



## **CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING on 29th November 2023**

**Present:** Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandra van Heusden, John Rogie, Stuart and Janet Urquhart, Andrew Wilson, Councillor Sarah Brown, Councillor Anouk Kloppert, Police Sergeant Allan Masson and 1 member of the public (Linda Moffat).

**Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Joyce Lovie and Councillor Geva Blackett.

#### **1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th October were approved, proposed by Sandra van Heusden, seconded by John Rogie.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Police Report**

Sergeant Allan Masson was welcomed to the meeting. Sgt Masson was asked about overall crime trends. He explained the meaning of the terminology used in the quarterly crime reports. The most recent had been reviewed at the October Meeting and was most helpful. The majority of crimes in our area were online or telephone fraud attempts. Additional awareness was needed to prevent local residents from becoming victims of these. The Chairman commented on the good rate of success of detection of crime in the area. The North East Crime Alert report dated December 2023 had been circulated.

#### **4. Councillors' Reports**

Cllr. Brown provided an update on various activities. The County Council was undertaking a "budget engagement" process to identify which services residents valued most. The input would be shared with Councillors as part of the process of setting the 2024/25 budget. Cllr. Brown had requested that the criteria for treating pavements in Tarland Square be reviewed, but this had not resulted in any change to the village's status. However, Andrew Wilson reported that the pavements in Tarland had been cleared of snow on the very day of the meeting.

John Rogie asked about the work of resurfacing the Square in Tarland. This year's Infrastructure Services work plan was to resurface only half the square. Mr Rogie said that

this seemed much less efficient than completing the whole square in one go. Cllr. Brown said that the Square was, however, moving up the priority list for the work to begin. Members expressed their appreciation that the ditch-clearing issues in Coull, raised at the previous meeting, had been sorted out. The Chairman encouraged people to report potholes directly to Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Department.

Cllr. Brown said that the scope of works for Aboyne bridge was not known in full at present. It is, however, likely to take an extended period of time.

Mobile banking services in Ballater and Braemar were continuing in the short term. The Chairman raised concerns he had received about the regularity of Royal Mail deliveries. Cllr. Brown said that Andrew Bowie MP is raising the matter with Royal Mail.

## **5. Cromar Report**

### **Bridges, Roads and Flooding**

Sandra van Heusden reported that the first meeting of the Flooding Volunteer Group would be held on 14 December. The Group's objectives would include involving volunteers in checking drains and in other preventative action. Members pointed out that the insurance held by the Community Council might restrict the activities of volunteers.

### **Resilience Plan**

The Resilience Plan is being printed using the "Z Fold" format. A Grant of £2,000 had been gratefully received from the Marr Area Office. The Marr Area Partnership had also offered funding of £200. The Community Council intends that a copy of the resilience plan should be delivered to every household in its area. Sandra van Heusden was warmly thanked for her work on this project.

### **Community Action Plan vs Place Plan**

There was discussion about undertaking a Community Action Plan and / or a Local Place Plan. The Local Place Plan (LPP) is the mechanism for putting forward local issues into the planning process and is encouraged by the Scottish Government. The Chairman, Secretary, and Sandra van Heusden agreed to meet to discuss what might be appropriate for Cromar.

### **Social Media**

There had been a significant increase in engagement during the recent storms and potential flooding events.

### **Christmas Lights & Hanging Baskets**

The Christmas Tree had arrived in the Square ready for Gordon Ross and his team to erect it and install the various lighting displays. The MacRobert Trust was thanked for the gift of the Christmas Tree.

The recent poor weather had delayed the removal of the hanging baskets. Members agreed that gifts would be made to the volunteers who had planted the baskets and arranged the regular watering over the summer.

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

The account balance with NatWest now stands at £3,806.74. This includes the donations for production of the resilience plan.

## **7. Logie Coldstone Trust**

Joyce Lovie had provided a written report on recent activities. At the recent AGM it was reported that the committee is continuing to progress the solar panel and batteries pending building warrant approval. LCT continues to support the school and its parent council in their efforts to sustain and, ideally, increase the school roll. The usual Hogmanay ceilidh was planned with music by Logie Coldstone's own band - The Coldstone Roses. The 2024 Calendar would soon be available for sale at venues that included the regular Friday Community Café

## **8. Tarland Development Group**

There were no updates or minutes from TDG.

## **9. Planning Applications**

The recent planning applications were discussed. These included a house extension with a double garage in Tarland. The Aberdeen Arms Hotel had submitted a Design Statement to Aberdeenshire Council as part of their planning application. It was agreed that planning applications should be given wider circulation via the Community Council Facebook page in 2024.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Dave Ellis reported that news of Broadway Broadband and any plans they might have was still awaited. He added that the recent work by Openreach on the Tarland / Aboyne road and in Coull may allow upgrading to fibre broadband for a small number of houses nearby more quickly. He hoped to make progress with this.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be online at 18.00 on Wednesday 10th January.