



**MINUTES OF THE TARLAND FLOOD MEETING ON 7th JANUARY 2020
AT MACROBERT HALL TARLAND - CORRECTED**

PRESENT: 17 members of the Tarland community attended the meeting together with 7 members of Cromar Community Council and Cllr. Paul Gibb who represents Ward 15 on Aberdeenshire Council.

PURPOSE: The meeting had been called by the Community Council to discuss the multiple flood events that had impacted the centre of Tarland in the vicinity of Melgum Road, Mill Road, the Playpark and Burnside Road. A common understanding of what had happened would be established and proposals made to deal with and prevent flooding in the future.

The majority of those present had seen the postings on Facebook or had seen the notices displayed in the village.

CHRONOLOGY:

4th/5th November: flooding occurred in the Tarland Garage forecourt and also Melgum Road. This was during a period of heavy rain.

12th November: While flood engineers from Aberdeenshire Council were visiting Tarland, there was a second flood in the Tarland Garage forecourt, and Melgum and Mill Roads. In addition, the Tarland Burn overflowed in Burnside Road.

4th December: More flooding: this time with raw sewage from a sewage pipe beneath Duncan Road.

30th December: A further flood in Melgum Road and the Garage forecourt. This again included sewage overflowing from a drain in Duncan Road.

In the period 8th November to 18th December, investigations were carried out by flood risk engineers from Aberdeenshire Council, together with the Roads Department. The owner of Tarland Garage cleared debris from the culvert and investigated its links to the sewage pipe. Sandbags were provided to local residents during the flood on the 12th November. At a meeting held on the 18th December between Aberdeenshire Council officials, Cllr. Paul Gibb and the Chairman and Secretary of the Community Council, it was agreed that a specialist contractor should be commissioned to carry out a camera survey of the culvert.

3rd January: The specialist drain company carried out the camera survey and cleared as much silt as possible from the culvert with their jetting equipment. A large ridged piece of plastic material, similar to the blade of a snow shovel, was found in the underground section of the culvert and attempts were made to push it through. Scottish Water was called to investigate the sewage pipe in Duncan Road.

DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS: A number of residents who had lived in Tarland for many decades and had previous knowledge of the culverts and associated drains were at the meeting. There was a wide-ranging discussion as to the causes of the recent flood events.

Tarland Burn

The overflowing of the Tarland Burn in the vicinity of Burnside Road and the bridge results from the volume of water flowing in the burn. The individual bridges across the burn cause restrictions when the flow is high. Residents complained that stones were falling from the retaining walls and that there was a buildup of silt in the bed. There was discussion as to whether it was better to retain water further upstream rather than to try to speed up the flow and potentially cause problems further downstream. Flood plans are updated every six years and the Tarland Burn is not due to be reviewed until 2022.

Megum Road & Duncan Road

There had been problems with the burn that runs behind Melgum Road and the underground culvert and separately with the sewer drain in Duncan Road. There appeared to be an overflow from the sewer to the culvert which allowed sewage to flow if the drain became blocked. One resident said that the pipe was installed in the 1970's when the housing in Duncan Road had been constructed. In addition, there was nothing to stop objects being carried down the burn and getting stuck in the underground culvert that eventually joins the Tarland Burn. The meeting was told that Scottish Water has now taken measures to prevent an overflow from the sewer to the culvert happening again.

PLANNED ACTIONS:

1. Aberdeenshire Council will provide a suitable screen at the entrance to the culvert and possibly another further up the burn..
2. The outflow from the community wetland will be reviewed with the MacRobert Trust Estate.
3. Residents are to be encouraged to make sure that garden waste and other debris does not enter the burn behind the Tarland Garage to prevent it from getting carried down to the culvert.
4. Investigations are to be carried out by Aberdeenshire Council to improve the "box culvert" and inspection chamber, and to smooth out the connection between the two.
5. Scottish Water will be asked to monitor the performance of the sewer drainage in Duncan Road.

6. Aberdeenshire Council will conduct regular inspections of the Tarland Burn and discuss any problems that arise with residents who live nearby.
7. Aberdeenshire Council will provide flood gates at cost price to residents who want them.
8. The Community Council will ask for flood and storm risk warnings for the area to be passed on to the community.
It will arrange for a container and for sandbags to be installed in the village.
It will draw up and make available to the community a flood resilience plan. This will include emergency contact numbers for the relevant Council departments, agencies and individuals.
It will discuss the forthcoming flood management study in the light of recent and past events.
It will publicise the problems caused by putting objects that could cause blockages in the drains and ask residents to avoid doing this.
9. Cllr. Gibb agreed to take up the concerns of some householders living along the Tarland Burn with officials of Aberdeenshire Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Gibb and the Roads and Flood Risk departments of Aberdeenshire Council for their help during and after the floods, and he also thanked those present for attending the meeting.