



MINUTES OF THE ONLINE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 22nd June 2022

Present : Carmela Earle-Wright, David Ellis, Joyce Lovie, Sandra Van Heusden, Simon Welfare and Andrew Wilson. Kirsty Macleod of Aberdeenshire Council took the chair.

Apologies : Apologies had been received from Councillors Geva Blackett, Sarah Brown and Anouk Kloppert.

Minutes;

The minutes of the online AGM of Cromar Community Council held on 23rd June 2021 had been previously circulated and approved.

Nominations and Elections:

Five nominations to serve on Cromar Community Council had been received: David Ellis, Joyce Lovie, Sandra Van Heusden, Carmela Earle-Wright, and Simon Welfare. All had been duly elected. Andrew Wilson, who was not due for re-election, remains on the Community Council.

Election of Officebearers;

Simon Welfare was proposed as Chairman for the coming year by Andrew Wilson, seconded by Joyce Lovie. Simon accepted the nomination and took the chair.

Simon thanked Kirsty Macleod for her attendance on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council and welcomed the members to the meeting.

David Ellis was proposed as Secretary for the coming year by Joyce Lovie, seconded by Sandra Van Heusden. He indicated his willingness to continue as Treasurer as well and this was proposed by Joyce Lovie, seconded by Carmela Earle-Wright.

Chairman's Report:

Simon Welfare highlighted points in his report which had been previously circulated to members. He reflected on the community taking its first steps into the post-Covid world and said that it had been possible to 'mothball' the very successful community helpline, notwithstanding its readiness to be reactivated at any time in the future. Storms Arwen, Malick and Corrie had caused major disruption and destruction and these events, along with flooding in Tarland in 2019/2020, highlighted the need for a resilience plan for Cromar. A working party has been set up to prepare this. He added that good communications in a remote area were essential. The Community Council is engaged with the Scottish Government's R100 programme to bring better broadband speed to the area and he highlighted the need for BT to review its plan to replace traditional landline phones with voice-over-internet systems. BT has now called a halt on the programme, given the value of working landline phones in the post-storm power cuts.

Aboyne Hospital and its services had been a regular item on the Community Council's agenda and the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Needs Assessment Survey was being widely promoted.

Safety and local infrastructure have continued to be of concern. The ongoing need for a pedestrian crossing at Logie Coldstone was being pursued via a Member Promoted Issue. The extension to Tarland Cemetery would be ready later in the year and two charging points for electric vehicles had been installed at the recycling area in Tarland.

The Community Council organised events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; the planting of a wood of 135 trees at Oldtown and the creation of and burial of a time capsule by the children of Tarland and Logie Coldstone Schools. A Traditional Scottish Concert, a community tea party in Tarland Square, and a children's disco celebrated the Jubilee on a glorious sunny weekend.

The Chairman also paid tribute to Ward Councillors Peter Argyle and Paul Gibb who had left the Council at the recent elections and welcomed back Councillor Blackett and welcomed the newly-elected Councillors, Sarah Brown and Anouk Kloppert. He also paid tribute to Police Scotland for their regular reports and to the officials of Aberdeenshire Council, in particular the Marr Area Manager, Janelle Clark. He concluded by thanking his fellow Community Councillors: in particular Anne Heath, Evelyn Smith and Nigel Healey who had left the Council in the course of the year.

Presentation of Draft 2021/2022 Accounts

David Ellis presented the draft accounts for the year 2021/2022, which had been duly examined by Donald Gordon. The accounts showed an opening balance of £2555.86 on 1/4/2021. Income from Aberdeenshire Council and a donation from Mr Gordon in appreciation of the Covid Community Help Service, meant that the total income for the year was £3208.86.

The main items of expenditure had been Covid-19-related activities of £543.70, the Children's Walk Donation of £200 and the hire of the MacRobert Memorial Hall for the Jubilee at a fee of £265.50, plus other costs, giving a total expenditure of £1285.79. The closing balance was £1923.07.

The Treasurer thanked Mr Gordon for examining the accounts. The approval of the accounts was proposed by Joyce Lovie and seconded by Andrew Wilson.

AOCB

The newly elected Community Councillors will be given a copy of the Constitution and of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.

Close of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting and the Community Council moved on to an Ordinary Meeting.