



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 12th January 2022

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/ Treasurer), Anne Heath, Andrew Wilson, Joyce Lovie, Councillor Paul Gibb and one member of the public (Nigel Healey)

Apologies: Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2021 were approved. Acceptance was proposed by Anne Heath and seconded by Simon Welfare.

2. Matters arising

Plans to write a letter to the Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council about the response to Storm Arwen were carried forward.

3. Police Report

Members considered the latest report for the area from Police Scotland. Relevant extracts are as follows:

During December 2021, very few incidents involving anti-social behaviour have been reported. Residents are encouraged to report matters at the time as this gives Police a better opportunity to attend, identify those responsible and have them dealt with accordingly.

Crimes such as housebreaking and thefts continue to remain at very low levels in the Upper Deeside area. Patrols continue across various areas in an effort to deter and disrupt criminal activity. Communities should remain vigilant, ensuring their properties are secure at all times, including sheds, garages, outbuildings and any other areas, including vehicles, that could be a target for criminals.

The large roads network across the Deeside area is being patrolled with assistance from Road Policing colleagues. The roads have continued to be busy, however, the number of road related incidents remain low, which is to be welcomed. New speed detection equipment is being rolled out also, with local Officers being trained in the use of this equipment, which will be put to good use in the coming months.

4. Councillor's Report

Proposed Planning Changes: Councillor Paul Gibb described the recent discussion

at the Marr Area Committee regarding the review of the planning consultation process which has proposed measures to speed up the process. The Community Council supported the comments made to the Planning Committee by Councillor Gibb, who wants to maintain the status quo rather than implement the complex changes being suggested. Cromar Community Council will write to the local elected representatives supporting their response to the proposed changes.

Aboyne Hospital: Councillor Gibb said he had requested more discussion on the future of Aboyne Hospital. Out-patient clinics had been suspended there at present. Councillor Gibb said he would also raise with the Health Board the impact that pressures on Aberdeen Royal Infirmary resulting from the Covid pandemic might have on the future of rural hospitals.

5. Cromar Report

a. Resilience Planning

The Chairman reported that a task group of ten people had been formed under the aegis of the Community Council to consider a resilience plan for future community emergencies. Its members are: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis, Nigel Healey, David Harper, Hayley Lockerbie, Gillian Needham, Linda Cunningham, Hitesh Mitchell-Mehta, Aileen Longino and Julian Davies. Nigel Healey reported that the MacRobert Hall had already begun consideration of installing a generator. The working party intends to consult with the local community about the plan in due course.

b. Covid 19 restrictions etc.

A recent request had been made for aid from Cromar Community Help from a household affected by Covid isolation rules. This had been followed up. The request also indicated the ongoing value of the help group to the community, while recognising its activities had been scaled down due to decreasing demand. It is available, however, to meet demand as it arises.

c. Roads and Drains

Many potholes were noted on the Coull/Tarland Road and in Tarland Square. Members of the Community Council and the community at large are encouraged to report road issues directly to Aberdeenshire Council Roads' Department. This link can be used:

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/report-a-road-fault.

The Secretary agreed to write to the Roads' Department thanking it for their remedial action on the recent drainage problem at Kirklands of Coull.

d. The Queen's Jubilee

The Chairman was liaising with members of the community with regard to marking The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a special event in Tarland. The question was raised as to whether Logie Coldstone would be planning an event of its own. The planting of the Jubilee Wood would be carried out by local schoolchildren in the Spring.

e. Christmas Lights

Gordon Ross and his team were warmly thanked for their work on the Tarland Christmas lights. New lights would be needed next Christmas. The MacRobert Trust was thanked for the gift of the fine Christmas Tree. The Tarland Arts and Recreation Group was congratulated on organising the very successful Christmas children's event in Alastrean Woods, given the difficulties caused by Storm Arwen.

f. Cemetery Extension

Nigel Healey, attending as a member of the public, commented on the success of the drainage work at the site, but raised concern about the wire fence surrounding the extension to the cemetery. Some Members thought that a wall should be erected in keeping with the adjacent B Listed Church and the original cemetery next door. The Chairman agreed to write to Aberdeenshire Council about this matter.

6. Treasurer's Report

The bank balance stood at a total of £2,293.75 and includes funds earmarked for specific purposes.

7. Logie Coldstone and Ordie

There was nothing to report from the Logie Coldstone Trust.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey reported that the Hogmanay Party had been cancelled but bookings for the MacRobert Hall in 2022 were picking up to 10 a week. In July the hall will host BBC Radio 4's *Any Questions*.

9. Tarland Development Group

The minutes had been previously circulated.

10. Planning Applications

There were no new applications to consider.

11. Any Other Business

Andrew Wilson asked about progress on restoring the bellcote on the Auld Kirk in Tarland. It was reported that this had been delayed due to Covid and the matter would be reactivated with Cromar History Group.

The Chairman reported that the Marr Area Partnership had circulated a survey about the local response to Storm Arwen. The Chairman suggested it would be helpful to have a ward forum, in order that representative groups and community councils could share experiences and learn from each other.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Cromar Community Council will be held online on Wednesday, 23rd February at 18.00.