



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING at Logie Coldstone Primary School on 24th August 2023

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandra Van Heusden, Janet Urquhart, Stewart Urquhart, John Rogie, Joyce Lovie, Andrew Wilson, Councillor Anouk Kloppert and seven members of the public.

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Councillors Geva Blackett and Sarah Brown.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes from the June meeting were approved. Approval was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Janet Urquhart

2. Police Report

The Police Report issued in July and the North East Crime Alert newsletter had both been circulated to Members. Both were appreciated.. The report from Sergeant Masson was discussed. The new format was particularly liked, since it gave useful information about what has been happening in the local area.

It was emphasised that everyone should be encouraged to report incidents using the 101 number, to ensure that the Police are aware of them.

3. Councillors' Reports

The report provided by Cllr. Brown was much appreciated. Cllr. Kloppert updated the meeting on various topics. Fly tipping can be reported using online services: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/fly-tipping/application>. There are now four bus services each day from Tarland which are being paid for by the Council. The Local Transport Strategy Feedback consultation is open until 30th September. Scottish Government consultations are also open on the proposal to increase Council Tax and on the Just Transition plan.

4. Cromar Report

Roads, Drains and Bridges

There was further discussion of the number of potholes in the area. Everyone is encouraged to use the MyAberdeenshire online reporting tool. Some positive experiences were reported, however: drainage issues reported online had been swiftly attended to. Residents may also

send emails and letters to emphasise the importance of timely repairs. The repainting of the yellow & white lines near the Commercial Hotel and also on the B9119 near the Aberdeen Arms was still awaited.

It was recommended that the whole of Tarland Square should be closed when the work on replacing the street light outside the Paper Shop and the repairs to the surface of the Square are carried out in early September. The Chairman agreed to write to the Council about this.

There was a discussion about the “random” car parking method used historically in Tarland Square. No one present at the meeting wanted to see any changes to this, since it was agreed that it is part of the character of the village.

The Chairman said that additional options for siting the sandbag container are still required.

Tarland Burn

The meeting discussed a report about the state-of-play with the Tarland Burn Restoration Project that the Chairman had received from Kathy Dale of the Wetlands Group and also an email received from Rear Admiral Christopher Hockley, the Chief Executive Officer of the MacRobert Trust. Kathy Dale wrote:

‘A second community drop-in event for the Tarland Burn Restoration Project was held between 27 June and 2 July, which was well attended. The Senior Modeller from the consultants cbec attended the event on the first day and answered questions on the flood model. The detailed design modelling and flood risk assessment predict that there will be no additional flooding of Tarland village from the proposed scheme, but there will be additional and more frequent flooding of farmland. The final report from cbec is now available to view on the project webpage [Tarland Burn restoration design - Dee Catchment Partnership \(deepartnership.org\)](http://deepartnership.org). The FAQs will be updated in due course. The Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) funded development phase of the project is now complete. The design that has been produced by cbec is not a final, fixed design but a starting point for community consultation and for developing the design further. The next phase of development will require additional funding. A meeting is being arranged soon with the MacRobert Trust, as without their Directors’ approval the project cannot go ahead. The key question is what do the Directors require to be able to make the decision on taking this forward? The Dee Catchment Partnership and Tarland Development Group are still supportive of the project. The next Project Team meeting will be held after the meeting with the Trust and will discuss the team structure, the scope for this extended development phase, the arrangements for a community meeting/workshop, and funding opportunities.’

Admiral Hockley wrote that before taking the proposal ‘any further’, the MacRobert Trust will need ‘plausible, scientifically supportable evidence to show that the risk of flooding in the village is not increased by any of the proposed work on the burn - also that the consequences on the surrounding farmland can be confidently assessed so we can discuss sensibly with affected farmers.’

Resilience Plan

This is being worked on by Sandra van Heusden and the Chairman. It will be updated to

include a section on fire precautions. A suggestion that the same mechanism that is used to distribute the Parish newsletter could be used for the Z Cards was discussed. Joyce Lovie said that Logie Coldstone had a similar mechanism, in its case for the distribution of the Logie Coldstone Trust's newsletters.

Bike Racks in Tarland Square

The Chairman said he had sent the suggestion by the Roads and Road Safety departments of Aberdeenshire Council that bike racks should be positioned outside the MacRobert Memorial Hall to the trustees of the Welfare Trust. The trustees had replied that installing racks in this location might get in the way of businesses, performers and other organisations when they needed to unload equipment for events in the Hall. The Chairman has written to Janelle Clark, the Marr Area manager, asking her to consult the two departments about the possibility of finding another site.

Bellcote Restoration

A proposal for the restoration and reinstatement of the bellcote at Tarland Auld Kirk is being prepared.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer confirmed that the 2023/24 grant had been received from Aberdeenshire Council. The account balance with NatWest now stands at £1,644.74.

6. Logie Coldstone Trust

Joyce Lovie said that plans for installing solar panels in the Hall were progressing. The regular community café continues to take place on the first Friday of each month.

7. Tarland Development Group

Sandra van Heusden said that she was unable to attend the last meeting and therefore she had nothing to report.

8. Planning Applications

The proposal for a farm shop with accommodation on the outskirts of Logie Coldstone was discussed. This had been called in for consideration by the CNPA's planners. An application for a track to allow timber extraction near Colmuir was also discussed.

9. Any Other Business

Members agreed that the Tarland Show and its associated events and the Horticultural Show had all been great successes and that the community had greatly enjoyed the weekend on which they were held. It was agreed that the Chairman should send letters of congratulation to the Tarland Show, the Tarland Horticultural Society and the Tarland Arts and Recreation Team.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The proposed dates of the meetings through to February had been circulated. Members agreed to them. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th September at 19.00 at Tarland Primary School.