



## CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING at Logie Coldstone Primary School on 25th October 2023

**Present:** Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandra van Heusden, Stewart Urquhart, John Rogie, Councillor Sarah Brown and six members of the public.

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

#### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

#### 2. Matters Arising

Action on the bike racks in Tarland Square, is awaited from Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Department. The recent MTB Enduro event had gone well and the Chairman had written to the organisers to congratulate them on this. A question was asked about mobile phone coverage. Upgrades are planned on both the mast at Tillypronie and also at Kirkton of Cromar, but the timetable for the completion of these works is unknown.

#### 3. Police Report

The most recent report from Sergeant Masson had been circulated earlier. There were no comments on this.

#### 4. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Brown had provided a written summary of recent activities. The Councillor was thanked for providing this. Work on the repair of the side of the road on Burnside Road was awaiting approval from all parties - SEPA, Nature Scot and Fisheries. Members pointed out that with each flooding event more damage is occurring, and so timely repairs would be appreciated.

The resurfacing of one half of the Square previously was ranked as 12 on a dynamic list. The position on the list is now 10th but there is no indication as to when the work might be carried out.

The closure of the Bank of Scotland branches in Braemar and Ballater had taken place during October. Ballater and Crathie Community Council is continuing the work of trying to

get a banking hub located in the area. Mobile Bank of Scotland vehicles are scheduled to visit Ballater and Braemar regularly.

As part of the 2024/25 budget engagement process, residents have the opportunity of participating in two surveys to identify what matters to them regarding local services.

[What matters where you live? - Aberdeenshire Council](#)  
[Budget Engagement for 2024/25 | Engage Aberdeenshire](#)

## **5. Cromar Report**

### **Storm Babet Review and Flooding**

Experience of the recent storms and heavy rain was discussed. One house in Coull had silt enter the house as a result of ditches not being able to handle the volume of water. The resident had reported this to Aberdeenshire Council and the Chairman said that he would write to support her request that something should be done about clearing the ditches and culverts in the neighbourhood of her house. Tarland had escaped major problems, although some houses had water in the space below the floorboards. Some of the problems with clearing of ditches were long-running.

The Chairman summarised the various responsibilities of Aberdeenshire Council, the Community Council and individual householders for flood prevention. Various suggestions of what could be done to prepare for floods were discussed. These included having a store of sandbags close to the village, having empty bags that could be filled with sand locally in case they were needed, as well as maintaining ditches. It was suggested that the removal of vegetation and ensuring that drainage channels were not blocked could be done by the owners of individual properties.

Everyone was asked to make suggestions as to where the shipping container for pre-filled sandbags could be located. Three possible sites need to be offered to Aberdeenshire Council.

The role of the Tarland Flood Group was discussed. Members suggested that a list of people who would volunteer to help when floods occurred should be drawn up. The possibility of providing equipment to help them and affected householders was also discussed. Steve Redpath, the founder of the group, explained input received from the Scottish Flood Forum. Sandra van Heusden agreed to liaise with Steve Redpath and the Flood Group on behalf of the Community Council to assess which of these ideas could be taken forward and to arrange a meeting that would include the recruitment of volunteers.

### **Roads, Drains and Bridges**

The various problems with local roads, potholes and reinstatement of white & yellow lines were discussed. The Chairman offered to write to Aberdeenshire Council to see if greater priority could be given to these.

### **Resilience Plan**

The draft resilience plan was discussed. Anke Addy offered that she might have suitable photos that could be used for the Z-card and these would be reviewed by Sandra van Heusden. It was recommended that a large-print version of the plan might be made available

on request.

### **Bellcote Restoration**

A proposal for the restoration and reinstatement of the bellcote at Tarland Auld Kirk was being progressed.

### **Christmas Lights**

The new snowflake lighting features that had been purchased previously had now arrived. Arrangements were being made with Gordon Ross for the necessary approvals to be applied for from Aberdeenshire Council. The Chairman was asked to make arrangements to obtain a tree for The Square.

### **6. Treasurer's Report**

The account balance with NatWest now stands at £3,644.74. This included £2,000 that had been provided by the Marr Area Office for the resilience guide.

### **7. Logie Coldstone Trust**

There were no updates from LCT.

### **8. Tarland Development Group**

There were no updates or minutes from TDG. Sandra van Heusden said that she was no longer secretary of the TDG.

### **8. Planning Applications**

An application for planning permission and listed building consent had been submitted by the Aberdeen Arms. Councillors were asked to provide any comments that they might have to the Chairman in the days following the meeting.

### **9. Any Other Business**

The Chairman said that he had received an email from a local resident about 'deficiencies in the implementation of the information system' for the bus service that has replaced the scheduled 202 service to Tarland. He said he would pass it on to the relevant authorities.

It was reported that leaks in the Royal Mail sorting office in Aboyne were causing delays with local deliveries. Some activities that normally take place in Aboyne had been moved to Banchory.

### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be online at 18.00 on Wednesday 29th November at 18.00.