



MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING 26th August 2020

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

Apologies : Emma Murphy, Cllr. Peter Argyle and Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the online meeting held on 22nd July were approved. Proposed by Nigel Healey and seconded by Joyce Lovie.

Cllr. Gibb had passed on the Community Council's praise for the new system in place at the recycling centre at Banchory following lockdown and he had received a letter of thanks from Lesley Forrest, Support Leader Waste Collections for the Marr Area, who said that the message would be 'a great morale boost' for the staff there.

2. Police Report

The July report had been circulated. The recent vandalism to Tarland School was discussed. This had been widely commented on on Facebook and had been reported to the police by the school. Dave Ellis was asked to approach Police Scotland to see if there was any update on the vandalism and to check if a report on alleged instances of hare-coursing near Logie Coldstone had reached the right office.

3. Councillor's Report

Councillor Gibb reported that Aberdeenshire Council was asking members of the community to comment on the impact of Covid 19 on people's lives. After a discussion, the Chairman said he would respond to the consultation on the Community Council's behalf. Cllr. Gibb also said that Aberdeenshire Council was about to consider severe budget cuts in the aftermath of the pandemic, and asked Members for their thoughts. After some general discussion, he agreed to supply Members with a list of some of the options that he was considering putting forward so that they could offer their suggestions on what Aberdeenshire Council's new budgetary priorities should be.

5. Cromar Report

Logie Coldstone Crossing

Cllr .Gibb said that Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee was due to consider a new policy on road crossings on 18 October, but added that it was possible that this might be delayed until the November meeting. Community Councils would, as promised, be consulted about the draft policy beforehand.

Covid-19 volunteer groups

Dave Ellis reported that Cromar Community Help had changed its hours of service to four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The majority of requests for help now are for the delivery of prescriptions. Logie Coldstone's helpline remains in place.

Tarland Community Housing

The Chairman said that the new housing officer appointed by the TDG had begun work and that an update would follow at a later meeting.

Tarland & Logie Coldstone Schools

The schools in Scotland are now open. Cllr. Gibb said that the return to school locally appeared to be going well. Members thanked the staff of local schools for their hard work to ensure that the educational needs of the children could safely be met under the new conditions..

Telephone Mast

The Secretary reported that the recent application to erect a 17.5m telephone mast on Melgum Road, Tarland, under the permitted development legislation had been refused. This was a result of an objection from Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Department concerning access to the consented housing development at Village Farm. The Secretary said that it was not yet clear whether the developers would re-submit the application with information that would satisfy the Roads Department or whether it would choose a different site.

6. Treasurer's Report

The current bank balance is £3,869 which includes the grants from organisations to assist with local Covid-19 relief work. Normal Community Council funds are £2215 including the £146 collected for improvements to Christmas lights.

7. Logie Coldstone Trust

Joyce Lovie said that the badminton group was returning to the hall. Dave Ellis reported on the lack of progress on installing high-speed broadband in Logie Coldstone. Digital Scotland had flagged up Logie Coldstone as a village that would get full fibre optic connection, but it has now been downgraded to having "exchange-only" lines. He said that the Scottish government had issued information for households that will not be provided with fast broadband in the near future: they can claim up to £5000 for improving the service to their homes.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey reported that he hoped that the MacRobert Memorial Hall would open with the art class on 18 September, if the regulations about heating can be complied with.

9. Tarland Development Group

The minutes of the TDG had been circulated to Members previously, along with an invitation to its AGM.

10. Planning Applications

Members considered a new application at Logie Coldstone but decided to offer no comment upon it.

11. Any Other Business

Nigel Healey reported that the notice boards outside the Aberdeen Arms Hotel had been removed. The provision of plants for Tarland and Logie Coldstone next year was briefly discussed, but further consideration of the matter was deferred until a later meeting.

12. Date of the Next Online Meeting

Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 6 pm.