



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FINAL MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING

16th JULY, 2025

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

Guests: Chris Redmond, Hilary English, Anthony Mckillop, Cllr Anouk Kloppert

1. Apologies - Stuart Urquhart, Janet Urquhart, Cllr Sarah Brown, Hayley Lockerbie

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The requests to amend the June draft minutes from Alastair Scott and Hayley Lockerbie were integrated into the circulated draft. Acceptance of the draft Minutes for both the AGM and June Ordinary Meeting was proposed by Nigel Healey and seconded by Alastair Scott.

3. Police Report

Sergeant Allan Masson had circulated the Police Report for quarter 2, 2025. This had many more incidents than the recent quarters.

Very helpfully Sergeant Masson provided a commentary as to some of the reasons for this:-

A busy quarter for crime reports, however many of the incidents relate to two or three key nominals in our area whose offenses have a minimal impact on the wider community.

The vast majority of these have been detected and action is already being taken through the courts to deal with these behaviours

Roads policing has focussed on Upper Deeside, with a number of speeding offences detected in Dinnet and on the Inver straight. The Police were commended for this initiative.

There had been a number of mountain rescue incidents during the quarter including an injured mountain biker in Tarland who was located and evacuated by ambulance

4. Councillors' Report

The Aberdeenshire Council is now in Summer Recess. There have been several challenging meetings leading up to the recess, which were dominated by discussions concerning budget cuts.

The removal of Grit Bins, the closure of 6 sheltered housing complexes, the mothballing of Logie Coldstone School were discussed.

Agreed Actions:-

Community Council to confirm where current grit bins exist. The Location Map does not accurately depict current locations.

Community Council to draft an e-mail protesting at the removal of the grit bins, specifically those on a school bus route and routes used by the elderly.

Community Council would work with Aberdeenshire Council to explore other options to reduce costs.

Community Council to investigate if Logie Coldstone School building was donated to Aberdeenshire Council.

5. Review outputs/next steps from Joint Facilitated Meeting

Small Group Meeting Update – The planned meeting between Tarland Development Group, Cromar Community Council and MacRobert Trust was cancelled at the request of the Tarland Development Group. The summer holidays have made it difficult to reschedule.

6. Cromar Report

A. Logie Coldstone Primary School

Logie Coldstone Trust (LCT) lodged a petition for judicial review of the decision to mothball the school and were granted permission to be heard on the petition in the court of session. A hearing on the interim interdict was scheduled for 15/07/25. The outcome of the hearing was unknown.

Logie Coldstone School also hosted a very successful open day and evening. School and pupil memorabilia were left on display until the end of term.

B. Bridges, Roads & Flooding

The hole beside the drain outside the Papershop in Tarland Square, continues to deteriorate and a watching brief will be maintained.

Investigations by Cllr Sarah Brown confirmed that the taxi stand outside the Commercial Hotel was unofficial.

The Chair commended the Roads Department for the quality of the patching of potholes from B9119 Queens View to the B9094 at Bridgend.

The road from Coull to Tarland was in a poor condition. This is part as a result of the road being used by timber transport. Everyone was encouraged to report potholes needing repair.

Flood defences – Community Council to look at storing empty sandbags and if the local sand quarry might be used in a flood emergency.

C. Bedding Plants

The hanging baskets and borders are blooming. Many thanks to all the volunteers. There was a request for the large baskets to be re-instated in front of the MacRobert Hall. The use of the large baskets were discontinued due difficulty at safely installing them. John Rogie offered that his platform might be used to carry this out safely. It was suggested that the large baskets be stored at the Community Garden ready for planting next year. The current baskets will be removed when the flowers are no longer in bloom.

D. Social Media

We had 6943 views in the last 28 days. Up 39.4% from the previous 28 days. The posts about the Traffic Management for the Tarland Games was the main contributor with 3801 views.

7. Treasurer's Report.

Current Balance. £1108.14. Grants of £754 and £52 were anticipated from Aberdeenshire Council

8. Logie Coldstone Trust

The Community Café on the 4th of July was very busy, demonstrating the popularity of this multi-generational event. It was particularly poignant as the Pupils from Logie Coldstone School came to the café for potentially the last time.

The Fun Day on the 28th of June was a great success, with the Community pulling together with the preparations and events on the day.

9. Tarland Development Group

- A new administrator has been appointed to finalise the preparations for the Tarland Food and Music Festival
 - Tyred n Cranky pop up will be in the Tarland pavilion w/c 21/7
 - There will be an open gardens event at the Community Garden 20th July
 - Tarland Trails have been nominated for an Aberdeen City & Shire Award to be decided in September
 - Funding from Nestrans has been confirmed for diverting the Tarland Way to avoid the problem dogs. The funding will pay for planning and way markers. The Community Council greatly support the efforts to divert the track to avoid this long running problem.
 - There have been additional Trustee meetings with a specific aim of evolving TDG for the future. The immediate focus is on improving internal and external communications. The longer-term goal is reviewing how Tarland Development Group and Tarland Trails operate. Given the complexity and number of stakeholders the future requires careful consideration to ensure the best interests of the members and community are maintained. The planned "Tarland Have your Say" event should provide useful input on Community Projects and focus.
- Next TDG meeting is scheduled for 13th of August.

Concerns regarding the potential run-off of pollution from the planned bike wash were raised. Chris shared drainage and sediment traps that were part of the plans. There was a request for TDG accounts to be made accessible. Chris Redmond agreed to discuss this with Trustees.

10. Planning Applications

There was only one new application. This for a change of existing planning permission a garage at Corrachree. Sandra Van Heusden agreed to recuse herself from discussions of the application

11. Any Other Business

Local Postal Deliveries appear to be being held back and delivered in batches. Community Council to note concerns from the community regarding this.

Coull Kirk. There was a very successful evening with Vittoria to Hancock to raise funds. The community have also been advised that they will have more time to complete the purchase.

The sign boards at Tomnaverie and Knappieround have come off their posts. TDG already have new posts for Knappieround. Chris Remond agreed that TDG would

look at the situation at Tomnaverie and take steps to prevent damage to the sign.

There is some good news about the Broadband roll-out in the area. All the properties that are planned to be part of R100 have an earlier completion date for receiving ultrafast broadband. This has come forward to June 2026. There are still many properties in the Community Council area for which there are no planned improvements. Similarly, there are no changes planned for the properties close to the centre of Tarland and Ordie that already have superfast broadband. There is a new Scottish Government website for checking the status of each property <https://digitalconnectivity.campaign.gov.scot/>

Pamela Clark reported Stagecoach is still turning into the Square. The new routing and timetable that prevented the need for this should have already taken effect. Cllr Anouk Kloppert agreed to follow up on this

12. Date of the Next Meeting

10th September Tarland School - 7.30 pm