

# **Cromar Community Council**

Notes from the telephone Conference Call held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6 pm

## **Present:**

Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Councillor Paul Gibb (Aberdeenshire Council), Joyce Gibb, Nigel Healey, Joyce Lovie, Christine Padgham, Emma Murray, Veronica Ross, Andrew Wilson.

The Chairman welcomed the above to the telephone conference and Dave Ellis said he had asked Andrew Wilson to take notes of the meeting for future reference. The Chairman said that he had been instructed that, due to the Covid-19 emergency, all Community Councils meetings were suspended apart from dealing with urgent planning matters. The telephone meeting would therefore be informal, but any decisions made would appear in Cromar Community Council's Minutes when it resumed holding meetings.

## **Matters discussed:**

### **1. The Corona Virus Emergency.**

#### **Logie Coldstone**

Joyce Lovie reported that the community of Logie Coldstone was well informed about signposts to help and volunteers were in place to respond to needs. The contact point was the Logie Coldstone Trust Website.

#### **Tarland**

Dave Ellis reported that a core group of 8 volunteers was engaged in a Community Help Operation. Conference calls were being held each morning. The issue of not handling money was raised and the move to a cashless system was being sought. David Harper, who has specific systems skills, had volunteered to join the group. Dave Ellis raised the possibility of using the Tarland Development Group or Cromar Community Council bank accounts to process cashless transactions. The members agreed to the Community Council banking facility being used if necessary.

The Chairman highlighted the aim to shop locally in Tarland, supporting these businesses in these times.

The Chairman warmly thanked Dave Ellis for his creation of a new Community Council website ([cromarcc.org.uk](http://cromarcc.org.uk)) through which information about the coronavirus could be shared with the community. This thanks was echoed by all sharing the conference call. The initiative of Rev. Vittoria Hancock in providing information updates was also warmly endorsed

#### **Councillor Paul Gibb's update on the response of Aberdeenshire Council**

Councillor Gibb was passing information as it emerged on a regular basis to the Chairman and Secretary, who in turn have been sharing the information through the Cromar Community Council Website. Only essential services are being met by the Council. Aboyne Academy and Aboyne Primary School have been open for the children of key workers but numbers attending are low. The primary school only will remain open to provide child care for children of those in the categories of essential workers. This will not be

educational provision but just child care. Public Toilets, Parks, Waste Recycling Centres are closed but collection of home rubbish will continue.

The Scottish and Westminster Government Instructions are clear – **Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives**. The only work to be done outwith the home is that of key workers, e.g. health and social care workers, those involved in limited educational provision. All garage showrooms are closed but garages doing repairs and petrol stations can remain open. Cllr. Gibb outlined the provision of funding to help with business and community needs arising from the emergency. Financial help has been promised by the United Kingdom Government and the Scottish Government as outlined on their websites. Aberdeenshire Council is, in addition, providing £200,000 for the area, allocated in £20,000 sums to each Council area (e.g. Marr). Applications for grant aid would be made to local Community Councils. A further £80,000 has been set aside for a project for the whole of Aberdeenshire.

Cllr. Gibb highlighted the reality that there are scammers and opportunists taking advantage of empty buildings and vulnerable people. These should be immediately reported to the police.

Andrew Wilson asked how the text messages about the Corona Virus from Govt.uk came to our mobile phones. He assumed the link had been HMRC. It was stated that the Government had accessed our mobile numbers via our telephone providers. It is assumed this was done using their special emergency powers. This example showed the need for vigilance in monitoring texts and emails.

## **2. Police Report**

It was noted that the police report contained more information than previously and this was valued by the Community Council. There was concern about the incidents of anti-social behaviour, the Tarland Post Office “ringing the changes” incident, and the theft of money from the Tarland Trails’ Box.

## **3. Councillor’s Report**

Cllr. Gibb reported that apart from the immediate emergency work caused by the coronavirus, there was no progress on other matters.

## **4. Drains and Roads**

Nothing to report

## **5. Local Flooding**

There had been no recent flooding incidents but the Chairman had been in contact with the Tarland Wetland Group (part of the TDG) about the community wetlands in Tarland. There were plans being considered for refurbishing the existing Community Wetland and the Group is hoping to contribute to the 2022 Flood Plan.

## **6. Logie Coldstone**

The soakaway was now complete and Cllr. Gibb was thanked for his assistance and support in this project. The matter of the school crossing was in hand and action hoped for in the near future. It was reported that the children from Logie Coldstone School who had to

be temporarily accommodated at Tarland School were able to return to their school before the shutdown.

#### **7. Tarland Christmas Lights**

Dave Ellis reported on his contact with the Council's street lighting officer. It was explained that each community has a defined area on which Christmas lighting may be installed: in Tarland this is the Square. This was a disappointing outcome as it had been hoped to extend Christmas lights to the approach to the Square. The possibility of upgrading lights in the Square would be explored in time for next Christmas.

#### **8. Car Charging Point**

Nigel Healey reported that all consents were in place and, depending on future circumstances, work would be completed this year. Originally it was planned for September / October.

#### **9. VE Day Commemoration**

Given the circumstances, this has been cancelled.

#### **10. Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan**

Cllr. Gibb reported that the plan had been approved by the full Council and that it was due to move to the Public Enquiry stage.

#### **11. Mobile Phone Coverage**

The Chairman and Secretary had been in communication with Harlequin and The MacRobert Trust to discuss the siting of a proposed telephone mast in Tarland.

#### **12. Treasurer's Report**

There had been no developments since the last meeting of the Community Council.

#### **13. Logie Coldstone Trust**

All events in the hall had been cancelled due to the emergency and the Trust's website was the hub contact for those needing help and support in the community.

#### **14. Tarland Welfare Trust**

Nigel Healey reported that all events in the MacRobert Memorial Hall had been cancelled due to the emergency. The Trust would look at options to offset the loss of revenue.

#### **15. Tarland Development Group**

The Chairman had raised an issue with the Tarland Bee Group that had arisen from bulb planting on the Market Stance. This had been speedily and happily resolved.

#### **16. Planning Applications**

The planning application from Aillsa Anderson discussed at a previous meeting was to be considered by the Marr Area Committee, since she works for the planning department. The planning officer had recommended that the application should be granted with conditions. Dave Ellis drew attention to an application for a 3-house development at Crossfold. As the

window for comments was still open, the Chairman asked any member of the Community Council who thought the CC should comment to email their thoughts to him .

### **17. Close of Meeting**

The Chairman drew the attention of the members attending the conference call to the fact that this was Veronica Ross's last meeting as a Member of Cromar Community Council. He paid tribute to Veronica's valued contribution to the work of the council, and especially noted her passionate commitment to the saga of the Ordie Telephone Box. Veronica's dedicated commitment to the community was recognised warmly and best wishes were extended to her and Irvine for their move to Aboyne.

The meeting ended at 7 pm