



## **MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING 13th January 2021**

**Present:** Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Councillor Paul Gibb, Nigel Healey, Anne Heath, Joyce Lovie, Emma Murphy, Andrew Wilson

**Apologies:** Councillor Peter Argyle, Councillor Geva Blackett.

### **1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

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

There were two matters arising. Nigel Healey reported on the funding concerns for Marr Area Partnership, and said that the funding cuts appeared not to be as drastic as envisaged. In the meantime, other sources of funding were being explored.

Councillor Gibb reported that the next stage of work on the extension to Tarland Cemetery, involving the removal of tree roots, would be carried once the weather permitted.

### **2. Police Report**

The Police Report had been circulated in early December. There had been the theft of a vehicle in Tarland and road-related crimes on Deeside involving drugs and alcohol. An incident of sheep-worrying had led to an individual being charged.

### **3. Councillor's Report**

Councillor Gibb had been approached by Donald Gordon about the excess glass waste for recycling lying at the recycling point in Tarland. The Waste Collection Service had been informed and action was anticipated. There had been delays in emptying the bins due to weather and vehicle faults. These factors had also affected some local house collections.

There had been no progress on the Logie Coldstone Crossing.

The Coronavirus Vaccination programme was the current priority. A meeting between Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian was scheduled for 27 January.

Concern was expressed about the Covid infection figures for Cromar, which were the highest per capita in Aberdeenshire. Local figures can be found [HERE](#).

### **4. Cromar Report**

- a. **Covid-19 volunteer groups:** Dave Ellis reported that the current demand for the volunteer help service in the Tarland area had been increasing since the recent lockdown came into place. More volunteers were being recruited and an extension in the hours for the service was being considered.

'Working from Home' kits had been provided for local school children and Christmas gifts of chocolates for teachers. These had been much appreciated.

Thanks were expressed to Gillian Masson of the Premier Shop and Lucy Taylor of the Post Office/Toy Shop for their help with this. Donations to cover the school kits had been received from The MacRobert Trust, the Marr Area Partnership and Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks. The Community Council expressed its gratitude to these funding bodies for their generosity.

Prizes had been created and delivered for the summer sunflower competition. These had been appreciated by the recipients.

- b. **Roads and Drains:** Attention was drawn to potholes in Tarland Square and Members and local residents were asked to photograph areas of concern and send pictures and details to Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Department.
- c. **Broadband in Cromar:** The Scottish Government had signed the contract for broadband rollout in the North Lot on 16 December, involving the biggest spend of the three Scottish Lots. Through the invitation of Councillor Peter Argyle it was hoped a government representative would attend the February meeting of the Community Council to speak of local developments and answer questions.
- d. **Christmas Lights:** The Christmas Trees for Logie Coldstone and Tarland had been gifted by Tillypronie Estate and The MacRobert Trust Estate. Thanks were expressed to the estates for the handsome trees and to Gordon Ross and his team for the Tarland lighting. The trees had brought Christmas joy to our communities. Aberdeenshire Council was also thanked for paying for the electricity. The planning of Christmas lighting for 2021 would be discussed at a future meeting.

#### 5. **Treasurer's Report**

There was at present £2802.93 in the bank following the payment for the children's "Working from Home" kits.

#### 6. **Logie Coldstone Trust**

A newsletter had been delivered to every home in the area and older residents had received the gift of a pot of spring bulbs in place of the Christmas meal which was cancelled due to the Covid 19 restrictions. The Book Group and SWRI were meeting online. The telephone number for help in the pandemic had been printed on the Logie Coldstone Trust's website and also highlighted in the Newsletter.

There was discussion about a letter from Mr and Mrs Duckworth to the Community Council about a planning application from the Tillypronie Estate. The window for comments had already passed and this applied equally to the Community Council. The Secretary was asked to suggest that the concerns of the correspondents would be best taken up directly with the estate which had previously shown sensitivity in response to local comment.

#### 7. **Tarland Welfare Trust**

Nigel Healey reported that the MacRobert Memorial Hall was now closed again due to the Coronavirus lockdown. The heating system can now be controlled remotely. The flat at the hall was being upgraded with a view to income generation through a new

tenancy.

**8. Tarland Development Group**

The minutes of the Tarland Development Group had been previously circulated.

**9. Planning Applications**

There were no open applications that required comment.

**10. Any Other Business**

There was no AOB.

**11. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next online meeting was set for 18.00 on Wednesday 24th February