



MINUTES ONLINE MEETING - 27th May, 2020

Present: - Simon Welfare (Chairman) Dave Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Nigel Healey, Joyce Lovie, Cllr. Paul Gibb, Emma Murphy, Christine Padgham, Andrew Wilson.

Apologies : Cllr. Peter Argyle and Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting held on 22 April were approved.

2. **Matters arising:** Nigel Healey had been in touch with Aberdeenshire Council about resuming the community garden waste collection service in Tarland. He had been told that this could happen when Council recycling sites were reopened, but he was awaiting confirmation of this.
3. **Police Report:** The Police Report had been previously circulated. During April, very few incidents involving anti-social behaviour were reported. A motor vehicle was vandalised in Tarland: this was being investigated, but no one had been charged with this offence. Crimes such as housebreaking and thefts continue to remain at very low levels in the area. During April, officers dealt with a low number of road incidents, but some drivers had been found driving whilst disqualified or under the influence of alcohol. The roads were being patrolled extensively in the area to ensure that drivers are adhering to government Covid-19 regulations.
4. **Councillor's Report:** Councillor Gibb reported that the Aberdeenshire Council's main focus was moving to Phase 1 of the Scottish Government's route map out of lockdown.
5. **Cromar Report**
Covid-19 volunteer groups
Dave Ellis reported on the continuing effectiveness of the Cromar Community Help Group. In the Tarland area, its volunteers had fulfilled 134 requests for help and continued an extensive daily newspaper round. Joyce Lovie and Emma Murphy said the Logie Coldstone volunteers were not receiving many calls for help but were in place to respond when asked. Neighbours were helping each other. The Chairman reported that the impressive work of the CromarHelp systems team had been highly commended as a model of best practice in Scotland.

Logie Coldstone Crossing

Cllr. Argyle had written to confirm that a road crossing for Logie Coldstone can only be considered after changes have been made to Aberdeenshire Council's roads policies and that the process had been delayed by the Covid-19 crisis. It was hoped that new policies would be drafted soon and that consultations with communities would take place over the summer, with Aberdeenshire Council making a decision on the policies in October. Cllr. Gibb urged Cromar Community Council and the Logie Coldstone Trust to make written submissions in support of the crossing when the time came. He also reminded the Community Council that it was a statutory consultee and could also speak at the meeting in October.

Engagement with landowners

Simon Power of the MacRobert Trust Estate had written to ask Members to consider his first thoughts on producing a plan of engagement between the MacRobert Trust Estate and the Cromar community in line with the guidelines issued by the Scottish Land Commission. Members welcomed the opportunity to establish clear channels of communication between the MacRobert Trust Estate and the local community and the Chairman agreed to contact other landowners in the area to seek their cooperation. Nigel Healey suggested setting up email dialogues between the Community Council and local estate owners and managers and added that meetings about projects that might have an impact upon the community could then be held as and when they were needed. The Chairman agreed to draft a response to Mr Power and circulate it to Members.

Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

The Chairman reported that the latest Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan consultation is now underway. Although it represents the 'settled view' of Aberdeenshire Council, it is open for final consultation until 17 July 2020. Members reiterated their approval of the Plan. Cllr. Gibb reported that the Scottish Government had passed legislation to allow the public scrutiny of the ALDP to be done electronically to allow it to become law by 2022.

Plan for Mobile Phone Mast in Tarland

The Chairman had heard from Deborah Whitelaw of Galliford Try, acting for CTIL / O2, indicating that the offer from Mr Van Heusden to site a telephone mast on his estate at Corrachree would not be taken forward. The reasons given were that the site was too restricted by the terrain to provide good coverage to the target area of Tarland. She said that her clients' preference is to pursue the site location already identified near the Community Garden in Tarland. Since a planning application is now expected, the Chairman and Secretary agreed to draft proposals for consulting the community on this proposed development and to circulate them to Members.

Tarland & Logie Coldstone Schools

Issues arising from the prospect of Tarland and Logie Coldstone schools reopening in August were discussed. Emma Murphy raised concern in Logie Coldstone that the teaching staff might be reduced for the new academic year, due to the school roll

falling to 17. She thought 2 teachers in addition to the Head Teacher would be needed for social distancing measures to be put in place. Cllr Glbb spoke of the huge challenges facing Aberdeenshire Council's Education Department in the provision of school transport to comply with social distancing measures. The Chairman said that CromarHelp was examining the possibility of providing families with some assistance in the way of materials and resources for the home-schooling that would still be necessary.

6. Treasurer's Report

The current bank balance is £5,112.28 which includes the grants of £3000 from organisations to assist with local Covid-19 relief. The Community Council had received grants from the Aberdeenshire Council Community Resilience Fund, the Corra Foundation Community Resilience Fund and the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund and these grants were gratefully acknowledged. The remaining £2,215.65 of funds in hand relate to the Community Council's usual grant and activities, including £146.35 collected for the Christmas lights.

Dave Ellis reported that the Accounts for 2019/20 had been audited by Donald Gordon, and found in order. Warm thanks were expressed to Mr Gordon for his help. The Annual Accounts would be put to the Annual General Meeting in October and then submitted to the Marr Area, although the grant for 2020/1 had been paid.

7. Logie Coldstone Trust

Joyce Lovie expressed the thanks of the community of Logie Coldstone for the plants gifted by the MacRobert Trust. The Chairman said that the MacRobert Trust had also gifted plants for Tarland and these had been planted up by Kate Redpath. The generosity of the MacRobert Trust and the help of Mrs Redpath were much appreciated. The provision of plants by Aberdeenshire Council this year had not been possible due to the Covid-19 emergency. Joyce Lovie also reported that the Logie Coldstone Trust had received a grant of £10,000 through the UK/Scottish Government Relief for Covid-19 Grant.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey said that the Trust had also received a grant of £10,000. It would be used to upgrade the flat belonging to the Hall, which provides a rental income to the Trust.

9. Tarland Development Group

The minutes of the Tarland Development Group had been previously circulated and contained no matters arising for discussion.

10. Planning Applications

Two planning applications in Logie Coldstone were noted: one for the erection of 2 houses at Bridgend, and another, from Smiths Garage, for a change of use and alterations at an agricultural building. Members decided not to offer comments.

11. Any Other Business

In response to a question from Nigel Healey, Cllr. Gibb said that work on the extension to the graveyard at Tarland would begin within this financial year.

Dave Ellis raised the matter of using some of the space in the Square in Tarland for local catering businesses to open up in phase 2 of the Scottish Government's route map out of lockdown. This received positive support, but with the proviso that the licensing laws allowed this and that residents in the Square were consulted. Dave Ellis was asked to make further inquiries.

The Chairman and Secretary had attended a useful online meeting organised by Janelle Clark, the Marr Area Manager. Members agreed it would be valuable to have more catch-up opportunities of this kind for Community Councils in the Marr Area.

Dave Ellis had earlier circulated meeting dates for 2020/2021 and these were approved. He said that the AGM must be held by the end of October and elections to the Community Council in August and September.

12. Date of the Next Online Meeting

24th June 2020 at 6 pm.