



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 24th February, 2021

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

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

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January, 2021 was moved by Anne Heath and seconded by Nigel Healey. Agreement was unanimous.

2. Matters arising

Nigel Healey reported that some tree clearance was being done at the site for the extension of Tarland Cemetery, but that root removal awaited warmer weather and specialist machinery.

3. Police Report

The police report from Sgt. Greig of Police Scotland had been previously circulated and its contents were noted by members. The Community Council welcomed the increased detail provided in the report.

4. Councillor's Report

Councillor Gibb had previously circulated the Scottish Government's route-map out of lockdown to Members. No dates had yet been given. The Scottish Government would review the situation every three weeks to the end of April.

No action can be taken on the Logie Coldstone crossing until the lockdown is less restrictive and traffic-flow more normal, so that accurate data to support the case for the crossing can be gathered

There was still a limited number of children in schools, and it was recognised that teachers are facing extra challenges, with home-schooling continuing alongside classroom teaching for those in school. Covid tests were available for teachers in school and the take-up of these had been very good.

Aberdeenshire Council had decided not to increase Council Tax by the expected 3% in the coming year and the shortfall will be met by the Scottish Government for this

year only. The Council was planning a two-year strategy to address its budget deficit and is looking for savings of £20 million.

It was reported that the Marr Area Committee has a new chairman and vice-chairman.

5. Cromar Report

a. Covid 19:restrictions, volunteer groups etc

Dave Ellis reported that there had been an increased use of the Cromar Help service, mainly for the delivery of newspapers. Additional drivers have joined the team and better-quality N95 face masks bought.

b. Recycling points and domestic waste collection

There had been no household collections in remote areas in the extreme weather and emptying of recycling bins was disrupted. The Council is to be commended for the speed and efficiency with which it dealt with the backlog.

c. Roads and drains

There has been a general problem with blocked drains, potholes and the breaking-up of road surfaces. Members of the public are encouraged to report instances to Aberdeenshire Council's road's department via its website.

d. Broadband in Cromar

The plan to invite a representative from the Scottish Government to attend this meeting has been postponed, until plans for the roll-out of R100 have been published.

6. Treasurer's Report

The balance to account was £2,587.87. Donald Gordon had again offered to audit. Dave Ellis reported that, with the closure of the TSB in Aboyne, it was desirable to change banks. The best option was NatWest/Royal Bank of Scotland, since they offered a professional accounting package to account holders. This was approved and Dave was warmly thanked for his work as treasurer.

7. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey reported that while the MacRobert Hall was closed remedial work was continuing on the vacant flat. The Community Larder team was using the foyer area for preparation of food deliveries and it had installed a fridge and freezer in the basement.

The defibrillator cabinet heater requires replacement at the cost of £600. It was noted that the Welfare Trust is paying for the electricity for this unit. Grant help towards costs will be sought.

The Hall would re-open as soon as possible once restrictions were lifted, provided social distancing rules could be observed.

8. Logie Coldstone Trust

There was nothing new to report.

9. Tarland Development Group

The minutes of Tarland Development Group had been previously circulated.

10. Planning Applications

The applications for the silage pit at Craskins Farm, and the extension to the house at 4 Mill Place, Tarland, were noted. The planning application for flats behind the Aberdeen Arms Hotel was still undetermined. The application for planning permission in principle for a house at Waulkmill had been withdrawn. Anne Heath reported that the approved tree-felling work has been done in her area.

11. Any Other Business

The provision of summer bedding plants would be by Aberdeenshire Council this year. Cllr Gibb said that this costs the Council £180,000 for the whole Council area and added that future provision of plants was under review. Members agreed to discuss the planting plan for Tarland at the next meeting.

Dave Ellis said that the Marr Area Committee had provided guidance to Community Councils about the process for meetings in the lockdown to ensure public access to all Community Council Meetings. He added that these would be complied with.

Nigel Healey reported that the MacRobert Hall has been hired for the May elections. Joyce Lovie reported that the Logie Coldstone Hall would also be used but the Trust had requested extra payment for deep cleaning before and after use.

Dave Ellis reported that the Marr Area office was checking on co-opted members and vacancies in preparation for the 2021 Community Council elections. A report on its plans would be brought to Cromar Community Council in March.

12. Date of the Next Meeting

The next online meeting was set for 18.00 on Wednesday 24th March 2021.