



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 23rd February 2022

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/ Treasurer), Joyce Lovie, Andrew Wilson, Councillor Paul Gibb.

Apologies: Anne Heath, Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 January 2022 were approved.
Proposer: Joyce Lovie Seconder: Andrew Wilson.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Police Report

There was no report from Sergeant Grieg so far this month. Sergeant Grieg had been promoted to the rank of Acting Inspector and the appointment of a new officer to write the Police Report for our area was awaited. The Secretary was asked to write to Acting Inspector Grieg to congratulate him on his promotion. It was hoped there would be a visit to the Community Council by the new police officer when appointed. The Chairman said there had been a recent tragic fatal road traffic accident at Migvie and Joyce Lovie reported incidents of alleged hare-coursing in Logie Coldstone which had been reported to the police.

4. Councillor's Report

Logie Coldstone Crossing: A petition to Aberdeenshire Council was being raised in Logie Coldstone regarding the school crossing. Cllr Gibb advised that the better course would be to raise the crossing as a Member Promoted Issue. He would do this in his own name and asked that Cromar Community Council should be named in the submission. This was agreed by Members.

Aboyne Hospital: The rumours about the immediate closure to Aboyne Hospital were unfounded. The hospital remains open to inpatients and outpatients but at a reduced capacity. The Minor Injuries Unit remains closed.

Ward Forum: A meeting on local resilience planning in the light of the recent severe storms and their impact on local communities was due to be held under the auspices of the Marr Area Partnership on 2nd March 2022.

Covid Update: Changes to the Covid rules and advice had been announced by the Scottish Government on 22nd February.. The emphasis now was on personal responsibility rather than government mandates. Many of the current covid measures would be lifted on 21st March.

A three-level system for future outbreaks is also being introduced, operating on a low, medium, and high-risk basis. Public guidance would be adjusted accordingly within each of these tiers. Under the approach, Scotland was currently considered to be at 'medium' risk with the hope of moving to 'low' risk in due course.

The Community Council warmly thanked Councillor Gibb for his comprehensive and timely reports throughout the pandemic.

5. Cromar Report

a. Storms Malik and Corrie

The aftermath of Storms Malik and Corrie was being dealt with by Aberdeenshire Council, SEPA and local landowners. Some paths in Cromar were blocked by fallen trees. Members of the community were encouraged to report concerns to Aberdeenshire Council or the local estates.

An issue of concern had been brought to the attention of the Community Council regarding BT's phasing out of analogue telephone lines. These lines had been the only means of communication for many in the storms when electricity and internet services were down. A petition raised by Councillor Geva Blacket was being circulated highlighting the problem of how people will communicate during power cuts. Andrew Bowie MP and Alexander Burnett MSP were active in lobbying on this matter and it was agreed that Cromar Community Council would write to Andrew Bowie and Alexander Burnett to support their case and state the local concerns, especially for the vulnerable who rely on community alarm systems.

The Community Council recorded its warm appreciation of the regular updates Councillor Gibb provided by email in the aftermath of the recent severe storms.

b. Resilience Planning

A working group for Cromar and Logie Coldstone was meeting and draft plans were being prepared for input and response from the communities.

Community Councils are invited to submit a completed survey on the response of Aberdeenshire Council during the pandemic and storms and indicate how well local communities coped. The Chairman shared his view that our community coped well at ground level, but notwithstanding the great work by personnel, clear communication on crisis management from Aberdeenshire Council had been lacking.

c. Roads and Drains

There were no matters to report.

d. The Queen's Jubilee

The Jubilee Wood will be planted on a site adjacent to the 'sun' seat at Oldtown. The children of Tarland and Logie Coldstone Primary Schools will be doing the planting. The trees have been provided by the Woodland Trust and cared for through the winter by the MacRobert Trust. Members warmly thanked the Trust for providing the site and for its help in establishing the wood.

e. Christmas Lights

Planning was in hand to replace the Tarland Christmas Tree Lights in 2022. Gordon Ross, Electrician, was advising on the requirements and costs. Application would be made to Aberdeenshire Council for a grant towards costs, matched by a local contribution. The Community Council has a small sum set aside for this, but it may require boosting by local initiatives.

f. Cemetery Extension

The concerns raised at the last meeting had been answered by Aberdeenshire Council through reference to the amended Planning Approval which the Community Council had supported. Ailsa Cunningham from the County Council reported that the work was not yet complete.

6. Treasurer's Report

The balance in hand was £2211.07. The Treasurer reported that the TSB, the Community Council's bankers, was now levying bank charges in managing our account.

7. Logie Coldstone and Ordie

Joyce Lovie reported that activities in the Hall, including badminton and meetings of the SWRI, had resumed.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

There was no report.

9. Tarland Development Group

The minutes had been previously circulated.

10. Planning Applications

Members noted that a planning application had been submitted to demolish a ruined cottage at Corrachrie and erect a new dwelling on the site.

Dave Ellis reported that he had received a communication about improving the Mobile Phone mast at Logie Coldstone, to service the Three telecommunication network. In the light of the failure of mobile networks in the recent storms, the question of emergency power supplies for Mobile Masts was raised.

The Chairman reported that the planning application to build a house in the former

car park of the Aberdeen Arms Hotel had gone to appeal with the Scottish government.

11. Any Other Business

No matters were raised.

12. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed not to hold formal Community Council meetings during the school summer holidays.

Online meetings would be held on 23rd March and 20th April at 18.00. The resumption of in-person meetings would be considered later in the spring.