Comrie and District Community Council

Meeting, October 8, 2026, 7 pm

The White Church

In Attendance: Andrew Scobie (Chair), John Greer (Vice Chair), Ross Scobie (Treasurer), Dee Thomas (Secretary), Terri Bacon, Andrew Thompson

Elected & External Representatives: Baillie Rhona Brock, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Fiona Blacke (Comrie Development Trust), June Brown (Keep Care in Comrie), Fran Loots (Friends of Comrie Library), Martin Downing (Save Glenlednock)

Members of public in Attendance – 10 approximately

Apologies: Lynn Stewart, Ben Bidmead (Oxygen Conservation)

APPROVED

Meeting Summary:

The October meeting of the Comrie and District Community Council was held to conduct their annual general meeting and discuss various community matters. During the AGM, Andrew was reappointed as chair, John Greer continued as vice chair, and Ross Scobie remained treasurer, while the secretary position remained vacant following Dee's resignation. The community council reviewed financial accounts showing healthy balances across their accounts, discussed ongoing planning applications including concerns about a chicken farm development, and addressed issues with West Lodge Caravan Park and drainage matters. Key updates were provided on the Cameron Court housing situation, with residents still facing uncertainty about their future, and the community council's work on wind farm developments through the Convention of the Highlands Community Councils. The meeting also covered local infrastructure matters including road repairs, utility concerns, and progress on the long-awaited cycle track project, while the Common Development Trust (CDT) reported on their heritage work and plans for an accessible toilet facility.

Annual General Meeting:

- Cllr Stewart Donaldson chaired the AGM for the appointment of the Community Council chair. Andrew Thompson proposed Andrew Scobie as chair, Ross Scobie seconded. There were no other nominations. Andrew Scobie accepted.
- Andrew Scobie chaired the remainder of the annual general meeting (AGM) section.

- Andrew Scobie proposed John Greer for Vice-Chair and Ross Scobie for Treasurer, Both nominations were seconded, and both agreed to continue in their roles.
- The position of Secretary became vacant as with Dee Thomas' resignation. The group decided to leave this post empty for now.
- Ross reported that final accounts had been submitted to the council and noted a healthy balance in the community and Christmas lights accounts, with plans to explore new fundraising methods beyond traditional methods like website listings and Facebook posts.
- Rhona Brock queried who will take on the role of Data Controller. Andrew Scobie will remain in this post.

Minutes from the Last Meeting:

- Approval of the August minutes will be deferred until the November meeting because various revisions have been requested.

Office Bearers Reports:

- No Secretary Report
- The treasurer reported the current account balances and recent expenditures, including donations and hall hires.

Police Report:

- No Police Report
- Andrew Thompson reported ongoing issues with unauthorized gold prospecting in the River Ruchill in at Glenartney. Dozens of people have been visiting after social media reports of gold discovery. He explained that the prospectors are acting illegally by operating without proper licenses from the Crown Estate and violating access legislation.

Relevant Planning Applications:

- Andrew Thompson reported on several ongoing planning and development issues. He explained that a digger has been parked in a field for several days without working at West Lodge, and the community is monitoring the situation.
- Regarding the free-range egg-laying unit application, Andrew Thompson noted that 16 community objections were submitted, and both SEPA and NatureScot have now

APPROVED

provided holding responses requesting more detailed information from the applicant about flood risk and protected areas before making definitive decisions. The planning process is currently paused pending the applicant's response to these technical information requests.

- The meeting also addressed planning application updates, clarifying that late consultation responses are still considered by the council.

Roads, Pavements and Utilities:

- The community council discussed a dangerous road condition involving scooter wheels getting stuck in drain covers, which June Brown reported as an ongoing safety concern.
- Andrew also noted that the sign for the forthcoming takeaway in the former RBS building has been installed. He will follow up with developers regarding opening and repairs to the recent bus damage on the building.
- David Spaven was due to provide an update on some ongoing work regarding the cutting of Stagecoach bus services. He was unable to attend. Due to time limits we agreed that this would be carried to the November meeting.

Subcommittee Updates:

- **Community Resilience** – Community resilience will need reallocating as Lynn Stewart will be absent for the foreseeable future. Andrew Scobie noted that the Dunira Street Defibrillator has yet to be returned. He will chase this up.
- **Skatepark -** The meeting covered several action items and updates, including arranging repairs or placing a picnic bench near the Skate Park. The Community Council also touched on skate park maintenance and the possibility of setting up a subcommittee involving local youth.
- **Christmas Lights** – The Christmas Light switch on ceremony will take place on Saturday November 28th.

External Updates:

- **Friends of Comrie Library** – Fran Loots discussed the need for repairs due to water ingress and requested clarification on the ownership and management of the library building.
- **Save Glenlednock** – Andrew Thomspon and Marting Downing discussed recent movements on the Glenlednock and Glentarken applications. They also mentioned an upcoming meeting organized by Margaret Orgill of Methven Community Council

APPROVED

to coordinate campaign messaging across local communities. Fiona Blacke, Andrew Thompson and Martin initiated a brief discussion, highlighting the challenges around community benefits from developments, with concerns about how benefits are distributed and the potential for communities to be pitted against each other. Andrew Scobie discussed the potential community benefit from the Strathallan turbines and mentioned plans to investigate further.

- **Keep Care in Comrie** – June and Fiona thanked the community for attending the recent public meeting about Cameron Court and outlined recent efforts to split activities into parts, including campaigning and exploring alternative models. The group is working collaboratively with Caledonia Housing to gather information and has submitted requests to the Scottish Government regarding any deviations from use conditions. They are also exploring additional services for the building, such as a special kitchen or Meals on Wheels, with support from PKC's Health and Social Care Partnership.

Access, Land Use and Greenspaces:

- A resident from Dunira raised concerns about late consultation regarding the Dunira Forest long-term plan, which was confirmed by the forestry agent. The group was given an extension to submit their response after the November meeting.
- Andrew Thompson reported concerns from neighbours about damaged fences and lost paths, noting a lack of knowledge about how to address these issues or determine legal standing. He offered to help residents consult and respond to planning consultants as a community.
- Andrew Thomspon also discussed plans to follow up with Oxygen Conservation about their forest creation and peatland restoration project.
- Andrew Scobie revisited the issue of contacting the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative about managing Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed along popular paths. Andrew Thompson noted that other groups have undertaken this task already, and suggested that we collaborate with them.
- Andrew Scobie mentioned a bequest for a bench near Melville's Monument atop Dunmore, that requires coordination with Dunira Estate regarding location and installation.
- A member of the public in attendance highlighted to poor condition of the Dunmore Path to the Monument. The surface is precarious.
- Stewart Donaldson announced that phase one of the Comrie to Trowan path will proceed later this year. He provided updates on land agreements, noting that while most are signed, one still needs final approval.
- The Deil’s Cauldron path and viewing platform is accessible again.

APPROVED

Comrie Development Trust Update:

- Fiona Blacke several updates about the Comrie Development Trust (CDT), including the arrival of an accessible toilet that will benefit disabled visitors and carers, and progress on museum renovations made possible by summer fundraising efforts.
- She acknowledged some forthcoming staffing changes.
- Fiona also outlined plans for a new bus service collaboration that would link the village to Edinburgh and Perth, addressing current transportation challenges faced by residents.
- Fiona acknowledged plans for community energy groups and access improvements to a camp, noting ongoing conversations about potential cycle tracks and land access issues.

Councillor's Reports:

- **John Greer** – No update.
- **Dee Thomas** – No update.
- **Andrew Scobie** – Andrew thanked Ian Wilock for auditing the annual accounts at short notice.
- **Ross Scobie** – Ross continues to laisse with Balfour Beatty regarding pot hole repairs at Melville Lane
- **Teri Bacon** – Teri thanked the Hayride Committee for their donation to the Comrie School PFA.
- **Andrew Thompson** – Andrew suggested that the Community Council collaborate with the CDT to host another screening of *The Peoples Emergency Briefing.*
- **Baille Rhona Brock** – No update.
- **Cllr Stewart Donaldson** – Stewart elaborated on some issues raised earlier.

Any Other Competent Business:

- Andrew added that the Crieff and Strathearn Museum will close for the winter from Saturday 24th October, and urged those meaning to visit to do so soon,

Action Points:

1. Andrew Scobie will chase up the status of the White Church defibrillator.
2. Andrew Thompson to attend the meeting on Wednesday brought together by Margaret Orgill of Methven Community Council, to coordinate a strategy against wind farm developments.

APPROVED

3. Andrew Scobie to follow up with the developers of the new shop by the Macintosh building regarding the dangerous debris control sign and whether repairs to the structure have been undertaken.
4. The Community Council will collaborate regarding the control of invasive species.
5. Andrew Thomspon will follow up with the forestry agent/consultants regarding the Dunira Forest access issues and coordinate a community response after the November meeting.
6. Andrew Thompon to chase up the offer from the conservation group to invite the community to see the peatland restoration work.
7. Andrew Scobie to follow up with the solicitor's office regarding the bequest for a bench at the monument and coordinate with Dunira Estate on a suitable location.
8. Andrew Scobie to contact Green Spaces to inspect the steep track near the monument for safety and rocks.
9. Andrew Scobie will visit the deals cauldron area to verify if the work is actually finished and accessible.
10. The Community Council to explore the possibility of hosting another screening of the National Emergency Briefing Film upstairs with the backing of the community council and CDT.
11. Andrew Scobie will find a different venue for the next meeting on November 12th (Church Hall or Royal Library) and keep the group posted.
12. Stewart Donaldson to follow up with the owner of the library building and PKC to clarify the complicated ownership/repair arrangement and the current status of the building. Stewart will copy the library-related correspondence to the relevant contacts to seek clarification on the building's status.
13. The Community Council will continue to monitor the West Lodge Caravan Park situation in conjunction with neighbours.
14. The Community Council to encourage the public to report roads, pavements, utilities, and maintenance concerns via the MyPKC portal.
15. The Community Council to reallocate the community resilience matters task since Lynne Stewart is on absence.
16. The Community Council to set up a skate park subcommittee including young users (Terry's son, Ross's son, nephew) to act as eyes and ears for the site.
17. Andrew Scobie to follow up on the potential community benefit from the Strathallan wind farm.

APPROVED

18. The Community Council to work with the Keep Care in Comrie group to support the alternative model for Cameron Court.
19. The Community Council to collaborate with the Comrie Development Trust and transport groups to explore a bus service links to Comrie.

APPROVED