



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 23rd March 2022

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/ Treasurer), Anne Heath, Joyce Lovie, Andrew Wilson, Councillor Paul Gibb and two members of the public (Annie McKee and Bee Stuart of Tarland Community Housing).

Apologies: Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2022 were approved. Proposed by Joyce Lovie, seconded by Simon Welfare.

2. Matters arising

Logie Coldstone Crossing

Councillor Gibb had submitted a Member Promoted Issue (MPI) to Aberdeenshire Council concerning road crossings. The council officers have 28 days to respond and ask the newly elected councillors to re-submit it if the time-frame had expired after the local authority elections. Councillor Gibb informed the meeting that he was not seeking re-election. The Community Council heard this news with regret and looks forward to recognising Councillor Gibb's contribution at the April meeting.

3. Police Report

The report contained no reference to the alleged incidents of hare-coursing at Logie Coldstone and the fatal accident at Migvie, both of which were mentioned at the previous community council meeting. Cllr. Gibb had enquired about the hare coursing, and although men with dogs had been seen in the area in question on multiple days, this was not regarded as confirmed hare coursing.

It was agreed to invite acting Sergeant Long to a future meeting of the Community Council.

4. Tarland Community Housing

The Chairman welcomed Annie McKee (Chair of Tarland Community Housing and convenor of Rural Housing Scotland) and Bee Stuart (Project Intern) to the online meeting.

The task given to Ms Stuart and her colleague Ms Kennedy was to research the nature of potential housing needs in Tarland and to look at live/work units, low carbon

living, digital connectivity, 'Clachan' and co-ownership models. A new survey has been carried out, building on an earlier one from 2017, and the report will be published in April 2022.

Emerging findings were:

58% felt there was a definite housing need in Tarland and 73% a probable housing need. Low-cost housing for sale/rental and affordable family homes were the priority.

Sustainability was a high priority.

It was clear from the survey that people valued living in Tarland, but better transport, housing, broadband connectivity, increased business activity and more hospitality venues were important to encourage tourism and community prosperity. Annie McKee informed the Community Council that funding was available for community housing developments and this was encouraging for the Tarland project's future.

5. **Councillor's Report**

Aboyne Hospital: Councillor Gibb reported that the Keep Care in the Community group had agreed to write to Pamela Milliken of the Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership to ascertain whether someone had been appointed to carry out the Strategic Needs Assessment for the Deeside area. The group is also seeking advice from Niamh McIver of NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland about how to engage Deeside communities with the forthcoming consultation that will inform the SNA. Cllr Gibb said that not all the pre-pandemic hospital clinics at Aboyne Hospital had been reinstated.

6. **Cromar Report**

Recent Storms Follow-up

The Chairman had attended the online Ward Forum in which people exchanged experiences of living through the recent severe storms. It was not clear from the forum that Aberdeenshire Council had an overall resilience plan. A further forum will be held in June. The Chairman was asked by the Community Council's Members to write to Aberdeenshire Council to inquire about their overall resilience plan and how Community Councils fit into it.

Dave Ellis had taken action on the phasing-out of analogue telephone landlines and had written to Andrew Bowie MP and Alexander Burnett MSP supporting the initiatives that were in train.

Dave Ellis added that SSEN and Scottish Water had run a very useful webinar to explain their actions in the recent storms and to collect further input and experiences.

Resilience Planning

The working group for Cromar and Logie Coldstone had met. The Chairman and Nigel Healey were beginning work on draft resilience plans to be considered by a future meeting. In response to a survey from Aberdeenshire Council, the Chairman said his view was that the community in Cromar had coped well at grass-roots level.

after the recent storms, but that clear communication on management of the crises had been lacking from Aberdeenshire Council.

Roads and Drains

There were no matters to report.

The Queen's Jubilee

The Chairman reported that the Jubilee Wood was due to be planted on a site adjacent to the 'sun' seat at Oldtown on 20 April by the 135 children of Tarland and Logie Coldstone Primary Schools. The trees have been provided by the Woodland Trust and cared for through the winter by the MacRobert Trust's gardeners. Members warmly thanked the Woodland Trust for the gift of the trees and the MacRobert Trust for providing the site and for its help in establishing the wood.

Cemetery Extension

The concerns raised at the last meeting had been answered by Aberdeenshire Council through reference to the 2018 revised planning application which the Community Council had supported. Ailsa Cunningham of Landscape Services, Marr, reported that Phase 1 of the work was now complete and that, due to seasonal limitations for the conclusion of the soft landscaping, Phase 2 would not be fully completed until the Autumn. She added that the cemetery would provide 254 new coffin lairs and space for up to 144 casket-only lairs.

7. Treasurer's Report

The balance in hand was £1945.57. This included the payments made in advance to the Tarland Welfare Trust for the booking of the MacRobert Memorial Hall for Jubilee events.

8. Logie Coldstone and Ordie

Joyce Lovie said that, as far as she knew, there were no plans to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Logie Coldstone. The Village Hall was being used for activities again and it was hoped that the Community Café would be revived.

9. Tarland Welfare Trust

There was no news from the Welfare Trust.

10. Tarland Development Group

The Minutes of the Group's most recent meeting had been circulated. The Community Council had also been informed that work on the construction of Tarland Trails 2 would begin on 31 March.

11. Planning Applications

Members decided to make no comment on recent planning applications.

Members noted that the application (APP/2020/1184) to build a house in the yard by the Steadings at the rear of the Aberdeen Arms had been granted on appeal.

12. Any Other Business

No matters were raised.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be online on Wednesday 20th April at 18.00.