



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING  
30 September 2020**

**Present:** Simon Welfare (Chairman), Nigel Healey, Anne Heath, Joyce Lovie, Cllr. Paul Gibb.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Geva Blackett, Dave Ellis, Emma Murphy, Christine Padgham, Andrew Wilson.

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the online meeting held on 26 August were approved. There were no matters arising from them.

**2. Police Report**

The August report had been circulated. Police Scotland said that there were still fewer calls than usual due to the current pandemic. Enquiries are still ongoing into the vandalism of the roof of Tarland Primary School. Crimes such as housebreaking 'remain at very low levels', but communities should stay vigilant. There had been a number of traffic-related incidents in the area but 'the vast majority were using the roads appropriately in compliance with road traffic laws'. Members welcomed the report and the information that it gave, but Nigel Healey asked whether progress reports could be provided on investigations into incidents in the area in the longer term, so that the community could be kept up to date. Members agreed that this point should be put to Police Scotland.

**3. Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Gibb said he had not been able to provide as much information about changes to the Covid-19 regulations as before, but he would be happy to reply to any questions that people might have on a case by case basis.

The consultation on roads policies recently issued by Aberdeenshire Council's Roads department was discussed, particularly those in relation to road crossings and speed limits. Members considered that changing the speed limit to 20 mph in villages might be welcomed. They also thought that priority should be given to the installation of road crossings on routes used by schoolchildren, such as the path between Logie Coldstone Primary School and the village hall. They also considered that the policy should state that the views of head teachers should be given due weight before decisions about proposed road crossings were made. The Chairman agreed to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Community Council.

Cllr. Gibb said that discussions about Aberdeenshire Council's budget, which was having to be revised as a result of the pandemic, were continuing and that cuts would inevitably have to be made. A final decision on the budget will be reached in mid-November.

#### **4. Cromar Report**

##### **A. Covid-19 Volunteer Groups**

Nigel Healey said that Cromar Community Help was still operating its helpline, although its hours had been reduced for the time being. Some prescriptions were being delivered but there was currently no call for grocery deliveries. However, the group is ready to meet any change in circumstances. Joyce Lovie said that the helpline in Logie Coldstone was also still operating.

##### **B. Tarland Community Housing**

The Chairman said that he had not received an update on the progress of the group.

##### **C. Tarland & Logie Coldstone Schools**

The schools have now been open for some weeks. The Chairman reported progress in raising the money for stationery kits for pupils to use for any work they may have to do at home.

##### **D. Maintenance of Green Spaces**

The Chairman said that he understood that the Landscape Services department of Aberdeenshire Council would be in touch with the Community Council in the near future to discuss the maintenance of green spaces in Cromar.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer had reported that the Community Council's funds stood at £2,215 and Covid-19-related funds at £1609, although expenditure from both funds was expected shortly. The accounts for the past financial year had been lodged with Aberdeenshire Council.

#### **7. Logie Coldstone Trust**

Joyce Lovie said that residents in Logie Coldstone had been alerted to the consultation about road crossings, since the community there was concerned about the lack of a crossing from the path leading from the school to the village hall. She added that the new path was overgrown and Cllr. Gibb undertook to arrange for Aberdeenshire Council to clear it.

#### **8. Tarland Welfare Trust**

Nigel Healey said that the Trust had been given permission under the Scottish Government's Covid-19 regulations to reopen the MacRobert Memorial Hall in the near future to groups organising exercise, martial arts and art classes under strict conditions and with reduced numbers. He was grateful for the advice of Fraser Stephen of Aberdeenshire Council's Trading Standards department.

#### **9. Tarland Development Group**

Members had read and noted the recently-issued Minutes of the Group.

## **10. Planning Applications**

These were discussed but Members decided to offer no comments.

## **11. Any Other Business**

The Community Council offered its thanks and congratulations to the organisers of two recent events, the Tarland Food & Music Festival and the ChairArt auction. These had been successfully run online this year and were much enjoyed. Nigel Healey said that there were now so many Tarland videos online that a dedicated YouTube channel could be created. The Chairman agreed to investigate the possibility.

Nigel Healey also said that he was in negotiation with Aberdeenshire Council street lighting officials over plans for this year's Christmas lights in Tarland.

## **12. Date of the AGM and the Next Online Meeting:**

Wednesday 28 October at 6 pm.