



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING at Logie Coldstone Primary School 27th March 2024

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), Dave Ellis, Sandra van Heusden, Linda Moffat, Janet Urquhart and Stewart Urquhart.

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

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 21st February, were approved. Acceptance was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Stewart Urquhart.

2. Police Report

There had been no Police Report since the last meeting. The Secretary said that Police Sergeant Allan Masson plans to come to the next meeting to discuss the quarter 1 2024 report.

3. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Sarah Brown had provided a written update on various ongoing matters. Landscape Services planned to inspect the gravestones at Tarland Auld Kirkyard and would report back. Headstones are routinely inspected on a five year rolling programme. Bridges are inspected every two years, so Tarland Bridge should be inspected later in 2024. The Bridges and Structures team had supplied information from their last inspection of Tarland Bridge. The bike racks and planters for Tarland Square had been ordered and installation was planned for the Spring. The repairs to Burnside Road were awaiting confirmation from SEPA, but it was hoped to undertake the work in June. The School roll forecasts discussed at the recent Education and Children's Services Committee meeting are covered separately in these Minutes.

4. Cromar Report

Bridges, Roads and Flooding

The Secretary reported that Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department had marked the Coull Bridge and nearby section of road with paint. It was presumed that the bridge signage and relocation of the road signs would follow. Members noted that there are many potholes on local roads and that the road from Tarland to Coull is particularly badly impacted. Residents are urged to use the MyAberdeenshire app or the online application

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/roadconditions/application> to report potholes.

A preliminary discussion about a community-led initiative to improve local flood controls around the Tarland Burn had been held at the MacRobert Trust estate office.

Resilience Plan

A survey had been carried out regarding the recently-distributed resilience plan Z-cards. This had identified a small number of properties that had been missed and the omissions have now been rectified. An application has been submitted for a grant of an additional £500 to cover the shortfall in the funds available to cover the production and distribution of the Z-cards.

Community Action Plan vs Place Plan

The timing of holding a "Your Tarland, Have Your Say" event and cooperation with other local groups was discussed. It was proposed that the best timing for this event would be in the autumn.

Social Media

Sandra van Heusden reported that the survey on the resilience plan had been conducted via the Community Council's facebook page. She added that a popular post on the site was about the replacement of the pedestrian bridge over the Tarland Burn. The numbers of engagements varied depending on what was happening, with more for severe weather warnings and similar matters.

School Rolls

The estimated numbers of pupils at local schools in the future had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee. These showed that in 2023/24 there were fourteen schools in Marr that had under 50% utilisation. Members of the Community Council were concerned to see that in the following five years many of the Marr schools, and especially those local to Cromar, were forecast to have falling rolls. Logie Coldstone had fifteen children in 2023 reducing to three in 2028. Tarland's roll of 88 children in 2023 is predicted to fall to 53 in 2028.

5. Treasurer's Report

The account balance stands at £823.95. An insurance policy for the Community Council had been taken out with Zurich Insurance. The cost for 2024/25 was £97.20.

6. Logie Coldstone Trust

Congratulations were given to the Logie Coldstone Trust on the successful installation of solar panels and battery storage on the Hall. The Logie Coldstone Trust reported that planning work had started on a possible path linking Logie Coldstone, Dinnet and Tarland.

7. Tarland Development Group

No further information on the ideas for development at Tarland Trails 2 proposal, nor on the plans to install a toilet at Tarland Trails 1 at Drimmy Wood, had been received. There had been an extensive discussion between the Chairman and the TDG Treasurer on how best both organisations could work together.

8. Planning Applications

There was an application for a house near to an existing business shed in a woodland area close to Coull House. Members agreed that no comments were necessary.

8. Any Other Business

Dave Ellis reported that the work on the mobile communications mast at Kirkton of Coull had been completed. This had improved the coverage for both O2 and Vodafone in the surrounding area and Tarland. Thanks were given to the office of Alexander Burnett MSP, who had made numerous enquiries with the installers over a two-year period.

A letter had been received from Live Life Aberdeenshire to ask if any local group wanted to take over the maintenance of the Tarland football pitch on the Play Park. The Chairman agreed to answer the questionnaire.

Sandra van Heusden asked whether there had been any progress with the reinstatement of the Auld Kirk Bellcote in Tarland. This is still in the planning stage.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at Tarland School at 19.00 on Wednesday 24th April.