



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 20th April 2022

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

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

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March were approved. Proposed by Joyce Lovie, seconded by Andrew Wilson.

2. Matters arising

The Chairman reported that his draft letter to Aberdeenshire Council seeking information on their overall resilience planning would be circulated to the community council before submission.

3. Police Report

There was none this month. The Community Council had, however, received the *Police Scotland North East Crime Alert* from Police Scotland's North East Crime Reduction Team. This had been a full and most informative document ranging to 20 pages in length. The intention is to publish the report quarterly. Members of the public can access the full report via the Police Scotland Website.

4. Councillor's Report

Aboyne Hospital: The Strategic Needs Assessment for the Deeside area had been paused until after the local elections in May. Meetings were soon to be held between the Keep Care in Our Communities group and Niamh McIver of Health Improvement Scotland and Pamela Milliken of Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care so that the group can advise on how best people in the local area can engage in discussion with the Grampian Health Board on the future of Aboyne Hospital and the provision of other health facilities and services..

5.

SSEN Visit: Councillor Gibb reported on the visit arranged by SSEN to their local operations centre following Storms Arwen and Malik. It was revealed that their system, though wide ranging, does not give visibility of faults at the individual property level. Where properties lie off the roads and in remote locations, reporting to the engineers by householders is required. Councillor Gibb praised the response of SSEN after the storms, given the widespread devastation. It was agreed that some

form of communication needs to go out to alert people in remote locations that they are not automatically visible to SSEN and faults should be reported.

Councillor Gibb also reported that in submitting community applications to SSEN for generators, applicants must show proof of a service plan for maintenance of the generator. Householders' own resilience plans were also important. Funding help was available to assist with the printing of a first 'go-to' document to be ready for use when a storm strikes out power or causes other damage.

Pedestrian Crossings: The Member Promoted Issue (MPI) raised with Aberdeenshire Council about the pedestrian crossings in Braemar and Logie Coldstone had been submitted. Council Officers had 28 days to make a report. It was stressed that Community Councillors and others needed to make a strong case for these crossings according to their local circumstances. Councillor Gibb, who is retiring as a councillor at the May local elections, would be pursuing and supporting this matter as a local resident. He urged as many people as possible to sign in to the forthcoming Marr Area Committee meeting to show the strength of feeling for these road crossings. Joyce Lovie thanked Paul for all the work he had done as a councillor on behalf of Logie Coldstone.

6. Cromar Report

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

Dave Ellis said there was nothing to report. The chairman asked that the minute reminded local residents to report potholes to the Council and a simple notice would be posted with contact details for this. Sarah Brown drew attention to the Aberdeenshire Council App which shows where reports of road faults have been received and the action that followed. A smartphone application is also available.

[Report a Road Defect](#)

The Queen's Jubilee

135 children from Logie Coldstone and Tarland Schools had taken part in the planting of 135 trees to create a Platinum Jubilee Wood at the sun seat at Oldtown, Tarland on the 23rd April. The Chairman had attended the event. The land has been generously given by the MacRobert Trust, who also had cared for the trees prior to planting. Each child had planted their own tree to give them ownership of it in their growing years. A commemorative plaque will be unveiled on the Jubilee Weekend in June.

Plans were in place for a concert in the MacRobert Hall given by Paul Anderson, Shona Donaldson and friends on Friday 3rd June. On Saturday 4th June there will

be a street party in Tarland Square from 2 pm with teas provided by the Cromar Senior Citizens and entertainment by Graham Ross. This will include a fancy dress event for children. On Saturday evening a children's disco would be held in the MacRobert Hall at 6pm. On Sunday 5th June, it was hoped that a family picnic would be held in the Tarland playpark with games for children. Logie Coldstone is holding a Gin Tasting Evening on Thursday 2nd June.

The Chairman thanked David Ellis for all his work in obtaining the entertainment licence for the closure of the square, the picnic in the playpark and the lottery licence. It is hoped to raise funds from a raffle to offset the costs of the Jubilee Weekend celebrations. Thanks were also expressed to the Working Party and Tarland Arts and Recreation Committee.

Christmas Lights

Nothing to report - carried forward to the next meeting.

Community Council Elections

A poster had been received from the Marr Area Office asking for nominations of the community councils to be reported by the 1st June 2022. Elections will be held on 15th June in the MacRobert Hall, Tarland. All members of Cromar Community Council apart from Anne Heath and Andrew Wilson need to stand for re-election. There will be eight vacancies for our Community Council at the time of the election. The Chairman appealed for members of the local community to put names forward for election.

Future Meetings

It was agreed to hold the next meeting online, but to hold the AGM and ordinary meeting on 22nd June in person, depending on the virus statistics. At the June meeting a decision would be made about the format of future meetings, possibly a blend of online and in-person meetings, depending on the time of year and the likely weather conditions. It was agreed that face-to-face meetings would be held at 7 pm. The option of hybrid meetings was suggested by Joyce Lovie. This option would be considered by the Chairman and Secretary, to report to the May meeting.

David Ellis asked Paul Gibb if the schools had reopened for evening activities. There had been access issues at Logie Coldstone due to the lack of a janitor present. The venue for the AGM would have to be decided in May.

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 Trust

The Logie Coldstone Games were planned for the last Saturday in June. The committee was looking at restarting the hall programme with a search being made for more volunteers to staff the community cafe. Joyce Lovie pointed out that there

seemed to be 'volunteer fatigue' following the restrictions of Covid and that there is a need to get back to activity to regenerate the community.

9. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nothing to report.

10. Tarland Development Group

The Acting Chair of the TDG and the Chairman of Cromar Community Council had been in conversation about the Tarland Show which is not planned for this summer.

11. Planning Applications

All applications had been for work on the Tillypronie Estate and all but one were now outwith the comment period. The Community Council commended the estate on its plans to improve its housing.

12. Any Other Business

David Ellis reported that the electric car charging posts had been installed in Tarland at the recycling centre, and they were awaiting road markings and connecting to the payment network.

David Ellis had written to Andrew Bowie (MP) and Alexander Burnett (MSP) to support their work over BT's plans not to repair fixed telephone lines. BT is now suspending this programme due to public reaction.

The Chairman concluded the meeting with an eloquent vote of thanks to Councillor Paul Gibb for his outstanding service to Cromar Community Council as part of his exemplary work as a local representative on Aberdeenshire Council. Paul's speed of response to issues, his detail in providing information and his clear and congenial guidance to us in matters of policy that have affected the Community Council have been so very much appreciated. The huge extra work Paul carried out on behalf of the communities of Cromar and Upper Deeside was recognised with hearty thanks. Paul responded by thanking the Chairman for his kind words and paid tribute to the dedicated work of the Community Councils he had met and among whom he now had firm friends.

The Chairman wished him well for the future and the members of the Community Council warmly echoed his words of thanks.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be online on Wednesday 18th May at 18.00.