



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 22nd March 2023

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

Apologies: Camela Earle-Wright, Juliet Allam

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the on-line meeting held on 22nd February 2023 were approved. Approval was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Joyce Lovie.

2. Matters Arising

The Chairman drew attention to two points arising from the minutes:

- a. Stanardsville, Virginia, link is still to be followed up.
- b. Elections for Cromar Community Council are due in June. All Members were requested to publicise the opportunity for new Members to join the Community Council once posters were available.

3. Police Report

There has been no Police Report since Sergeant Masson attended the last meeting. The Secretary had followed up the suggestion that Neighbourhood Watch material could be reposted on the Community Council Facebook page, but the PDF format used for these made it impossible to simply include a link. The Community Council would continue to re-post the North East Crime Alert publication on its Facebook page.

4. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Sarah Brown reported on the following:-

Rollout of a third bin to allow additional recycling by separating paper and card from other recyclables: the start of the rollout of the orange-lidded bin was expected in April. Aberdeenshire Council now has £3.4 million in funding from the Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund to put the new waste strategy in place in alignment with Scotland's Charter for Household Recycling.

Cllr. Brown had recently visited Horseback UK at Dinnet and reported on its outstanding work using horsemanship and outdoor activities to deliver a range of nationally-accredited personal development programmes that encourage participants

to acquire new coping strategies, life skills and build lasting resilience. HorseBack UK delivers a Youth Development Programme incorporating the Prince's Trust Team Programme. They have a course coming up shortly, aimed at 16–25 year-olds living in the Deeside and surrounding area who are not in education, employment or training.

Councillor Anouk Kloppert reported that the Tenants' Eviction ban had been extended to the end of 2023.

5. Cromar Report

Roads, Drains and Bridges

The Chairman had worked with the MacRobert Trust to resolve the question of the decaying pedestrian footbridge across the Tarland burn. The MacRobert Trust is the owner of the bridge and the adjoining path linking Burnside Road to Tarland Square and plans are in hand to make the bridge safe by repairing or replacing it. Members expressed their gratitude to the Trust for taking action on this.

The number of potholes in Tarland Square is increasing. Large potholes are also reported on the Coull road. The lamp standard outside the Paper Shop has still not been replaced. Cllr Brown is discussing the situation with Aberdeenshire Council's Roads department, along with the signage at the Coull bridge and road markings at Burnside Road. Concerns were raised about caravans using this junction. Andrew Wilson drew attention to the clear guidelines in the *Caravan and Camping Club Handbook* in respect of their Tarland site, showing access via Tarland Square and Mill Road, with a right turn only from Burnside Road onto the Aberdeen Road

Resilience Plan

A sample of an Emergencies Preparedness Guide Z card had been shared with Community Council members, along with a draft of a guide for the Cromar area prepared by Sandra van Heusden. David Ellis and Sandra were commended for their excellent work on this. Estimated costs for 1,000 copies is £3k. The question of distribution was raised and the Chairman will follow up distribution costs and methods. The establishment of a local emergency help line was also discussed, but keeping these available (as was done during the Covid pandemic) would be expensive. In April there is to be a test of a UK wide text message to mobile phone on resilience planning. The Cromar plan will be further edited and comments sought from the Aberdeenshire Council officer responsible for emergency planning.

Broadband Improvements

The Secretary said that the surveying process for checking existing infrastructure has already started in the area. In addition, teams working for a contractor employed by Broadway Broadband have been checking ducts in Tarland and installing ropes to allow the easier installation of the fibre cables. It is likely that a new communications cabinet will be needed near to the Market Stance. Once the detailed plan is available, it will identify where new poles and conduits might be needed. For example, where electricity supply and telephone cables use a common pole, new poles purely for the overhead fibre cable will be needed. Public meetings with Broadway executives to discuss the plan were planned in Logie Coldstone and Tarland on 30th March.

Residents of Tarland, Logie Coldstone, Coull and the wider Cromar area are encouraged to register their interest in having a faster connection at the Broadway Broadband website. This can be done by registering at the website <https://broadwaybroadband.co.uk> and can be done with no obligation.

Social Media Training

Sandra van Heusden reported on the growing interest in the Community Council's Facebook page. Local events and information were the most popular. She hoped for more community engagement (comments and shares) and Members discussed how this might be encouraged. The Members congratulated Sandra on her work in social media. The Secretary said that he had attended a useful online discussion about Community Council websites organised by the Scottish Government Improvement Service.

Coronation Celebrations

The Chairman had written to Cheryl Roberts of Aberdeenshire Council about the Community Council's proposals to restore the old bellcote in Tarland to mark The King's Coronation. A response was awaited. Rear Admiral Chris Hockley had contacted the Community Council on behalf of the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy asking for suggestions for organisations and events that could be put forward for consideration for visits by members of the Royal Family in the future.

Treasurer's Report

The account is showing a balance of £1318.02

Thanks were recorded to the Marr Area Committee for the grant towards replacement Christmas lights. Thanks were also expressed to the Tarland Arts and Recreation Team for funds raised for improvements prior to the pandemic. The Chairman recommended that the Community Council should renew its Lottery Licence.

6. Logie Coldstone Trust

Joyce Lovie said that all was well with the Trust and that the Hall Programme was up and running again. The Community Café was due to be held on the first Friday of the month. The road crossing was still to be progressed.

7. Tarland Development Group

The Chairman said he was in conversation with the TDG about bike parking in the centre of Tarland and that Aberdeenshire Council was being consulted. The Wetlands' Consultation on 30th March in The MacRobert Hall was highlighted. The Chairman stated that this was the beginning of a process of consultation in an ongoing study. The impact of initial publicity was discussed. Issues raised concerning parking at the Community Apiary at Oldtown had been addressed by Bee Group with efficiency, understanding and goodwill.

8. Planning Applications

The Chairman agreed to check whether a newly-posted application was in fact in the Community Council's area. Otherwise, there were no applications to consider.

9. Any Other Business

As in past years, plants will be made available by Aberdeenshire Council for hanging baskets in Tarland and planting in Logie Coldstone. Andrew Wilson agreed to make inquiries about the possible involvement of the Community Garden in assisting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 6 pm on Wednesday 19th April 2023.