



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 3rd November 2021

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/ Treasurer), Anne Heath, Joyce Lovie, Councillor Paul Gibb

Apologies: Andrew Wilson, Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th September, 2021 were approved. Acceptance was proposed by Anne Heath and seconded by Joyce Lovie.

2. Matters arising

There had not been any response to questions about the 101 Service's response times that were being impacted by a longer telephone triage process. The date for a Tarland "walkabout" with Cllr. Gibb and the Chairman was yet to be agreed with the member of the public who had raised questions about road safety in the village.

3. Police Report

The Police Report, covering September, had been circulated. There were a number of themes in the report that were worthy of being repeated to the wider community.

Some incidents of antisocial behaviour and vandalism had been reported largely in Aboyne. The support of local parents was sought to encourage their children to adhere to acceptable behaviours. Residents were encouraged to report matters to the police to allow timely follow up.

Although acquisitive crime remains low in the area, there had been a housebreaking in Aboyne and a theft from a local hall. Communities should remain vigilant and secure their properties, sheds, garages and outbuildings.

It was noted that new speed detection equipment was being rolled out in the local area.

One Member said that there had been a recent incident of possible hare coursing in Logie Coldstone and that this had been reported to Police.

4. Councillor's Report

Pedestrian Crossings in Local Communities Cllr. Gibb reported that the traffic and pedestrian survey had now been completed in Braemar. In accordance with the current Council policy, this would result in no crossing for Braemar, as too few pedestrians crossed the A93 during the survey period. Cllr. Gibb and Cllr. Blackett were discussing the possibility of submitting a Member Promoted Issue for Braemar and Logie Coldstone to be considered as exceptions to the policy, given the local circumstances. If this were to proceed, it would need the support of both the Marr Area Committee and the Infrastructure Services Committee. The Community Council considered that this initiative would be welcomed by the residents and parents of Logie Coldstone.

Aboyne Hospital: Cllr. Gibb reported that there had been a recent review of the situation. Additional staff had been recruited and therefore Aboyne Hospital would remain open beyond the 31st October. The Community Council welcomed this outcome but was concerned that the hospital's future in the long term was still unclear.

There was a discussion about A&E facilities at the ARI, as a local resident had been asked if they had made an appointment when attending A&E with their child who had suffered an accident. Members thought that this seemed to be contradictory to the purpose of A&E which exists to treat sudden emergencies.

5. Cromar Report

a. Covid 19 restrictions etc.

The rates of covid infections locally varied, but it was good to report that, at the time of the meeting, the case numbers for Cromar and Kildrummy area stood at one half of the Aberdeenshire average. The subscription for the mobile phone used for the Logie Coldstone covid support group had been cancelled. This could always be restarted if it was needed.

b. Roads and Drains

Since the report of sewage overflowing last month, SEPA had investigated the drains in Aberdeen Road. It was believed that these were combined surface water and foul drains that could be overwhelmed at times of high rainfall.

c. The Queen's Jubilee

The Chairman reported that it was likely that the delivery of the trees for the Jubilee Wood would be delayed, but the MacRobert Trust Estate had kindly agreed to look after the trees until they could be planted. Gillian Masson had agreed to join the working party to plan the Queen's Jubilee celebration in Cromar. Recruitment of other volunteers to the committee was underway.

d. Christmas Lights

The MacRobert Estate has generously agreed to provide a Christmas tree for Tarland. It was hoped that this would be available w/c 15th November to allow

it to be erected and the lights installed before Advent. Dave Ellis was asked to contact Gordon Ross to agree to the arrangements and see if he needed any help in putting up the tree.

e. R100 and Rural Broadband

Dave Ellis summarised the outcomes of the special online meeting held on October 27th. This was attended by more than twenty local residents together with Duncan Nisbet (Stakeholder Director of R100) and Matt Lockley and Jack Rigby of Aberdeenshire Council.

The information presented was both good news and bad news. It was confirmed that some 355 properties would get full fibre broadband (recognised as the gold standard for broadband service) as part of the R100 programme. The bad news was that this was not scheduled to happen until the summer and autumn of 2026. 84 properties locally had not been included in the R100 main build of the network, but instead would be offered a “main voucher” worth £5000 to allow a superfast service to be installed by an alternate provider.

The 355 properties in Cromar that later would receive full fibre connections were eligible for an “interim voucher” worth £400 to allow a short term solution to be installed. All residents and businesses were encouraged to investigate if they could benefit from either of the voucher schemes. Aberdeenshire Council is offering support to communities to take advantage of these schemes.

The recording of the online meeting and the questions and answers would be made available via the Community Council website and YouTube.

6. Treasurer’s Report

The bank balance stood at a total of £2,754.19. This included some remaining Covid funds, and monies collected for improving the Christmas lights. The Councillors agreed that any spare covid support monies should be retained until the spring of 2022 in case of a change in local circumstances.

7. Logie Coldstone and Ordie

Jocye Lovie reported that she had been seeking potential members of the Community Council. They had been asked to contact the Chairman.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

There was nothing to report.

9. Tarland Development Group

The minutes had been previously circulated.

10. Planning Applications

There were no new applications.

11. Any Other Business

Evelyn Smith has kindly agreed to be responsible for the bedding plants in Logie Coldstone for 2022. Willem Van Heusden and Dave Ellis were thanked for taking down the Tarland hanging baskets and Willem for his work in watering the baskets throughout the summer.

COP26 - four young people, aged 9 years to 14 years, from the Everything Electronic youth club had been invited to a Gala film event at COP26 where their films would be shown. Two of the ten national youth film finalists had come from Everything Electronic and the Cromar Future Group.

Dave Ellis was asked to try and get a timetable for the completion of the installation of the EV changing point in Tarland.

The Chairman was asked to lay the wreaths on Remembrance Day for both Aberdeenshire Council and the Community Council. Cllr. Gibb offered to see if road cones were available to reserve space around the Tarland memorial.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Cromar Community Council will be held online on Wednesday, 8th December at 18.00.