



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT - MINUTES OF THE MEETING at Logie Coldstone Primary School 24th July 2024

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), David Ellis, John Rogie. Also in attendance were Sgt Allan Masson (Police Scotland) , Hilary English (Aberdeenshire Council), Nigel Healey and Katrina Lovie and Cheryl Davies (Members of the Public)

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Sandra van Heusden, Joyce Lovie, Linda Moffat, Janet Urquhart, Stewart Urquhart and Councillors Geva Blackett, Sarah Brown and Anouk Kloppert.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting and AGM

The acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th June was proposed by John Rogie and seconded by David Ellis and agreed unanimously by the Members present.

The acceptance of the Minutes of the ordinary meeting from 19th June was proposed by John Rogie and seconded by David Ellis and agreed unanimously by the Members present..

2. Police Report

Sergeant Masson presented the most recent Police Report, Q2 2024. This said that 'overall the number of crimes reported has remained stable with nothing of significant concern.' Police Scotland had also assisted at a mountain rescue incident that arose from an accident at Tarland Trails, Pittenderich. The crime statistics for the area were discussed. Sergeant Masson also said that the police were working with local rangers to advise campers concerning the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The meeting found the perspective that Sergeant Masson provided on the raw data contained in the report most useful and he was warmly thanked by the Chairman for attending and for the work carried out by Police Scotland in the area..

3. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Sarah Brown reported that she had again raised the issue of restoring the yellow lines to the road opposite the Commercial Hotel, Tarland, and that Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Department had committed to completing this over the summer, since this was when the weather was suitable for the work to be carried out..

She also reported that Aberdeenshire Council had conducted research to inform its Strategic Assessment. This showed that Aberdeenshire had one of the fastest ageing populations in Scotland. The plan has three priorities: 'A Sustainable Economy', 'Connected Communities', and 'Living Well Locally'.

4. Cromar Report

Logie Coldstone Primary School

Cheryl Davies of the Logie Coldstone Primary School Parent Council and Katrina Lovie of the Logie Coldstone Trust were present to discuss local concern about the possible consequences if the school roll falls below a level deemed viable by Aberdeenshire Council in the next two years. These might include the 'mothballing' of the school. There was an extensive discussion on the matter. The meeting heard that it appears that Aberdeenshire Council only takes a two-year forward view when taking decisions concerning schools. It was hoped that this short-term approach could be challenged.

Parents in Logie Coldstone had engaged in various activities including a letter to the Cabinet Secretary, discussions with the Cairngorm National Park and an online meeting with the local MSP. Ideally, new families with children might move into the catchment area but the lack of affordable housing made this difficult.

The Community Council offered its full support to the campaign to keep the school open so that it can continue to be at the heart of the Logie Coldstone community.

Bridges, Roads and Flooding

There was nothing new to report on the Tarland or Coull bridges.

There had been no new developments concerning the community flood action scheme that had been discussed in February. This initiative is supported by the MacRobert Trust estate and Members expressed the hope that proposals can be developed and moved forward in the autumn.

Social Media

Sandra Van Heusden was isolated due to a Covid outbreak in the family. The Social Media update would be carried forward.

Market Stance Flower Bed

An on-site meeting to discuss the Market Stance flower bed had been held. The Chairman had attended. It had been agreed that a new landscaping plan for the bed would be developed by Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Services so that work could be carried out later in the year.

Bike Racks in Tarland Square

The planters to be placed at each end of the bike racks were still awaited. It had also been agreed with Aberdeenshire Council that a rail would be installed to protect bikes and riders from passing traffic in the Square.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the account balance stood at £575.88.

6. Logie Coldstone Trust

The monthly Community Cafe events were continuing at the Hall. It was reported that the solar panel installation and storage batteries installed on the Logie Coldstone Hall were performing very well and generating significant savings.

7. Tarland Development Group

The response of the Cromar community to the TT2 consultation was discussed. At the request of the TDG Chair, the summary of the impartial Tarland Trails 2 consultation conducted by the Community Council in June had been delayed, but Members agreed that the summary would be published in mid-August. The summary of the responses is also attached to these Minutes. Members had also been told that a meeting was planned between the TDG and businesses in Tarland for late August.

8. Planning Applications

There were two new planning applications, for Smallburn and East Town Farm, both in Tarland. The Community Council decided to offer no comments on these applications.

9. Any Other Business

There were no AOB items.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at Tarland School on Wednesday 25th September at 19.00.