



MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING 28th October 2020

Present: - Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Councillor Peter Argyle, Councillor Paul Gibb, Nigel Healey, Anne Heath, Joyce Lovie, Emma Murphy, Christine Padgham, Andrew Wilson.

Apologies :

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The approval of the minutes of the last meeting was moved by Nigel Healey, seconded by Anne Heath.

2. Police Report

The report by Sgt Keith Greig had been previously circulated. It noted some anti-social behaviour in Aboyne, road-related crimes and an incident at licensed premises in Tarland that led to a criminal charge. Nigel Healey commented that he felt his request for greater detail in police reports had been misunderstood: he was more interested in the resolution of issues than in details of ongoing investigations. The Secretary agreed to write to Sgt Greig to clarify this and to thank him for his very helpful reports.

3. Councillor's Report

Councillor Argyle reported on two matters.

- A. The new tiered approach to Covid-19, to be introduced by the Scottish Government from 2 November and reviewed weekly. At present Aberdeenshire and City were in Tier 2.
- B. Aberdeenshire Council Budget. The £60 million shortfall is being addressed by making stringent savings.. A meeting on 19 November would consider a Medium Term Financial Strategy, with the final budget situation being decided in February/March, following the budget forecasts from the UK and Scottish Governments. These challenging times, he said, were further affected by the downturn in the economy of the North East of Scotland.

5. Cromar Report

Logie Coldstone Crossing

The Infrastructure Services Committee of Aberdeenshire Council meets on 26th November to consider the criteria on which new road crossings in Aberdeenshire will be decided. Councillor Argyle said that he and the other Ward Councillors would consider any issues raised by the Community Council once the proposed criteria had been published.

Covid-19 volunteer groups

Dave Ellis reported that the current demand for the volunteer help service in Tarland and surrounding areas was small, limited mostly to prescription deliveries and some shopping. The service continues on a 4 day a week basis with the capacity to increase the service if necessary for any subsequent waves of the virus. Ways of supporting local businesses continue to be sought

The volunteer group in Logie Coldstone continues to be available when requests for help are made. These are also very few in number. The Chairman commended the volunteers in all areas for their commitment and care.

Tarland Community Housing

The Chairman reported that he had been in touch with Sam Foster of Rural Housing Scotland. An awareness campaign has been launched to seek to establish the community's views and needs as far as the issue of affordable housing in Tarland is concerned. The hope is to form a Housing Group composed of a core group of trustees, a steering group, and some project helpers. It was hoped the membership of the group would include people who want a house in any proposed development. The existing Village Farm site plan of 36 houses, one third affordable, has raised problems of infrastructure and alternative plans are being considered for 25 houses using the existing infrastructure. If this proved unfeasible, alternative sites will be considered. A funding application for the continuation of the Housing Officer's post had been submitted.

Christmas Lights

Nigel Healey reported on the progress of discussions about the Christmas lights with the lighting department of Aberdeenshire Council. Thanks were expressed to Nigel for his work in this regard. The Chairman agreed to approach the MacRobert Trust for a tree for Tarland. Joyce Lovie and Emma Murphy were dealing with the Logie Coldstone tree, usually gifted by Tillipronie estate. In the present circumstances, decisions about switch-on events would be deferred until a later meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

Dave Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report. Funds in hand were: £1009.04 Council funds and £2400 relating to Covid Relief.

7. Logie Coldstone Trust

Joyce Lovie reported that although the Hall was prepared for use under the new regulations, it was not currently open. A Zoom Halloween Party was planned and there was a plan for small Christmas gifts to be distributed to local pensioners in lieu of their Christmas Dinner, which would not take place this year.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey reported that the MacRobert Hall was open for use by a maximum of 13 people in the main hall only. The art group, the martial arts group, the keep fit class

and Brownies were the present users, all in compliance with the risk assessments that had been carried out. The air source heat pump system cannot be used during sessions but is programmed to heat the hall before use, and thereafter heating is given by the electric radiant heaters. Only the disabled toilet is being used, and no access is given to kitchen facilities. A deposit paid to the band for the Hogmanay Ceilidh would be used to bring the band to a Post-Covid Ceilidh at a later date. The Trust had already picked up £900 in booking fees. The Trustees were congratulated on their work in bringing the MacRobert Hall back into use.

9. Tarland Development Group

The minutes of the Tarland Development Group had been previously circulated. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the excellent work of its paths' maintenance group, in particular.

10. Planning Applications

None required comment.

11. Any Other Business

Dave Ellis said that the number of people working from home and of children studying at home had demonstrated the importance of a fast internet connection. The options of a Community Broadband Partnership for Coull were being explored. Councillor Argyle commented on the roll out of R100, the Scottish Government's programme to provide superfast broadband to all premises in Scotland by the end of 2021. Most of Tarland village has superfast broadband but not the majority of areas outwith it. Members were referred to the Superfast Scotland website for information and there they can find the status of individual properties. Councillor Argyle said that Matt Lockley, who is responsible for R100 liaison with Aberdeenshire Council would be willing to attend a future meeting, together with the R100 Lead for Scotland. Dave Ellis agreed to liaise with Matt Lockley to agree a suitable date.

The Chairman reported that, due to the current restrictions in place for gatherings, there would be no organised Remembrance ceremony in Tarland Square this year. The Act of Remembrance would take place at the church service in Tarland and wreaths would be laid at other times by representatives of various organisations.

Dave Ellis reported that the last hanging baskets still in Tarland square would be taken down and stored by Kate Redpath with the others, for use next year. The council thanked Kate for her work in planting the hanging baskets with plants supplied from the MacRobert Trust this year and commented on how beautiful they had been.

12. Date of the Next Online Meeting

Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 6 pm.