



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING – TARLAND SCHOOL

10th September 2025 at 19.30

Present: David Ellis; Sandra Van Heusden; Nigel Healey; Alastair Scott; John Rogie; Pamela Clark; Cllr Sarah Brown

Guests: Linda Moffat; Gordon Ross; Anthony McKillop; Pam Blackhall, Catriona Littlejohn; Simon Langan; Lesley Ellis; Richard Henderson; Neil Ross; Sarah Smith

1. Apologies: Cllr Anouk Kloppert; Stuart Urquhart; Janet Urquhart

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Acceptance of the draft Minutes for the July Meeting was proposed by John Rogie seconded by Nigel Healey

3. Police Report

No additional updates since the last Quarterly Report.

4. Councillors' Report

Cllr Sarah Brown

Stagecoach buses turning in The Square

Stagecoach have confirmed that from 25th August, the Monday to Friday commercial service 206 (Aberdeen – Tarland) has been rerouted. This will remove the requirement for drivers to undertake a turning manoeuvre within Tarland. Thanks were sent on behalf of the Community Council to Stagecoach.

A new timetable has also been issued, and Customers have been advised to check the updated timings.

Blackhall Crescent, pavement parking exemption assessment

Cllr Brown has followed up with Roads on 8th September 2025, and is waiting for an update.

Aboyne Bridge

B968 Aboyne Bridge Strengthening and Repair

The following testing has now been completed:

- ground penetrating radar (GPR) scan of the main span deck
- further investigations of the hinge on the main span and the Southern flood arches • laboratory testing of reinforcement samples to confirm the yield strength • following review of the data gathered from the GPR, trial pits were excavated to verify the results by examining the condition of the concrete and exposed reinforcement in key areas

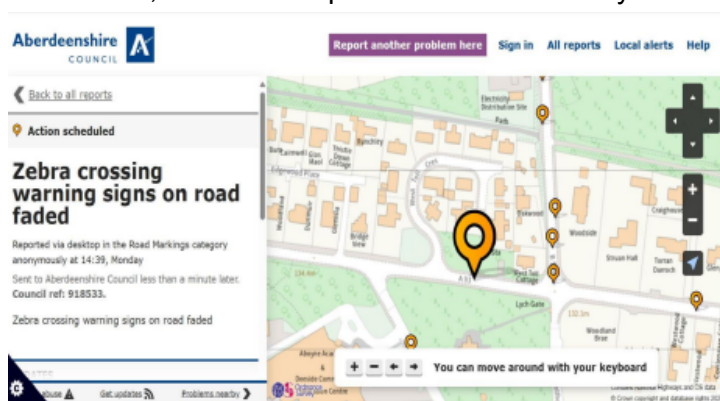
Consultants are continuing to progress with the design, supported by the outcome of the testing to minimise the interventions required.

The updated anticipated Programme:

- Design and independent check – March 2025 – January 2026
- Tender – February 2026 (subject to Committee Approval and available funding) • Award – April 2026
- Construction – May 2026 – January 2027

Fix My Street

Aberdeenshire Council's new Fix My Street online reporting system allows users to stay updated on the status of reported issues and repairs. Updates are listed on the left side of the screen, and it's also possible to check if any defects have already been reported



Bikes on buses

Stagecoach have confirmed that every double-decker operating on the 201/202 route is fitted with bike racks, a project funded jointly by regional transport partnerships Nestrans, Hitrans, Aberdeenshire Council, Moray Council and the Cairngorms National Park Authority. The short working service 202 travels between Aberdeen and Torphins/Tarland and are primarily served by single-decker buses, which do not have bike racks installed. Each bus has space for two standard bicycles (including mountain bikes), no reservations are needed as it operates on a first-come, first-served basis. Stagecoach are phasing out single deckers on this route over time, however single deckers will be in use until this process is completed. Unfortunately, it is not possible to guarantee which journeys will feature double-deck vehicles on the timetable or app, as this may change due to operational needs. Stagecoach will continue to work towards only allocating double deck vehicles on the Deeside route.

New 20mph speed limits to go live from 22nd September 2025

Aberdeenshire Council will be introducing permanent 20mph speed limits in built-up areas from 22nd September on many routes previously covered by 30mph speed limits. The decision follows the Scottish Government's commitment to see all appropriate roads in built-up areas have a safer speed limit of 20mph by the end of 2025. This national strategy seeks to introduce consistency for 20mph speed limits across the country, simplifying speed limits for drivers. Associated costs of the speed limit implementation programme are being covered by Transport Scotland.

Enforcement of speed limits will remain the responsibility of Police Scotland, and enforcement will be carried out in targeted areas. This is likely to be in places where the new speed limits are regularly being broken and where there is an increased risk of injury to other road users.

New Car Park Signs

New parking signs at Aboyne are confusing. Cllr Sarah Brown confirmed that the parking is still free, however the signs are an invitation to pay. Payment is discretionary via an app, There was a strong feeling that this scheme should not be considered for Tarland Square.

The parking sign at Dinnet stating free parking for residents of Dinnet, was also queried. Cllr Sarah Brown confirmed the Car Park is run by Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland.

Annual parking permits for Dinnet Car Park are £20 / vehicle.

Free annual permits for local residents include the following postcodes:

Logie Coldstone, Aboyne, AB34 5PR

Dinnet, Aboyne, AB34 5NJ

Dinnet, Aboyne, AB34 5LX

Logie Coldstone, Aboyne, AB34 5PQ

Ordie, Aboyne, AB34 5LY

Dinnet Bridge will be closing 24th and 25th September from 9am to 5pm. School buses will still be allowed. Concerns were shared regarding the impact diversions will have on local residents and timber business.

Cllr Anouk Kloppert requested an update on the postal complaint raised at the last meeting. Attendees confirmed the problem is still ongoing. Logie Coldstone was also impacted. The move of sorting office from Banchory to Aberdeen was seen as a key contributor to the problem.

5. Hail Storm and Flooding

A summary of last year meeting between The Flood Group/the MRT/the CCC and Simon Langan was shared with attendees to provide context.

Attendees shared stories, photos and videos of the personal devastation from the hailstorm and flooding on the 14th of August. Can all photographic and video evidence be sent to secretary@comarcc.org.uk.

The areas for action were broken down as follows.

- **Flooding on the Aberdeen Road B9119 due to blocked drains and pipes** damaged by tree roots. There is an ongoing dispute over responsibility to address these issues between Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water. Community Council offered to contact both parties in an attempt to clarify responsibility and commitment to future action.
- **The water coming off the large field/park at Douneside and coming down Melgum Road, Mill Road and the Market Stance.** The following suggestions were made. Reinstate large ditches between the parks, ensure the Wetlands is maintained after every storm, look at building outlays or sleeping policemen to divert the water on Douneside Road, look at the possibility of holding ponds. Simon Langan/Steve Redpath to take these points forward to the scheduled meeting with the MRT.
- **Create a resilience Volunteer Group** similar to the Ballater FIG (Flood Issue Group) and look to expand the use of buildings like the hall/pavilion as emergency hubs. Sandra Van Heusden informed the Council Members that these ideas were explored but couldn't be resourced two years ago. Action
 - SVH to circulate previous emergency plan,

- All potential volunteers to contact secretary@cromarcc.org.uk.
 - SVH and Pamela Clark to organize a stand at the proposed Community Day in November/December
 - Pamela Clark to contact key individuals she met in Ballater for a best practise sharing session/visit.
 - Lesley Ellis suggested identifying homes that could volunteer to provide relief in an emergency.
- **Tarland Burn** – The Council have committed to doing a study towards the end of the year. Simon Langan suggested building a second overflow channel into the field opposite the burn. Councillors also discussed the need to clear the vegetation impeding the flow of water into the burn. Clarity of who owns the banks and the current rules/restrictions from bodies like SEPA, fisheries etc regarding dredging is required first. CCC to follow up.
 - Other proposed action. CCC to speak to Mr. Turner of Tillypronie and Anthony de Winton of Hopewell, regarding any mitigation they can do to offset future flooding.

6. Review outputs/next steps from Joint Facilitated Meeting

A team needs to be set up to plan “Community Day”

First step is to agree desired objectives, format and outcome. A member of the public suggested we co-ordinate the community day with a local big event. Anthony Mckillop suggested the Douneside Christmas Event being held in the MRT Hall. He offered to follow this up with Douneside.

7. Cromar Report

A. Bridges, Roads & Flooding

Discussed above. In addition, the pothole outside The Paper Shop continues to deteriorate. Although there is a watching brief, residents are encouraged to report changes on “fix my street”

B. Bedding Plants

The hanging baskets and borders continue to bloom and add colour to The Square. Thanks was given to the Tarland Show and volunteers, who planted and watered the plants. The Gardening team from the MacRobert Trust will replant the beds with perennials late September/October. The original bulbs in the beds will be retained.

C. Social Media Social Media Views and Interactions continue to grow. CCC FB page had a total of 6676 views, up 490% over the last month. Growth has been driven by Tarland Show Post (2119 views) and Notifications regarding Road Closures/Restrictions.

D. Tarland Paths At a previous TDG business meeting, there was a request for TDG to try and limit the number of walkers who leave their cars in The Square for many hours. One suggestion was to reroute the walking map with an option of starting at TT2. This option was quickly reviewed and discounted. The new map will include a request to park outside the village, for those embarking on long walks and alternative Parking will be highlighted. TDG apologized for the confusion created by the previous minutes and social media comments. There was a request for TDG to include a retraction/amendment in their next minutes. In addition, the CCC requested to see the new map, before it goes to print.

The Paths Working Group needs to be reinstated and new volunteers are needed to maintain the walking routes. There will be a future Social Media campaign to recruit new members.

The MacRobert Trust (MRT) has been notified about the fallen tree at the Tarland Burn footbridge by Bridge Street. This has inadvertently caused a road rage incident with a Primary School Cyclist, who had to cycle on the road, instead of the footpath. Funding has been obtained for the Tarland Way diversion at Coull, which will address the ongoing dog issue.

There has been a request to clear the Corrachree path, however the local farmer has requested that the flowers remain untouched. They have grown on the path for years. The Knappieround map board has disappeared and the Tomnaverie map board has been saved and will be reinstated.

E. Coull Kirk The Church of Scotland have agreed to sell Coull Kirk to the Coull Trust Group. A fund raising effort will be led by Jean Stott. The Coull Trust are waiting for HM Customs to confirm that the fund raising can be gift aided. This will increase donations by 25%. There has been a series of different events hosted in the Kirk to clarify how the community want the venue used. To date, there has been a talk from Rev Vittoria Hancock – Fact or Fable, a talk from Alistair Scott on the Bulloughs of Rum (which raised £800). A Taize meditation event is scheduled for Sunday 14th at 6.30 by Ken Webb. There will be an Open Doors Event at the Weekend and the Kirk will be opened for a drop-in session every Tuesday.

8. Treasurer's Report.

Current Balance. £2,608.

The Community Council received its annual contribution of £806 from Aberdeenshire Council.

Expenditure £8 for Starlink. (Satellite internet)

Aberdeenshire Council have just issued new guidelines to assess how the discretionary annual administrative grant is spent. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to review the implications.

9. Logie Coldstone Trust

The Community Café on the first Friday of every month continues to be a extremely popular. The annual Duck Race was held on the 7th of September.

10. Tarland Development Group

Hayley Lockerbie has resigned as a Trustee. A request was made to circulate her resignation letter to the Councillors. The Council were unanimous in thanking Hayley for her contribution to the Community Council meetings during many guest attendances. Jonquil Nicholl will become the new Lego Club Trustee; however Hayley will continue running the Club.

TDG are still looking to evolve from the current structure, but this will take time. There is a meeting with DTAS (Development Trusts Association Scotland) at the end of the month to seek advice.

Preparations for the Tarland Food and Music Festival are progressing well with the Volunteer Meeting scheduled for the 15th of September.

The Community Garden will be open during the Food and Music Festival. There has been damage to the polytunnel from the recent thunder and hail storm, (100 plus holes) which have been temporarily patched. A potential insurance claim for a permanent repair/replacement is in progress. Representatives from the European Rural Parliament are coming to the North East on 22 October and will include a visit to the Community Garden. Community Compost is available in the car park in front of the garden.

The first Apple Pressing was completed on the 9th and 10th of September. 115 bottles were produced which will be available for sale during the Saturday Market at the Food and Music Festival.

The Pavillion has hosted a series of events. The July Pop-up Bike Shop was a great success, attracting at least 50 customers. In August there was a football tournament associated with the Tarland Show and a repair shop on Saturday 23rd. Simon Langan confirmed he has drafted an internal business plan for the Pavillion. One of the Councillors asked if the Pavillion could potentially be used as a resilience hub during an emergency. The potential for emergency hub usage needs to be assessed along with the other ideas.

Food Waste The monthly pop up resumed on Monday 25 August after the summer break. The MacRobert Trust has offered surplus fruit and veg, to compensate for dwindling supplies.

The TDG AGM will be on 29 October in the evening with group stalls. It will be advertised four weeks beforehand. The date of the next business meeting will also be shared and there was a request to extend the invite to other businesses like farming.

11. Planning Applications

Four new and existing applications were discussed.

- i. The revamping of the Healthclub at Douneside
- ii. Retrospective permission for a balcony at the Ordie Crossroads
- iii. A replacement house at North Prett (on the hill beyond Douneside)
- iv. A new agricultural shed along from the Crossroads at Ordie

12. Any Other Business

- a) Zip Line Fund Raiser - A group of Villagers happy to do fund raising and Tarland Show has also offered support. SVH to feedback to the TDG and
- b) The proposed TDG/CCC Noticeboard would not go ahead, as the proposed location does not have the necessary permission. The CCC Board will remain inside the first doorway to the MRT Hall and the TDG Board will return to the corner by the Chemist.
- c) Bikers continue to park their bikes against the walls outside the Tarland Tearooms. One piece of feedback was that the bike rack was not visible because of the flowers. The CCC agreed to source a moveable bike rack sign that can be affixed to the side of the planter.
- d) Cromar Chronicles. The CCC included a small paragraph thanking the volunteers who looked after the flowers.
- e) Grit bins – the CCC were asked to investigate what is happening to the grit bins that are being removed. Can the community buy them etc ?
- f) There was a request that Members of the CCC become more widely known to the public. Alastair agreed to produce a paragraph explaining our role, what we can and can't do and how to raise community issues. Each Councillor needs to submit a head and shoulders shot to Alastair.
- g) Anthony McKillop was congratulated for being a well deserved finalist in the "Aberdeenshire's Future" category of the Inspiring Aberdeenshire awards,
- h) The CCC agreed to work on memorial ideas for Simon Welfare

13. Date of Next Meeting

Online meeting on 8th October. The meetings from October onwards are held via Zoom as per the plan. There was a request from one Councillor to see if the October

meeting might be in person. SVH to follow up with Aberdeenshire Council LETS and confirm if this were possible.