



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING 24th May 2023

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Carmela Earle-Wright, Sandra van Heusden, Andrew Wilson, Councillors Sarah Brown and Anouk Kloppert and one member of the public (Linda Moffat) in attendance.

Apologies: Joyce Lovie and Juliet Allam.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

A correction had been requested to the draft of the April minutes. Members agreed that this should be included in the final version. The minutes of the on-line meeting held on 19th April 2023 were approved. Approval was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Carmela Earle-Wright.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The MacRobert Trust estate has now approved an estimate for the work for the repair/replacement of the pedestrian bridge across the Tarland Burn. Members were pleased to hear that this is expected to be carried out in August.

3. Police Report

There had been no updates since the last meeting.

4. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Sarah Brown had circulated her report. It covered the following:-

2023-24 Roads and Infrastructure Works Update and Proposals

In April, elected members of Aberdeenshire Council were asked by Roads officers to highlight any areas and locations in the road network that are of concern, with a view to their potential inclusion in the dynamic program of works for the coming year.

Councillor Brown submitted Tarland Square for consideration and approval for resurfacing works at a cost of £40,000 was given by the Marr Area Committee on 23rd May. Repairs to the bank of the Tarland Burn on Burnside Road, Tarland, are also included, as is the Tarland flood study. A proposal to spend £35,000 on the final phase of the work at the new Tarland cemetery is on the reserve list.

Fixed-route bus journeys

Stagecoach has announced that the Sunday services to Braemar on the popular service 201 corridor will be maintained through the summer period, following the removal of local authority funding. Recognising the importance of maintaining links to

Deeside communities and the growth in tourism to the region, Stagecoach has committed to continue the operation of these journeys until late October, to allow a more in-depth review to take place. Customers are encouraged to use the Sunday services during this period and Stagecoach will be looking for customer feedback to allow a comprehensive review to take place. The new timetable will be in place from Monday 12TH of June.

Aboyne Youth Hub

For the past 8 months Councillor Brown has been supporting and helping to develop a project focused on activities for young people of academy age. There was due to be an inaugural meeting on Friday, 26th May, in the Aboyne library for young people aged 16 and over who might wish to be involved in the organising group.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Brown for her report. Members also noted that in response to an inquiry by Councillor Brown, Aberdeenshire Council has not been seeking to paint yellow lines to restrict parking on Aberdeen Road, Tarland, but could look at this again.

Councillor Kloppert reported that Aberdeenshire Council was carrying out repairs to social housing in Tarland. She also reported that funding for out-of-school care had been on the Council agenda and is to be axed. This will put pressure on families and voluntary groups.

5. Cromar Report

Roads, Drains and Bridges

Councillor Brown, the Chairman and the Secretary and a representative of the TDG were due to meet with Aberdeenshire Council's Roads' Department to discuss the possibility of installing bike racks in Tarland Square. The Chairman raised the long-standing question of the proposal to install a road crossing in Logie Coldstone. Since the school now rarely uses the Hall it was felt by the school and local authority that the matter of the crossing could be left in abeyance at present. Members welcomed the fact that the Tarland Flood Plan was to be paid for by Aberdeenshire Council, at a cost of £20,000. The Chairman was talking to landowners to find a site for a container to hold sandbags in case of flooding in the village.

Resilience Plan

The Chairman was trying to secure a quote from Royal Mail to deliver the emergency plan packs. This would allow the Community Council to apply for grant funding for their production and distribution.

Tarland Burn Restoration

The TDG Wetlands Group is not in favour of the public meeting suggested by the Community Council at this stage. The Group has decided to proceed to design for the 'full restoration' proposals so that this can be modelled and the results presented to the estate, the farm tenants and the wider community. The modelling will be reiterated until the design delivers the benefits that are wanted without raising flood risk or incurring other disbenefits either up- or downstream. The final design must have no additional flood risk and will take into account all the feedback already received. The Group intends to display the results of the modelling and other materials online and in the village at different venues. The plan is for the display to be in place in June for up to two weeks, with members of the team available in

person at selected times to answer questions. Details will probably be advertised via facebook and by direct emails. The final report from this phase of the project is due at the end of June, although there may be some leeway. Further community engagement can be held after the design stage of the project finishes and this may be in the form of a public meeting. Further visits to the Beltie Burn at Torphins were being organised for anyone who would like to see a similar project that is already in place.

Social Media

Linda Moffat raised her concern about the use of the Tarland Noticeboard facebook page and other social media to provide a balanced view on local issues. Sometimes special interest groups can dominate the discussion. She asked if the Community Council could provide a forum for the discussion of local issues, which might use some form of moderation to provide that balance. The Secretary said that the Community Council did not currently have the tools to moderate conversations on social media. The Chairman assured Ms Moffat that Members will look further at this matter and involve her in the discussion. A goal certainly should be better communication between the community and the Community Council. The Secretary explained that other Community Councils use private groups to facilitate the kind of community involvement and discussion that she was proposing. Sandra van Heusden pointed out that such a forum would be useful when discussions about a new Community Action Plan for the area are begun later in the year.

Bellcote Restoration

The proposed restoration and reinstatement of the bellcote at Tarland Auld Kirk to mark the Coronation was discussed. The Chairman, the Secretary and Peter Craig, in conjunction with the Cromar History Group, will prepare a proposal which has been requested by Aberdeenshire Council.

6. Treasurer's Report

The account is showing a balance of £1,206.42. The Treasurer proposed that the Community Council should close its TSB Account and use only the NatWest Account. This was approved. Draft accounts for 2022/23 are in the hands of the examiner for submission to the June AGM.

7. Logie Coldstone Trust

Carmela Earle-Wright said that the Trust had held a very successful school jumble sale and car wash. In May the annual Morven Climb will take place and the village Fun Day is scheduled for 24 June. The Hall is doing well in raising money for the fitting of solar panels and storage batteries.

8. Tarland Development Group

The Community Council discussed a report sent by Chris Redmond of the TDG on the launch of the new Tarland Trails. He said that the new trails were incredibly popular and that 5-6,000 people had already enjoyed them: a figure that had far exceeded the organisers' estimates. Riders had given the trails rave reviews. There had, regrettably, been some accidents, causing the Braemar Mountain Rescue Team to be called out on five occasions. All these accidents had been in the afternoon and due to rider error such as speed, capability or tiredness, rather than trail design or other factors. There had also been a most unfortunate incident leading to the deaths

of three lambs when a rescue helicopter was called in and the trail organisers and TDG Trustees were deeply saddened about this. Lessons from these incidents and from other experiences since the opening of the trails were being learned and were due to be discussed at a meeting with local farmers and at a separate meeting with the emergency services over the next few days. The official opening of the trails will take place on 10 June and all parking revenue from that day, along with other donations, will be given to local mountain rescue teams. Chris added that there had also been many positive outcomes from the new venture for businesses and hospitality and accommodation providers in the area and a new bike shop had opened in Tarland. Members thanked Chris for his report and looked forward with interest to hearing about developments in the future.

9. Planning Applications

An application to reroute a track to allow the development of a property was discussed. The Community Council decided to offer no comment on the plan.

10. Any Other Business

Members were told that a young member of the community is hoping to make improvements to the park on Duncan Road.

There are a number of vacancies on the Community Council. The deadline for submitting nominations is 31st May. Members were asked to approach those who might wish to serve on the Community Council. More participation from residents of Tarland village was particularly needed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The AGM and next ordinary meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th June at 19.00. These will be in-person meetings at Tarland School.