



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 7th December 2022

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Joyce Lovie, Sandra van Heusden, Andrew Wilson, Councillor Anouk Kloppert

Apologies: Cllr. Sarah Brown & Cllr. Geva Blackett

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the on-line meeting held 18th November 2022 were approved. Approval was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Joyce Lovie.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Police Report

There was no local police report, but recent thefts of valuable bikes from Tarland were discussed. The Community Council hopes to get more visibility of the North East Crime Alert via the Cromar Community Council facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064747654500> There have recently been various cars in fields as a result of accidents and Dave Ellis drew attention to the accidental demolition of signs to Tarland from the Aboyne Road by a car. The damage has been reported to Aberdeenshire Council and reinstatement of the signs is awaited.

4. Councillors' Reports

Councillor Kloppert said she had agreed to join a meeting on 10th January 2023 about flooding in the Tarland area. The Chairman and Secretary will be also taking part, along with Council officials, Ward Councillors and a representative of the Tarland flood group and a report will be presented to the Community Council in January.

Councillor Brown had circulated two papers. The first was a minute from the recent Marr Area Committee meeting which discussed present and future school rolls, and especially at Logie Coldstone. The video discussion of that meeting gave a fuller picture of the situation. Joyce Lovie said that lack of after-school care was an issue when parents were making choices about schools, but she thought there was scope to resolve this locally in Logie Coldstone. The Chairman thanked Councillor Kloppert for her comments on the Marr meeting and Logie Coldstone School and said that he

believed the Community Council has a key role in spreading the word in the Cromar area about the value and excellence of both local primary schools.

Councillor Brown also reported that household recycling centres are now open without a booking system and that Aberdeenshire Council had produced a leaflet on resilience in emergency - 'Being ready for winter'. Members agreed that this information should be posted on both the Community Council's facebook page and on the Tarland & Cromar facebook page.

5. Aboyne Hospital & Strategic Needs Assessment

The Chairman attended the meeting of the Integration Joint Board which commended the excellent report that arose from the SNA consultation. He hoped that the emphasis in the report on building on existing services would mean that the hospitals at Glen o' Dee and in Aboyne would continue to operate. Members were pleased that the IJB had expressed interest in including local representation on the working streams that would be taking the results of the SNA forward. Andrew Wilson said that he had been in touch with Councillor Brown to ask why the Minor Injuries Unit at Aboyne Hospital had not yet reopened. The issue of ear syringing no longer being done at local medical practices was also raised. Councillor Kloppert offered to write to the Scottish Government on this matter.

6. Cromar Report

Resilience Planning

Preparation of the Local Resilience Plan continues and discussions have been held with both organisations and individuals. The Chairman said he had attended a very useful SSEN resilience workshop on 24th November which discussed steps that would need to be taken by local authorities, businesses and households should a rota of power cuts be instituted in the future as a result of energy shortages. The Community Council had asked Aberdeenshire Council's Digital Engagement Team about the arrangements for local mobile phone masts in the event of a power outage and it had responded with useful information.

Roads, Bridges and Drains

There was some flooding in the Tarland area as a result of rainstorms in November. The Chairman had received a complaint that the drains in the Aberdeen Road had not been cleared and this was reported to Aberdeenshire Council. Despite a local flood plan being in preparation, Aberdeenshire Council's policy is that it is the responsibility of householders and businesses to protect their homes and premises from floods. Details of the help that Aberdeenshire Council can give to householders and businesses such as the sale, at subsidised prices, of flood protection equipment and the availability of free sandbags can be found on Aberdeenshire Council's website:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/flooding/flood-protection-products/>

Broadband Improvements

The planned full-fibre rollout by Broadway Partners was discussed. Councillor Kloppert reported that Aberdeenshire Council is encouraging residents to register for

the scheme. Members agreed that details of how to do this should be communicated to the community. Dave Ellis said that the UK Government had decided in its November Budget to retain the £5 billion earmarked to improve Broadband (Project Gigabit) across the UK. It was this funding that would provide much of the funding for the local fibre rollout. Interest in full fibre broadband can be registered at <https://broadwaybroadband.co.uk>

Christmas Lights

The Council warmly thanked Gordon Ross and his team for the erection and illumination of the village Christmas Tree and the MacRobert Trust Estate for the generous donation of the tree.

Social Media Training

Dave Ellis and Sandra van Heusden had attended a one-day seminar at Aberdeenshire Council's Head Offices. Sandravan Heusden has undertaken to improve the Community Council's social media output, using facebook and Instagram.

Coronation Celebrations

Members shared some ideas about how the Coronation in May might be commemorated. They included distributing a Coronation mug to every child, a celebration in Tarland Square and a permanent memorial to the historic event. Members agreed to discuss these ideas and any others that might come forward at the meeting in January in the hope that a decision can then be made.

Treasurer's Report

The account is showing a balance of £2,330.25

7. Logie Coldstone Trust

Joyce Lovie reported that the Christmas Tree had been gifted. She also said that there will be a Hogmanay Party in Logie Coldstone Hall and that Logie Coldstone calendars were on sale.

8. Tarland Welfare Trust

No update, but discussions had been held with TWT regarding resilience planning.

9. Tarland Development Group

Sandra van Heusden is now Secretary of the TDG and will provide minutes of meetings.

10. Planning Applications

There was one recent application, but Members decided that there was no need to offer any comment.

11. Any Other Business

The Chairman said that the issue of provisioning a 'warm space' in Tarland had been raised with him. He was in discussions about this and said that he would report back

to the next meeting.

The Community Council agreed to continue to meet on a monthly basis at least until the AGM in the summer.

The Chairman thanked the Members of Cromar Community Council for their hard work throughout the year. Andrew Wilson proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Chairman, in his turn, offered special thanks to the Secretary/Treasurer and the meeting ended with the sharing of best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Good New Year.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 6 pm on 18th January 2023.