



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 8th December 2021

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

Apologies: Joyce Lovie, Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November, 2021 were approved. Acceptance was proposed by Anne Heath and seconded by Simon Welfare.

2. Matters arising

The office of Alexander Burnett MSP had been following up additional questions regarding R100 and mobile phone coverage (O2 and Vodafone) in the Howe of Cromar. The Community Council was grateful for the interest taken.

3. Police Report

The Police Report, covering November, had been circulated immediately before the online meeting. It contained little of immediate relevance to Cromar, although there was one reported incident of hare coursing in the Tarland area. It was hoped that a suitable date for Sergeant Greig to attend an online Community Council meeting could be found in early 2022.

4. Councillor's Report

Pedestrian Crossings in Local Communities Cllr. Gibb reported that there had been further discussions about how best to progress the installation of pedestrian crossings in Braemar and Logie Coldstone. Members of the community in Braemar were collecting signatures to support raising an exception to policy with the Marr Area Committee. The progress on this has been delayed by storms Arwen and Barra. A similar approach would be possible for residents of Logie Coldstone.

Aboyne Hospital: Aboyne Hospital was up and running and a number of clinics were operational. Cllr. Gibb reported that he had requested details of which clinics had reopened and which were still stood down. The continued operation of Aboyne Hospital was welcomed by the Community Council.

5. Cromar Report

a. Aftermath of Storm Arwen

The impact of Storm Arwen was extensively discussed. There was widespread disappointment with communications immediately following the storm. SSEN had communicated a number of times that the power would be restored by a certain day and time, only for these targets to be missed. This was not to detract from the excellent work of the SSEN engineers and others who had worked tirelessly to restore the supply and clear fallen trees.

Similarly the communications from Aberdeenshire Council seemed to be predicated on the availability of email and the internet, which for many days was not the case.

The efforts of Cllr. Gibb on the ground during the crisis were much appreciated.

It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council about this. It was thought that resilience planning would be a good topic for a Ward Forum so that experiences from local communities could be shared.

In the Cromar area it was proposed that a working party of representatives of community organisations (Community Council, TWT, TDG etc.) should be established to make plans to improve resilience in advance of future emergencies.

b. Covid 19 restrictions etc.

The Omicron variant had recently been identified and local support groups were awaiting further measures that might be introduced by the Scottish Government.

c. Roads and Drains

Even with the recent heavy rain, there had been no flooding of the Aberdeen Road. The issue of water running down the Coull road near Coull Kirk was raised by a CC Member. In freezing weather that could be dangerous as cars might skid on the downhill section. It was agreed that the Secretary would write directly to Lee Watson of Aberdeenshire Council to make him aware of the issue.

d. The Queen's Jubilee

The Chairman reported that the trees for the Jubilee Wood had arrived and were kindly being kept by the MacRobert Trust Estate until planting in the Spring. Meetings to plan a celebration for The Queen's Jubilee in Cromar would be held in the New Year.

e. Christmas Lights

The MacRobert Estate has generously provided a Christmas tree for Tarland

which had been delivered prior to advent. The erecting and lighting of the tree had been delayed by Storm Arwen.

6. Treasurer's Report

The bank balance stood at a total of £2,305.74. A donation of £200 had been made to support the children's Christmas event that was planned for Alastrean Woods on the 11th December.

7. Logie Coldstone and Ordie

There was nothing to report from the Logie Coldstone Trust.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

It was reported that the MacRobert Hall was averaging some twelve bookings per week.

9. Tarland Development Group

The minutes had been previously circulated.

10. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications that required comment.

11. Any Other Business

It was noted that the Coull Hall had been advertised for sale by the Trustees.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Cromar Community Council will be held online on Wednesday, 12th January at 18.00.