



## CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 22nd February 2023

**Present:** Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandra van Heusden, Camela Earle-Wright, Joyce Lovie, Juliet Allam & Sgt Allan Masson

**Apologies:** Andrew Wilson, Cllr. Anouk Kloppert, Cllr. Sarah Brown & Cllr. Geva Blackett.

#### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the on-line meeting held 18th January 2023 were approved. Approval was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Camela Earle-Wright.

#### 2. Matters Arising

In connection with the Strategic Needs Assessment, it was noted that Keep Care in the Community has invited Members of the Integration Joint Board to visit the area.

#### 3. Police Report

Sergeant Masson was welcomed to the meeting. The most recent Police Report was discussed. Although this occupied two pages for a quarter, Sgt Masson emphasised that crime levels were low for the size of the area. In the quarter, all crimes of violence had been detected. The recent theft of high-value cycles had been detected quickly by a specialist police unit. Telephone fraud remained a problem especially for older members of the community. Sgt Masson offered a short education session to make people aware of the problem if there were suitable forums for this to take place.

The issue of wildlife crime was discussed. Two witnesses are necessary for this to be prosecuted. It was emphasised that members of the community should not place themselves at risk if coming across possible wildlife crime, but they should instead report it immediately to the police. They might perhaps call a neighbour who could act as the second witness and they could possibly make a film on a mobile phone but only if this posed no risk.

Members agreed that the Community Council minutes should reflect general trends from the Police Report rather than specific incidents and agreed to enquire if Neighbourhood Watch reports could be included in the CC's facebook page.

#### 4. Councillors' Reports

Reports had been received from Councillors Brown and Kloppert. They were to be thanked for providing these.

A reply was awaited from the Roads Department concerning the Coull Bridge and the markings on Burnside Road.

## **5. Cromar Report**

### **Resilience Planning**

A draft resilience plan had been produced by Sandra van Heusden. She was also planning to attend an online resilience preparedness meeting. She had also arranged meetings with the hall committees in Tarland and Logie Coldstone. Members wondered if a permanent “good neighbour” scheme might be an important part of a local plan. Joyce Lovie said that her experience of the “priority list” arrangements operated by SSEN in the aftermath of last year’s storms had been good.

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

The pedestrian bridge over the Tarland Burn was discussed. A bridge has been in place at this location since at least 1868. The bridge is in poor condition and efforts have been made to identify the owner so that repairs might be undertaken. These efforts were ongoing.

There was a discussion about the poor state of many roads and of Tarland Square with many potholes. It is important that all residents report defects to the Council, ideally using the MyAberdeenshire app (<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my/>) or, alternatively, by telephone 03456 081205.

### **Flooding**

The online meeting held in January had identified the process that was being followed to produce a new plan due in 2025. Work was ongoing locally to see if some other flood mitigations might be introduced earlier. A suitable location for the shipping container offered by Aberdeenshire Council was still being sought. This needed to be a convenient location for the village but not one subject to flooding itself.

### **Broadband Improvements**

An update on the progress Broadway Broadband is making in delivering a full fibre broadband setup for Cromar is planned for the March Community Council meeting. Meanwhile, residents were encouraged to register their interest in having a faster connection at the Broadway Broadband website. This can be done by registering (name, email and postcode) at the website <https://broadwaybroadband.co.uk> and can be done with no obligation.

### **Christmas Lights**

The meeting was shown photographs of the motifs that were to be ordered for the Square. These are replacements for the stars that were positioned on either side of the Christmas tree. Gordon Ross, the electrician, had made great improvements to the electrical connections used for the lights and his invoice was expected shortly.

### **Social Media Training**

Sandra van Heusden explained that the posts on the Community Council’s facebook

page containing local photographs had been popular and increased engagement. Differentiation between the facebook pages of the Community Council and the Tarland and Cromar Notice Board was discussed. Posts with a high "community" element were thought appropriate for the Community Council page. Given the positive response to the Facebook page, Members agreed that more extensive usage was called-for and that more information about topics such as planning and road closures should be posted.

The Community Council website was discussed. There was an option to use a template that had been developed by the Scottish Government's Improvement Service specifically for Community Councils. Doing this would involve an ongoing cost of £150 p.a. It was agreed to discuss this at the meeting in March.

### **Coronation Celebrations**

The Chairman said he had written to Aberdeenshire Council about the possibility of restoring the bellcote on the Auld Kirk in Tarland to mark The King's Coronation. He thought that funds would need to be raised for a new survey of the building if the go-ahead was given.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The account is showing a balance of £2,181.08

#### **6. Logie Coldstone Trust**

Joyce Lovie reported that the Burns Night event had been successful. The regular monthly community cafe was due to be held on Friday 3rd March.

#### **7. Tarland Development Group**

The Chairman reported that discussions were continuing with Chris Redmond, the Chair of the TDG, concerning cycle racks and parking in the village. The annual seed swap was planned for Saturday 25th February.

#### **8. Planning Applications**

There were two new planning applications. Members decided to offer no comments on these.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by Stanardsville, Virginia, regarding closer ties with Tarland and Cromar. He would discuss this with members of the community before reporting back to the Community Council.

Councillors were reminded that there would be elections held for the Community Council vacancies in June. The election timetable and advertising materials would be supplied shortly by the Area Office.

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 6 pm on Wednesday 22nd March 2023.