



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING at Tarland Primary School on 21st June 2023

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandra Van Heusden, Janet Urquhart, Stewart Urquhart, John Rogie, Simon Power (Manager of the MacRobert Trust Estate) and three members of the public.

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Joyce Lovie, Andrew Wilson and Councillors Geva Blackett, Sarah Brown and Anouk Kloppert.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes from the May meeting were approved. Approval was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Dave Ellis.

2. Tarland Burn

The meeting was joined by Simon Power of the MacRobert Trust Estate. There was a wide-ranging discussion of the Tarland Burn Restoration Project. Concerns were voiced about the earlier consultation process. Various respondents said they had provided comments following the drop-in session in March and many of these had received no reply other than an acknowledgement.

The Community Council understood from the Wetlands Group that the modelling for the Restoration Project was being undertaken. The modelling would look at flood impacts for 2, 10, 100 and 200 years, plus the impact for climate change, which was estimated to be 35%. Not until this was complete would it be possible to present the project and understand the full implications.

Simon Power explained the position of the MacRobert Trust Estate: there must be no increase in flood risk as a result of the project; any impacts on the Estate farm tenants had to be considered acceptable.

The Community Council had been told that there would be further drop-in sessions in Tarland in the coming weeks so that the results of the flood modelling could be displayed. The sessions would also provide opportunities to further discuss the project with experts from the consultancy undertaking the work and the Tarland Wetlands Group. It was recommended that an evening session should be added to those planned to allow those who worked during the day to attend.

The Chairman thanked Mr Power for attending the meeting.

3. Police Report

There had been no updates since the last meeting.

4. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Sarah Brown had provided a written report which had been circulated and which the Secretary summarised for the meeting.

Bank of Scotland had notified the planned closures of the branches in Ballater and Banchory. Discussions were progressing between Aberdeenshire Council and senior contacts at the Bank to identify what might be done to minimise the consequences of the closures.

Aberdeenshire Council Housing Roadshows were taking place in June and July. The nearest event currently scheduled was in Ballater but there was an event planned for Aboyne for which no date had yet been set.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was planning not to attend automatic fire alarms unless these came from premises used for sleeping e.g. hospitals, care homes, hotels and domestic premises.

5. Cromar Report

Roads, Drains and Bridges

There was a discussion of potholes in the area. The state of Tarland Square was particularly bad. It was expected that work would be undertaken in July to resurface the Square and replace the broken lamp post. There was a suggestion that the loose stones might be swept up, as these made falls more likely.

The Chairman had offers of two locations for a container to hold sandbags in case of flooding in the village. A third site was sought. There was a suggestion that the container might be mounted on a farm trailer to allow it to be moved around and the sandbags more easily distributed in case of floods.

Aberdeenshire Council has accepted that the pre-existing yellow lines opposite the Commercial Hotel should be reinstated.

The Chairman agreed to enquire about the whereabouts of the Tarland sign at the end of Bridge Street.

Work on installing bike racks in Tarland Square is continuing.

Resilience Plan

Discussions with Royal Mail concerning the distribution of the resilience Z cards have been continuing.

Bellcote Restoration

A proposal for the restoration and reinstatement of the bellcote at Tarland Auld Kirk will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council in the autumn.

Broadband

Given the extensive preoperative work locally it was disappointing to hear that Broadway Partners had appointed administrators on 31st May. Details of any new owner were awaited. We had been informed of mobile mast upgrades at Tillypronie and Kirkton of Coull.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer confirmed that the TSB account had now been closed. A cheque for the balance was awaited. The account balance with NatWest plus the awaited cheque totaled £ 1,056.74.

7. Planning Applications

An application to re-route a track to allow forestry work was discussed. There were two applications for renewal of previously-granted planning permissions. The Community Council decided to offer no comments on any of these applications.

8. Any Other Business

The Community Council meeting schedule was discussed. It was agreed to meet monthly, the next meeting being in August. Given the likely bad winter weather, it was agreed that the meetings from November to March would be online.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd August at 19.00. This will be a face-to-face meeting in Logie Coldstone.