



DRAFT - MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING - 22th APRIL 2020

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman) Dave Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Andrew Wilson, Nigel Healey, Joyne Lovie, Cllr. Paul Gibb, Cllr. Peter Argyle and one member of the public (Willem van Heusden of Corrachree).

Apologies: Emma Murphy and Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Chairman drew attention to the record of the last meeting. This had been an informal one, held online as an update on the Community Council's response to the Covid-19 emergency, and to note other matters that had arisen. The record was now approved as a minute of Cromar Community Council, meeting online on 25th March 2020. The names that were in error in the list of attendees were corrected.

2. Police Report

The Police Report for March had been circulated on the 8th April. The focus of policing is now on Covid-19. Councillor Gibb drew attention to the new Police Scotland survey: <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021> This can be completed by individuals and the Community Council will also send in a response. March 2021 is the survey deadline, but everyone is encouraged to complete it well before then, since interim results will be collated and analysed as the consultation continues. The police are closely monitoring social mobility throughout the Covid-19 emergency and they say that any issues about touring motorcyclists, motorhome drivers and people moving to second homes may be reported to 101. Councillor Argyle said that residents of Aberdeenshire are readily complying with the lockdown restrictions..

3. Councillor's Report

The Ward Councillors continue to send out notices from the Scottish Government, Council Officers and other organisations. Councillor Argyle reported on the situation with Council services and the redeployment of its staff. 4000 people are working from home, including members of the planning department who are offering a normal service. Staff normally employed in leisure and recreation have been redeployed to the care sector and many of those in landscaping and ground maintenance to waste collections. Aberdeenshire is one of the few Scottish authorities still offering the usual weekly household bin collection. Household Recycling Centres are closed and grass-cutting and road maintenance will receive lower priority during the emergency. Instances of fly-tipping should be reported to Aberdeenshire Council. £46 million has so far been given by the Council as grants to help businesses.

Nigel Healey sought guidance on the Tarland garden waste collection that has been suspended due to concerns over social distancing. Councillor Argyle said he would seek advice on this.

4. Cromar Report

Covid-19 volunteer groups

Dave Ellis reported on the Cromar Community Help Group. When it started four weeks previously, the group had 8 core volunteers from Cromar Community Council, the Tarland Development Group and the local community. The group has been joined by the Marr Area Partnership. Now there are more than 50 volunteers engaged in three roles: coordinating, shopping and driving. Services are provided to self-isolating and vulnerable people in the Cromar area through shopping at, and deliveries from, the Premier Store, the Post Office and the Pharmacy in Tarland, and, with the kind help of Mid Deeside Community Trust, from the Coop and Davidson's Pharmacy in Aboyne. There is also a newspaper delivery service for people in self-isolation. A key aim of the Group is to help local businesses through this difficult time. Attention was drawn to Cromar Community Council's new website: <https://cromarcc.org.uk>. This provides the latest information on the range of support services and networks available to everyone during the Covid-19 emergency. The Chairman thanked Dave Ellis and the team of experts who had put these effective and innovative systems in place. And the Community Council extended its warmest thanks to the coordinators, the volunteer shopper/drivers and the local businesses who are in the front line of the operation. Joyce Lovie reported that the Logie Coldstone Trust was also successfully providing help with shopping and prescription collection in its area. The community of Logie Coldstone was congratulated on its initiative in setting up Wednesday evening community Zoom meetings for recreation and social interaction. A successful bingo night had been enjoyed and a quiz was to follow. The Community Council thanked the volunteers of Logie Coldstone for their hard work.

The Chairman was to write to Ward Councillors to discuss ongoing issues that had come up in recent weeks and how cooperation could be increased with Aberdeenshire Council and its Assistance Hub (<https://www.gcah.org.uk>) and helpline (0808 196 3384), which are now in operation.

Logie Coldstone Crossing & Soakaway

Councillor Gibb reported that the emergency has held up the process for reviewing the policy on pedestrian road crossings and speed restrictions. An assessment will be carried out to see if a crossing can be installed at Logie Coldstone when that process is eventually concluded. Councillor Argyle agreed to check the timelines of the process. Councillor Gibb said that the Community Council and the Parent Council should contribute to the consultation that will form part of the assessment process.

Charging point and car scheme

Nigel Healey reported that there had been no developments since the March meeting. The plan for an August/September installation depended on the Covid-19

situation.

Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

Work has currently been suspended since the law requires paper copies to be made available to the public for comment. This is impossible at the moment. Councillor Argyle said that the Scottish Government is looking to pass legislation to allow electronic / virtual consultation. He reported that the Local Development Plan was approved by Aberdeenshire Council in March 2020 and will be open to public consultation, depending on the above legislation passing through the Scottish Parliament. He noted that if the deadline for the completion of the Local Development Plan in March 2022 was not met, Aberdeenshire Council could run out of time, and the undesirable situation would arise that Planning was done by appeal. However, he thought that that situation was not likely to arise.

Mobile Phone Coverage

Dave Ellis gave a comprehensive report on the pre-planning information from Harlequin (& now Galliford Try) of the intention to erect an O2 telephone mast in Tarland to improve the existing poor mobile phone reception. Plans to erect the mast at the MacRobert Trust Estate Yard had received planning permission in 2017 but agreement had not been reached on a contract. A new site in Melgum Road had now been chosen, and after a consultation requested by Harlequin, the Chairman had written to the developers to say that, while the community recognised that improved communications were vital to the future prosperity of the area, it was likely that there would be strong opposition to this site, should a planning application be submitted. Six alternative sites had been considered by the developers, but they had deemed them unsuitable for different reasons.

At this point in the meeting, Mr Willem van Heusden of Corrachree, a member of the public in attendance, said that he had approached Galliford Try to suggest that they should investigate the possibility of erecting the mast on his estate to the south west of Tarland. The elevation of the estate and its distance from other houses, yet proximity to the village, could possibly provide an ideal location for the mast. The Chairman said that he had also written to the developers to draw their attention to Mr van Heusden's proposal.

5. Treasurer's Report

Dave Ellis reported that the funds in the Community Council account in March amounted to £1669.65, including £146.35 collected from the public to improve the Christmas lighting in Tarland. He added that at the March meeting, it was agreed to use the Community Council's account to deal with funds for Covid-19 relief. Since the lockdown £417.28 had been spent on items connected with this. They include PPE, postage credit at Tarland Post Office, and a mobile phone for the Logie Coldstone helpline. The Community Council is grateful to Aberdeenshire Council for a grant of £942 from its Community Resilience Fund for specific items. The Chairman reported that he would be submitting further grant applications to cover Covid-19 costs, among which was a second 'GotoMeeting' subscription that would be available to local groups and organisations to enable them to hold 'virtual' social events and

meetings. It was recognised that the need for neighbourly interaction and personal contact with others, albeit virtually and electronically, was essential to the physical and mental well-being of the community in these very stressful times.

6. Logie Coldstone Trust

Joyce Lovie reported that Logie Coldstone Hall is closed to the public, but the weekly community Zoom sessions are popular and will be extended with more activities.

7. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey reported that the MacRobert Memorial Hall was also closed to the public. The insurers had been approached for a refund of premiums during the lockdown, and had agreed to a three month extension of the policy renewal date at no extra cost. The policy clause providing cover for business interruption would be followed up. Councillor Argyle suggested that both the Tarland Welfare Trust and the Logie Coldstone Trust could explore the possibility of applying to Aberdeenshire Council for grants to compensate for the loss of revenue from hall letting, and offered to provide advice on this.

8. Tarland Development Group

The minutes of the meeting of the Tarland Development Group Trustees held on Monday 6th April 2020 by video-conference had been previously circulated.

9. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications. Councillor Argyle said that members of the public wanting to speak for or against planning applications at meetings of the Marr Area Committee could do so via Skype.

10. Any Other Business

1. Nigel Healey asked if any progress had been made on the extension to Tarland burial ground. Councillor Gibb said that the extension was part of the plan of work for 2020 but the Covid-19 emergency had prevented progress.
2. The Chairman reported that following the successful plantings at the former bowling green and on the Market Stance, he was discussing further options for greater biodiversity in green spaces around Tarland with Craig Morrison of Aberdeenshire Council.

11. Date of the Next Meeting: Wednesday, 27th May (time to be agreed).