



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING

21st September 2022

Present: Cllr. Sarah Brown, Cllr. Anouk Kloppert, Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandra Van Heusden, Joyce Lovie, Andrew Wilson and one member of the public, Juliet Allam.

Apologies: Carmela Earle-Wright, Cllr. Geva Blackett.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17th August were approved. Approval was proposed by Joyce Lovie and seconded by Dave Ellis.

2. Police Report

The Police Report will now be issued quarterly. Any concerns in the interim may be communicated to Police Scotland either directly or via the Community Council. Cllr. Brown said that she would find out whether Sgt. Long would continue to be the Community Council's contact and the Chairman, Secretary and Sandra Van Heusden agreed to postpone their planned visit to Police Scotland until the name of the contact had been confirmed and a new-style Police Report had been received.

3. Councillors' Reports

Reports from Cllr. Brown and Cllr. Kloppert were circulated prior to the meeting, at which key points were discussed.

Cllr. Kloppert raised the following:-

Aberdeenshire Council has ceased to fund the young people's music centres which have existed for forty years. Members expressed concern on hearing this.

After the storms earlier in the year, there are still obstacles on the Deeside Way. They will soon be cleared, but the problem has highlighted the need to ensure greater inclusivity for users of the Way who have mobility issues.

Used tyres can now be deposited at the recycling centre in Banchory. The service will operate in the same way as Aberdeenshire Council's business waste drop-off service, with customers bringing in their tyres and paying for the tyres via the chip and pin service. The hours of deposit will be 7.30am to 10.30am Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Cllr. Brown raised the following:-

Aberdeenshire Council's Digital Engagement Team is interested in connecting with Community Councils. The last major update of plans for Cromar was October 2021, so having an update was considered useful. It was disappointing that the recent plans published for R100 rollout show that local installation has gone back by a year. The recently increased budget for R100 will deliver no improvement for Aberdeenshire. Cllr Brown was asked to feed back the Community Council's concern over the one year delay.

Cllr Brown is looking to reinstate the South Marr Safety Group which was disbanded a few years ago due to lack of volunteers. The group dealt with issues such as speeding, road safety, community safety, and anti-social behaviour. Members thought it was a good idea to reinstate the Safety Group and the Chairman asked Sandra Van Heusden and Juliet Allam if they would consider volunteering to join it.

4. Aboyne Hospital and Strategic Needs Assessment

The Strategic Needs Assessment is still underway. Cllr. Brown said that it was hoped that the ward with in-patient beds that had been closed due to staffing issues at Aboyne Hospital would reopen at the end of September.

5. Cromar Report

Resilience Planning

The Chairman said he was soon to meet with the Trustees of the Tarland Welfare Trust to discuss whether it might be possible for the MacRobert Memorial Hall be used as a community hub in the event of a crisis such as storm damage or flooding. He had also signed up to an Aberdeenshire Council workshop on resilience planning to be held in October. He hoped that resilience plans for Cromar could be drawn up and issued for consultation and implementation soon afterwards. Cllr. Brown was asked to find out when Aberdeenshire Council planned to draw up a flood plan for the area.

Roads, Bridges and Drains

The Secretary said that Ian Peacock of Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Dept. had confirmed that, at the Community Council's request, the following work will be carried out on Coull Bridge : The warning signage on approaches to bridge will be altered to include a plate reading "Oncoming vehicles in middle of road"; a 'Pedestrians in Road' sign will be installed on the eastbound approach to the bridge; 'SLOW' markings will be installed on the carriageway on each approach to the bridge; yellow/black parapet warning signs will be installed at each side of the bridge. Mr Peacock added that he hoped that the work would be carried out in October, weather permitting. Members warmly welcomed this initiative, but authorised the Secretary to write to Mr Peacock to ask if the visibility of the signs could be improved by cutting back the overhanging foliage and making the signs from the west side square to the road. Members also welcomed Mr Peacock's plan to improve the safety of the junction of Burnside Road and Bridge Street in Tarland by changing the road markings.

The Chairman agreed to write to Mr Peacock to thank him for his prompt response

and action and to agree to his suggestion that a site meeting should be held when the effectiveness of these measures had been tested and to address other road issues in the area.

Juliet Allam raised concerns over the volume and speed of cars using School Road in Tarland as a main commuting route to Aberdeen and wondered if traffic-calming measures could be installed. Cllr. Brown said she would take the matter up with the Roads Department and Police Scotland.

Potholes

Anke Addy had submitted some photographs of new potholes so that the Roads Department could be informed of them. Potholes and other road defects can be reported to Aberdeenshire Council via its website. Details of how to do this can be found at:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/report-a-road-fault/>

Tarland School

The Chairman had heard from the Headmistress, who reported vandalism at the school and asked the community to respect school property. Police Scotland has been informed and any members of the community who may see or suspect that damage is being done to school property should report it to the police.

Christmas Lights

The Community Council has applied to the Marr Area Committee for a grant to improve Tarland's Christmas lights.

6. Treasurer's Report

The account is showing a healthy balance of £2369. The Treasurer said that £750 of this sum, which includes money raised specifically for new Christmas lights, will be required to match the funding applied for to the Marr Area Committee, should the application be successful. Members also agreed to make a donation to the cost of the sign for the Platinum Wood, which is otherwise being generously funded by the MacRobert Trust.

7. Logie Coldstone Trust

A small group is working on plans for solar panels for the village hall to make it sustainable. The Chairman said that the Community Council would be offering the Trust a draft of a resilience plan specifically for the village.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

No update.

9. Planning Applications

Members were pleased to note that the MacRobert Trust Estate has received permission to build business units in the Estate Yard in Tarland.

10. Any Other Business

Members agreed that Zoom had worked well and that it would be used for meetings

in future.

The Chairman said that he had heard nothing more about the future of the Tarland Show.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 6 p.m. on 19th October 2022.