



## CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 19th October 2022

**Present:** Cllr. Anouk Kloppert, Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandra Van Heusden, Carmela Earle-Wright and Joyce Lovie.

**Apologies:** Juliet Allam, Andrew Wilson, Cllr. Geva Blackett, Cllr. Sarah Brown

#### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 21st September, were approved. Approval was proposed by Carmela Earle-Wright and seconded by Joyce Lovie.

#### 2. Matters Arising

At the September meeting, the question of reinstating the South Marr Safety Group had been raised by Cllr. Brown. Sandra Van Heusden offered to be a Community Council representative. The Secretary would ask Juliet Allam if she would also like to join the Group.

#### 3. Police Report

The planned new Police Report for the fourth quarter of the year was awaited. Sergeant Allan Masson, based in Ballater, now has responsibility for Upper Deeside and has offered to attend Community Council meetings in November or December. The appointment of Sergeant Masson was welcomed. The Secretary was asked to invite Sergeant Masson to whichever of the Community Council's meetings suited him best.

#### 4. Councillors' Reports

A report from Cllr. Brown had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Brown was thanked for following up questions raised at earlier meetings and for providing the report.

Speeding on School Road - Cllr. Brown had discussed the issue with Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Dept. The existing 20mph section outside the school already had signage and Members had been asked to identify the 30mph section of road where the alleged speeding was happening. Members had heard at a previous meeting that this was primarily happening during the early morning when this section of road was used as a "rat run" for access to the B9119. Cllr. Brown said that the Roads team is prepared to conduct a speed survey but there is currently high demand for the equipment. The Chairman was asked to discuss the issue with the Head Teacher of

Tarland School.

Tarland Flood Plan - Cllr. Brown had been in touch with Lee Watson, Principal Engineer, to discuss this. A Local Flood Management Plan is to be published in December. A flood study with SEPA was planned to be completed in the period 2022 - 2028, although it was anticipated that this might be completed as early as the end of 2025. It was suggested that the Community Council should ask Mr Watson if work on the study had already begun. The Chairman offered to share links to documents that might be helpful.

#### **5. Aboyne Hospital and Strategic Needs Assessment**

A public update on progress with the Strategic Needs Assessment had been received by the Secretary who was asked to circulate the document to Members. The responses from the survey and focus groups have indicated that a service redesign is not needed and instead short life working groups can address the improvements identified. The full report will be shared following presentation to the Integration Joint Board on 7th December.

The planned reopening of the inpatient ward at Aboyne hospital by 31st October was welcomed. Members discussed the importance of both hospitals to the area and expressed the hope that the particular needs of patients on Deeside would be understood and met.

#### **6. Cromar Report**

##### **Resilience Planning**

The Chairman had attended an online Aberdeenshire Council workshop on resilience planning. It would appear that the Aberdeenshire Council plan is not due to be delivered for some months. Members agreed that it would be very helpful for Community Councils to understand what services Aberdeenshire Council were planning to deliver in the event of a crisis so that community-level resilience plans could fit in with these.

It was agreed to take up the offer from the Digital Engagement Team to discover whether resilience measures had been improved at local phone masts / exchanges. The Secretary was also asked to request an update of the information provided by Andrew Bowie MP and OFCOM last Spring.

##### **Roads, Bridges and Drains**

As yet, no work had started on the improvement measures at Coull Bridge or the road markings at Tarland Bridge. These were originally planned to begin during October. The Chairman agreed to write to Ian Peacock of the Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Department for an update. He had also been in touch with Mr Peacock about the provision of bike parking in the middle of Tarland and awaited news from the Transportation Department. Mr Peacock had also raised the question of car parking in Tarland Square, suggesting that marked bays could be provided. There followed a general discussion about the parking arrangements in the Square. Members felt strongly that no changes were needed. However, those parking in The

Square were asked to be considerate to other users.

### **Broadband Improvements**

The Digital Engagement Team had identified a supplier called Broadway Partners that was keen to work with rural communities in Aberdeenshire to provide full fibre connectivity. This company had experience in rural Wales and some other parts of Scotland. The Secretary has held discussions with a director of Broadway Partners and it was proposed to hold a community meeting so that the options might be explored. This would potentially cover properties that were planned to receive R100 connections, those eligible for vouchers (SBVS - Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme) and those who are receiving faster connections (FTTC) from the Tarland exchange. A good turnout from the community is to be encouraged.

Carmela Earle-Wright expressed frustration at being unable to find any supplier who was prepared to make use of the vouchers available from the UK Government (Department for Culture, Media and Sport).

### **Christmas Lights**

At the recent Marr Area Committee meeting, a grant of £750 to improve Tarland's Christmas lights had been kindly agreed. This will be matched with £750 from Community Council funds. Discussions will be held with Gordon Ross on the potential refurbishment of the existing lights versus buying new lights.

The Chairman offered to write to the MacRobert Estate to ask if they would kindly supply a Christmas tree for Tarland.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

The account is showing a healthy balance of £2,369.

## **8. Logie Coldstone Trust**

The letter concerning dual zoning of Logie Coldstone and Aboyne Primary Schools sent earlier in the year was discussed. There was concern in the community that Logie Coldstone School was not receiving sufficient support in maintaining the numbers of children attending the school. This matter has been taken up by the Trust with the three Ward 15 Councillors and they are offering to proactively assist.

The Annual General Meeting of the LCT trustees is due to be held at the Hall on 21st November at 8pm.

The Trust would shortly accept a quote for solar panels and batteries for the Hall that would both improve resilience and reduce day-to-day costs.

## **9. Tarland Welfare Trust**

No update.

## **10. Tarland Development Group**

The Chairman said that he had been in touch with the Group's Acting Chair who had

asked about bike parking in Tarland Square and a possible Community Action Plan. There was no news about the future of the Tarland Show.

#### **11. Planning Applications**

There were no new applications.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

The replacement of the refuse and recycling bins was discussed. There had been numerous problems and some properties were still missing bins. Any ongoing bin issues need to be reported to Aberdeenshire Council in the normal way.

Two Members had taken up an offer from Aberdeenshire Council to attend social media training. This was scheduled for 7th November.

The Chairman said that the Community Council should consider events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III in May of 2023.

#### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 6 p.m. on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022.