



## CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING at Tarland Primary School on 20th September 2023

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

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

#### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

There was discussion as to how the mood of the meeting should be reflected in the minutes. No amendments were proposed. The draft minutes from the August meeting were approved. Approval was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Stewart Urquhart

#### 2. Police Report

The meeting welcomed Sergeant Masson. It was appreciated that Sergeant Masson made the time to attend a meeting each quarter. The most recent Police Report issued in July was reviewed. Regarding the recent graffiti incidents in both Tarland and Aboyne, a single young person had been identified in connection with them. Local police and special constables had been taking part in “wild camping” patrols together with local Rangers. The recent publicity given to the “non investigation” of crimes was discussed and Sergeant Masson explained the context of this and said that, in actuality, it was little different from the status quo. Members reiterated that they were very happy for the Community Council’s social media channels to be used to communicate police messages.

#### 3. Councillors’ Reports

Cllr. Brown gave a summary of recent activities. Cllr. Brown had attended the Logie Coldstone Parent Council where officers from Aberdeenshire Council had also been present. There has been discussion on the earlier survey to gather views on the catchment area for Logie Coldstone School. It was agreed that the survey would be rerun. Given the length of this process, it is unlikely that there would be any change before 2025 at the earliest. It was concerning that the school role was forecast to be severely reduced by 2025. The Community Council will support the efforts of parents and the local community in sustaining the school.

There was discussion of the possibility of having a “bank hub” in the area following the

closure of the two local Bank of Scotland branches. Exactly how this might work required more clarity, but having suitable banking facilities was seen as important to both individuals and businesses.

Cllr. Brown said that pavement parking was likely to become an offence across Scotland in the near future. This would be a civil matter that would be handled by Aberdeenshire Council.

The bus service covering Tarland was discussed. Cllr. Brown said that she would provide the contact details of where user comments might be sent.

#### **4. Cromar Report**

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

The temporary repair of the potholes in Tarland Square was discussed. What had been done was worthwhile but deep channels where earlier repairs had been made still remained. It was hoped that the planned resurfacing of part of the Square would take place in coming months and Cllr. Brown offered to find out where the project was on the priority list. It was suggested that there might be a meeting with the Roads Department to discuss the various outstanding roads-related matters (Coull Bridge, Burnside Road, white and yellow lines etc.).

The Chairman said that repairs to the pedestrian bridge across the Tarland Burn are planned but that there was no information on when they will be carried out..

##### **Tarland Burn**

There had been no developments concerning the Tarland Burn proposals.

##### **Resilience Plan**

The draft resilience plan would be sent to the Z Fold designer in order to develop a finalised layout. Sandra van Heusden was thanked for all the hard work she had done on this.

##### **Bike Racks in Tarland Square**

Feedback from the earlier meeting concerning a suitable location for the bike racks had been given to the Area Manager. A further proposal was awaited.

##### **Bellcote Restoration**

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

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The account balance with NatWest now stands at £1,644.74. It was agreed that some monies could be spent on the preparation of the resilience plan.

#### **6. Logie Coldstone Trust**

There were no updates from LCT.

#### **7. Tarland Development Group**

There were no recent minutes received from the TDG. There had been an exchange of

emails concerning the preparations for the planned Tarland Trails Enduro.

#### **8. Planning Applications**

An application for an agricultural building was briefly discussed but, given the nature of the proposed building, no prior approval was required from the planning authority.

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

A question was asked concerning the status of mobile phone mast upgrades and the poor coverage in much of Cromar. The Secretary explained that there were two upgrades planned - one for the mast at Tillypronie and one for the mast at Kirkton of Cromar. The Community Council was notified when a planning application was made but had not been kept informed as work progressed. There had been no replacement proposed for the mast that was planned some years ago for land adjoining the Village Farm site in Tarland.

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

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th October at 19.00 at Logie Coldstone Primary School.