



MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING - 22nd July 2020

Present: - Simon Welfare (Chairman) Dave Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Anne Heath, Nigel Healey, Joyce Lovie, Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Paul Gibb

Apologies : Andrew Wilson and Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the online meeting held on 24th June were approved.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Co-opting of Councillors

Notice had been given earlier of the intention to co-opt Anne Heath to the Cromar Community Council. The co-option was proposed by Nigel Healey and seconded by Joyce Lovie and agreed unanimously.

Guidance had been provided from the Marr Area Office on the arrangements for future elections. These will now be held in April / May 2021. Until the elections, the limits on the numbers of co-opted Councillors have been relaxed. Members thought it was unlikely that Cromar Community Council would need to use any of these relaxation measures.

4. Marr Area Police Report

Sergeant Greig was on annual leave and had sent his apologies. The Police Report for June had been circulated earlier. The four vehicle accident on the Aboyne to Tarland road was noted, as was a shop break-in in Braemar.

5. Councillor's Report

Councillor Argyle provided an update on Council activity. Grass cutting had now restarted across Aberdeenshire. Graveyards were first to be cut followed by play areas. Sports pitches had the lowest priority but were now being cut. The impact of covid-19 upon Aberdeenshire Council's budget was going to be severe and a revised budget was planned to be agreed in November. Councillor Gibb continues to circulate information to all the local groups and this was much appreciated.

6. Cromar Report

Covid-19 volunteer groups: Nigel Healey reported on Cromar Community Help.

With the easing of the lockdown restrictions, the group had just moved to a four days a week operation. The email address and helpline phone number was available at all times for those wanting help and the situation would be reviewed in August. The requests for help in Logie Coldstone continue to be at a low level.

Logie Coldstone Crossing

It was still planned that the policy on installing pedestrian crossings would be discussed at Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Committee in October. Cllr. Argyle would confirm the timing of when the policy would be out for consultation to all the Aberdeenshire Community Councils. This would likely follow the end of the school holidays in August.

Tarland Community Housing

A Housing Officer (Sam Foster) had been appointed for a twelve month period in order to move the project forward. Mr Foster had made initial contact with the Chairman and other local groups. The Chairman planned to provide a further update at the August meeting.

Tarland & Logie Coldstone Schools

The confirmation of the detailed arrangements for the return to school was awaited from the Scottish Government. This was expected to be on the 31st July. Depending on the nature of the return (full time at school versus some home schooling) the Community Council might be able to provide assistance with useful materials. The Chairman was in touch with the headmistress of the Tarland and Logie Coldstone schools about this.

7. Easing the Lockdown

The food and drink businesses in Tarland were using their own existing resources to begin trading. This includes a beer garden, outdoor tables and take away service. The Aberdeenshire Roads and Parking departments had raised issues with using part of the Square for outdoor tables and chairs. Other communities had been able to use their existing green spaces (e.g. The Green in Ballater) to allow hotels and restaurants to serve outdoors.

Cllr. Argyle highlighted the "shop local" campaign that was running in Inverurie. Everyone agreed that the local shops and pharmacy in Tarland had done an excellent job during the lockdown. It was hoped that the community would continue to support them with trade as the travel restrictions were lifted and the use of distant supermarkets became possible. It was agreed that the Chairman would write a thankyou letter to the local shopkeepers and the Community Council would seek ways to encourage local businesses.

8. Treasurer's Report

The current bank balance is £4,078.85 which includes the grants from organisations to assist with local Covid-19 relief work.

9. **Logie Coldstone Trust**

Joyce Lovie said that it was hoped to have a socially distanced, face to face, meeting of the committee during August. With the better weather then the Wednesday evening online sessions were now happening every two weeks.

10. **Tarland Welfare Trust**

Nigel Healey said that the Hall remained closed but preparations for reopening, such as installing hand sanitiser stations, were being carried out. Cllr. Gibb circulated a two page note from Trading Standards providing advice on the use of Halls consistent with current restrictions.

11. **Tarland Development Group**

The minutes of the TDG had been circulated previously.

12. **Planning Applications**

The link to current planning applications had been circulated earlier. There was a short discussion on the one new application and one planning application renewal on the road near the Leys. The other current application was for the erection of two flats on Aberdeen Road in Tarland. There was general support for the provision of more accommodation of this type in the area. The main issue with the site was with the restricted parking arrangements and the access to Aberdeen Road near what is a difficult junction. It was agreed that the Chairman would compose a suitable response that captured these points.

13. **Any Other Business**

Some resurfacing work had been carried out near the Market Stance. This had resulted in the removal of white lines from the road junction. Cllr. Gibb agreed to follow up on this with the Roads Department and, at the same time, ensure that the correct road priority was re-established.

There were a number of positive comments as to how effective the booking arrangements were at the Banchory Recycling Centre using the Council website. It was felt that these arrangements could continue satisfactorily into the future. Cllr. Gibb agreed to feed this back.

14. **Date of the Next Online Meeting**

Wednesday 26th August 2020 at 6 pm.