



## CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 29th September 2021

**Present:** Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis ( Secretary/ Treasurer), Anne Heath, Joyce Lovie, Andrew Wilson, Councillor Paul Gibb and 1 member of the public (Ana Peña del Valle).

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

#### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th August, 2021 were approved. Acceptance was proposed by David Ellis and seconded by Joyce Lovie.

#### 2. Matters arising

The Chairman asked Councillor Gibb if there has been any update on the 101 Service's response times, mentioned in the last Police Report. The update was still awaited.

#### 3. Police Report

The Police Report, covering from June to August, had been previously circulated.

There was discussion on the three reports of wildlife crime included in the report. There had been further clarifications, and although these three incidents involved animals, they could have been categorised in other areas of crime.

The detail and scope of Sgt Keith Greig's report was commended by the Community Council. It was agreed to invite him to a meeting of the council in December, if his commitments allowed. The Secretary would liaise with Sgt Greig and thank him for his comprehensive and much-valued reports.

#### 4. Councillor's Report

Councillor Gibb submitted a report in advance of the meeting:

**Flashing signs in Logie Coldstone for Speed Control:** These are working as they should, before and after school. Solagen did attend and checked and updated both signs which were found to be working correctly.

**Aboyne Hospital:** Cllr. Gibb said that following the last meeting of the CC, he had

been advised that the hospital would definitely remain open until the 31st October and would provide beds during that time. The situation would then be reviewed. The decision as to where the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership would site Deeside in-patient provision in the immediate future was due to be taken at a senior management team meeting. This would be an operational decision based on clinical guidance and not part of the upcoming Strategic Needs Assessment for the Deeside area. At a recent meeting of the full Aberdeenshire Council, Pamela Milliken (AHSCP Chief Officer) was asked if she could comment on the permanence of the hospital after 31st October, but no response was given.

**Crossing in Logie Coldstone** The results of the Braemar traffic survey were awaited. If Braemar is unsuccessful in reaching the policy benchmark for a crossing, then the chance of one meeting policy in Logie Coldstone is low, given that the vehicle and pupil numbers are likely to be lower. Joyce Lovie spoke forcefully about the volume of logging traffic through Logie Coldstone and the dangers involved in children crossing the road from the school to use the Hall. Councillor Gibb assured the Community Council that if Logie Coldstone does not meet the criteria, then there would be other options for this to be raised.

## **5. Cromar Report**

### **a. Covid 19 restrictions etc.**

There was nothing new to report on the volunteer service, which is presently not operating. Cllr. Gibb said that Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership would be managing the booster and flu vaccination programme at designated centres, which for our area would be Banchory.

### **b. Roads and Drains**

Nigel Healey had made three reports to SEPA about sewage leakages from drains on Aberdeen Road, Tarland. The Community Council agreed to write to Aberdeenshire's Roads Department asking if there is an on-going issue here, with the correspondence copied in to Cllr. Gibb.

### **c. The Queen's Jubilee**

This will be a four day event in June 2022. A working party will be set up locally to plan the celebration in Cromar. Trees are kindly being provided by the Woodland Trust for planting in a new Jubilee wood. The Community Garden has also applied for some. The trees will be planted later in the year.

### **d. Tarland Pavements and Speeding Vehicles**

At this point in the meeting, the Community Council welcomed Ana Peña del Valle who had raised her concerns in writing about Tarland pavements and speeding vehicles, with special regard to young children walking to school. The Chairman thanked her for her letter and invited her to comment on it.

Given the points raised in Ana Peña del Valle's letter, Cllr. Gibb had been able to obtain information from Aberdeenshire Council Roads' Department on accident statistics and speed surveys carried out in Tarland. These indicated

that Tarland was one of the safer locations in Aberdeenshire for road safety.

After full and positive discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Gibb, Simon Welfare and Ms Ana Peña del Valle would meet for a site visit in Tarland on a convenient date. Ms Ana Peña del Valle was thanked for her attendance at the meeting and left the online meeting at this stage.

**e. Christmas Lights**

Dave Ellis reported that an application had been submitted to Aberdeenshire Council's Lighting Department for permission to connect the Christmas lights in The Square. Gordon Ross had kindly volunteered to do the electrical work needed. The Chairman also agreed to approach Simon Power of the MacRobert Trust Estate about the annual gift of the Christmas tree. The plan was to have the Christmas tree and lights in place by the First Sunday in Advent. Gordon Ross pointed out that the lights would need replacing for the following year. It was agreed to investigate the options for obtaining funding for this.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

The bank balance stood at a total of £2,764.19. This included the 2021/2022 grant from Aberdeenshire Council, some remaining Covid funds, and monies collected for improving the Christmas lights. The Chairman warmly thanked David Ellis for his work in preparing the annual accounts and Donald Gordon, the independent assessor, for verifying the accounts.

**7. Logie Coldstone and Ordie**

Jocye Lovie reported there was still a reluctance to hold large gatherings in Logie Coldstone. Badminton had resumed. New volunteers were being sought to run the monthly community café. Cllr. Gibb agreed to ask Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Services Department to tidy up the pathway between the school and the Hall.

**8. Tarland Welfare Trust**

There was nothing to report.

**9. Tarland Development Group**

The minutes had been previously circulated. The Community Council warmly congratulated the Tarland Development Group on the success of the recent Food and Music Festival.

**10. Planning Applications**

There were no new applications

**11. Any Other Business**

One thousand bedding plants had been allocated to Cromar by Aberdeenshire Council for 2022. Confirmation that plants would be available for next year was warmly welcomed. The Community Council commented most positively on the arrangements this year and thanked Willem Van Heusden who watered the baskets

throughout the summer and Aileen Longino for planting the baskets.

**Better Broadband:** The plans for the R100 broadband project on a house-by-house basis were now available from the Scotland Superfast website (<https://scotlandsuperfast.com>). David Ellis said that he had arranged for a director of the R100 project and two officers from Aberdeenshire Council to attend an online meeting on the 27th October to explain the project and answer questions. This Extra Meeting of the Community Council will be publicised widely to invite members of the public to attend. It was suggested that pre-registration be requested so that numbers could be assessed. It was agreed that the Community Council's regular meeting would be postponed until Wednesday 3rd November at 6 pm.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The meeting to discuss the R100 Broadband Project will take place online on the evening of Wednesday 27th October at a time to be communicated later.

The next meeting of Cromar Community Council will be held online on Wednesday, 3rd November at 18.00.