



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 18th January 2023

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandra van Heusden, Camela Earle-Wright, Cllr. Anouk Kloppert, Cllr. Sarah Brown & Cllr. Geva Blackett.

Apologies: Joyce Lovie & Andrew Wilson

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the on-line meeting held 7th December 2022 were approved. Approval was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Camela Earle-Wright.

2. Matters Arising

It was noted that the signage on the Aboyne to Tarland road had been replaced. The Council was thanked for its prompt action.

A meeting is planned between the Logie Coldstone Parent Council and Aberdeen Council's Learning Estates about the school roll in the future.

The Warm Space in Tarland is now operating on Monday mornings, thanks to Young at Heart Deeside and sponsorship by the MacRobert Trust. Members expressed their gratitude to both.

3. Police Report

A recent Police Report had been received from Sergeant Masson. The report gave single-line descriptions of incidents that had occurred during the fourth quarter of 2022. Members thought that this format gave an excellent overview of what had been happening in the local area and the Secretary was asked to pass on thanks to Sergeant Masson for the wealth of detail provided. There was a discussion concerning trends in types of incidents and it was agreed to discuss this with Sergeant Masson when he attends the February Community Council meeting.

The North East Crime Alert publication for January 2023 had been received and had been communicated to residents using the Community Council Facebook page.

4. Councillors' Reports

Councillors Brown, Blackett and Kloppert joined the meetings at various times

between 18.00 and 19.30. Road gritting and the clearing of snow from pavements were discussed. The ice and snow on pavements in Tarland Square had presented a significant hazard to residents and those using the local shops. Cllr. Blackett suggested that the gritting of roads and the clearing of pavements be discussed at the Marr Area Committee and then with the other Community Councils in Marr. This suggestion was strongly supported. The Chairman agreed to write to all three County Councillors highlighting the issues in Tarland.

It was reported that the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan had been approved.

Cllr. Blackett reported that the Marr Area Partnership's Log Bank was going well. Efforts were underway to obtain more wood for the winter of 2023/24.

The promised improvements to the Coull and Tarland bridges were discussed. Members agreed that the Chairman should write to the Roads department of Aberdeenshire to enquire about progress.

5. Aboyne Hospital & Strategic Needs Assessment

The Chairman said that the results of the Strategic Needs Assessment survey had been considered by the Integration Board in December and he welcomed the IJB's willingness to include representatives of local communities in discussions concerning the drawing up and implementation of plans for the future of local health provision. The availability of the minor injuries unit at Aboyne Hospital was discussed. Cllr. Brown explained that a new triage process would be followed, involving contact via telephone. Cllr. Brown offered to obtain an update on the situation with the MIU.

6. Cromar Report

Resilience Planning

The Chairman said that he had asked the Tarland Development Group for help in drawing up a resilience plan. He said that he had seen that Aberdeenshire Council had said it would send out an advice leaflet to households but that it did not seem to have been distributed in Cromar.

Roads, Drains and Flooding

An online Teams meeting had been organised on 10th January by Janelle Clark, the Marr Area Manager to discuss the flooding in Tarland in November and what might be done to mitigate future occurrences. The minutes of the meeting were being prepared. Local Flood plans were being developed by Aberdeenshire Council and these were planned to be available for at-risk communities by December 2025. However, these flood plans would only be the first step in agreeing priorities and seeking funding for improvements. Members thanked Ms Clark for organising the meeting and the Aberdeenshire Council officials and members of the local flood group who took part.

The Chairman was seeking to identify the ownership of the Tarland Burn and the various pedestrian bridges that crossed it. An outcome of the recent meeting was that these were not owned by Aberdeenshire Council.

A suitable site for a shipping container to contain filled and fillable sandbags was being sought for use in the event of floods and progress on this was being made.

Broadband Improvements

The meeting was joined by Michael Armitage and Campbell Cameron of Broadway Partners, who gave an update to the plans discussed at community meetings held in November.

Funding for the project which would provide fast full fibre broadband to the Cromar Community Council area was likely to be 50% from Broadway and 50% from grants from the Westminster and Scottish Governments. The timetable anticipated DCMS (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) approval via the BDUK (Building Digital UK) project in April. This would be followed by a physical survey of poles and ducts beginning in April. The first fibre connections were anticipated to happen in May and June. A typical project took some six months to complete within an area such as Cromar.

In order for the project to go forward, the Broadway representatives said that it was important that local residents should express interest in having a faster full fibre connection. This can be done by registering (name, email and postcode) at the website <https://broadwaybroadband.co.uk>. They said that registering involves no commitment on the part of the resident, other than saying they might be interested.

Christmas Lights

A meeting was planned with Gordon Ross to discuss the improvements that had been made to the electrical connections for the lights at the request of Aberdeenshire Council, and what more might be done in preparation for Christmas 2023. Members thanked Gordon and his team for providing a 'best ever' light display this year.

Social Media Training

Sandra van Heusden had circulated a paper prior to the meeting highlighting the improved facebook engagements and asking for suggestions as to other social media channels that might be used. There was discussion on options. It was suggested that the Community Council should continue to increase the visibility of the channels currently being used. Developing a Community Council "voice" had made a big difference to the level of engagement obtained.

Coronation Celebrations

The Chairman had been discussing alternatives for celebrating the Coronation in May. It was thought that a permanent commemoration of this historic event might be more fitting than a street party. Proposals would be developed for discussion at the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The account is showing a balance of £2,184.27

7. Logie Coldstone Trust

Camela Earle-Wright reported that the Hogmanay Party had taken place.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

No update had been received.

9. Tarland Development Group

The Chairman reported that he had held a meeting with Chris Redmond, the Chair of the TDG. They had had a useful and welcome discussion about closer cooperation between the Community Council and the TDG. Topics discussed included a local resilience plan for Tarland, working together on a future Community Action Plan for Cromar, and various issues arising from the forthcoming opening of Tarland Trails 2, including overspill parking, road safety and the installation of bike racks in the village.

10. Planning Applications

There was an application for upgrading the telecommunication mast adjacent to Tillypronie Estate.

11. Any Other Business

No items were raised.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 6 pm on Wednesday 15th February 2023.