoom subscription fee and investigate whether Balfour Beatty can assist with Melville Lane.
5. **AT** to follow up Environmental Health concerns about the bird-scaring unit and attend the Methven meeting on windfarm/battery storage applications.
6. **AF** to survey the Gowanlea Road/Strathview Place area for possible adder presence.
7. **AS/Cllr Stewart Donaldson** to clarify adder legislation, involve the Ranger, and follow up grass-cutting/safety concerns with PKC.
8. **June Brown** to report back on the Cameron Court residents' consultation and provide a list of community groups using Cameron Court.
9. **AS/Councillors/CDCC** to keep Cameron Court on the agenda and pursue clarity with Caledonia Housing and PKC Health and Social Care.
10. **Fiona Blacke/Local Ranger/AS** to progress access and land-use matters, including Cultybraggan core path status, Deils Cauldron closure signage, and the 2026 meeting schedule online.