



**Draft Minutes from Community Council Meeting
Logie Coldstone Upper Hall
17th December 2025 at 19.30**

Present: David Ellis; Sandra Van Heusden; Nigel Healey; Alastair Scott; John Rogie; Janet Urquhart, Stewart Urquhart; Pamela Clark; Anthony Mckillop

Guests: Simon Langan (Chair TDG), Linda Moffat, Paul Anderson

1. Apologies

Cllr Sarah Brown

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

A proposed amendment to the draft Minutes of the meeting held on **12 November** was circulated by Dave Ellis on **16 December**. Following discussion and clarification that the document had not been sent to the MacRobert Trust by the Community Council, the following was agreed.

A 20 page document had been received from members of the community, who asked to remain anonymous, raising concerns about TDG Governance. The Community Council were being asked to forward this document to the TDG Trustees so they were aware of the concerns raised. Following discussions the Councillors agreed that this should happen and be the conduit for communications between TDG and the group who produced the report.

Acceptance of the amendment and approval of the draft minutes were proposed by Sandra Van Heusden and seconded by Stewart Urquhart.

3. Police Report

No further updates were provided this quarter.

4. Councillors' Reports - Cllr Sarah Brown – Update

20mph Signage

The local Roads Team has been contacted for an update on the installation of the remaining 20mph signage in Tarland, particularly at village entrance points. The team has confirmed that installation is expected to be completed within the next five weeks.

Melgum Road – Drainage

The Drainage Team confirmed that gullies at known flooding locations in Tarland were attended to in August 2025. Melgum Road was last inspected in 2024 and is scheduled for its next inspection and clearance in Q1 2026.

Migvie Bridge

A temporary barrier has been requested. A full road closure will be required to undertake the necessary repairs. A date is yet to be confirmed.

Tarland Bridge

The last general inspection was carried out in 2023, with the next scheduled for 2026. An ad hoc inspection was undertaken on 2 December 2025 to assess damage following a road traffic collision.

Royal Mail Complaints

Concerns regarding Royal Mail services have been raised with Andrew Bowie MP, and the Community Council is encouraged to pursue further action. The related Press and Journal article was discussed. SVH will draft a letter of complaint to Ofcom. The Community Council would welcome a discussion with Royal Mail management at a future meeting.

5. Resilience/Flooding Update

Resilience

Cromar Area Resilience group reported excellent progress to date. The halls in Tarland and Logie Coldstone have been secured as resilience hubs. Coull Kirk, Migvie Kirk, Inclusive Farm (animal hub), and the Golf Club have been identified as mini-hubs.

Key learnings from other resilience groups and from attending a recent resilience conference are being incorporated into future plans. The group sought approval to establish itself as a subgroup of the Community Council and to begin fundraising for essential equipment, such as a hall generator. This proposal was approved by the Community Council. Nigel Healey agreed to manage the accounts of the resilience group. Several “quick wins” received positive feedback, including: ringing church bells to signal that hubs are open; printing “I need assistance” window signs; engaging school pupils to relay information to parents and grandparents; Working with groups such as Cromar Food Waste and Young at Heart Deeside. SVH offered to pass on the remaining Z-cards to the group, which was accepted.

Flooding

Cromar Area Resilience hopes to arrange for the Flood Bus to attend the proposed Community Day. A proposed meeting to explore options for diverting or capturing surface water run-off from farmland has yet to be scheduled. Due to budget reductions, the Flood Risk Assessment for Tarland has been deferred until next year (2026). SVH agreed to draft a template letter for Council house tenants to submit to Aberdeenshire Council requesting improved flood protection measures for each household.

Grit Bins (Condition and Adoption)

John Rogie noted that several Tarland grit bins are damaged and their contents unusable. The Logie Coldstone bins appear to be in good condition and well stocked. The Community Council requested that it be minuted that Aberdeenshire Council has made the grit bin adoption process unduly onerous. Later in the meeting it was agreed that the Community Council will not adopt the grit bins at this time.

6. Community Day

Anthony McKillop has agreed to lead the project, supported by Pamela Clark.

The Tarland Development Group (TDG) has expressed interest in working with external agencies in developing a Community Action Plan. Dave Ellis recommended that any work should also include a Local Place Plan using a “lite” version of the Place Plan process. Other local Community Councils had adopted this approach.

Alastair Scott requested that outstanding Councillor photographs be submitted. High-resolution images will be required if photographs are to be enlarged for Community Day posters.

7. Cromar Report

A. Bridges and Roads

Migvie Bridge was discussed under Item 4. Bridge by Mill Cottage in Coull had been damaged by a vehicle. Barriers erected and a repair date was awaited. The fallen wall on School Road has been tidied and a wooden barrier installed. Safety concerns on Aberdeen Road at the blind corner opposite the charging station were reviewed by Roads. No further action was deemed necessary following installation of the 20mph limit. Cllr Sarah Brown has requested a follow-up, citing three hit-and-run incidents and associated property damage. The wall at the corner of Burnside Road near Tarland Bridge has collapsed into the road. In addition, the earlier reported damage to Tarland Bridge has not been repaired. Community Council would continue to monitor and seek responses from Aberdeenshire Council. The drain on the B9119 outside of the village has been cleared.

B. Christmas Lights and Switch-On Event

Sincere thanks were extended to Gordon and Graham Ross for installing the Christmas lights. The Christmas lights were purchased with funding from the Tarland Show who retain ownership. Gordon and Graham were also thanked for organising the Switch-On event, which was very well attended and received positive feedback on social media. Following the success of this year's event, Graham Ross and members of the community have expressed interest in expanding the Switch-On into a broader Christmas Festival.

Christmas Festival Proposals

- Aligning the Switch-On with other local events such as the School Christmas Fair, Creative Cromar, and the Douneside Festival (if held in the hall).
- Increasing involvement from local children through carol singing, dance routines, nativity readings, games, and activities etc
- A festive procession involving Young Farmers with decorated tractors and trailers.
- A visit from Santa (ideally on a sleigh), reindeer in the Square, a Santa's Grotto in the hall, performances by local musicians, Christmas music and games, team-based Christmas tree decorating, and the hall opening for activities and refreshments.
- The need for volunteer support was highlighted. It was proposed that members of the public who have expressed interest be invited to attend the next meeting on 21 January.

D. Social Media

The Community Council's social media presence grew by 14% over the past month, with record engagement levels, particularly for posts relating to Pride of Cromar and Christmas events. These posts were widely shared, with just over 70% of views coming from non-followers.

Minor updates have been made to the Community Council webpage on the Tarland.org.uk website, including updating Councillor names. It was noted that adding photographs would be beneficial, subject to agreement to use images previously submitted to Alastair. Dave Ellis circulated a proposal to create a website format similar to that of Torphins Community Council. An alternative format of the minutes (focusing more on actions rather than narrative) will be circulated for discussion at a future meeting. Feedback was positive concerning the Torphins web pages.

E. Tarland Paths / Map

The latest version of the Tarland Paths map had been circulated to Councillors. There was recommendation that defibrillator locations should be included and that the size of the "P" symbols used on the map should be identical. A member of the public suggested that the draft be shared publicly.

It was also requested that an error in earlier minutes stating that paths would start at the Trails be corrected. SVH believed that this had been had already been done and will confirm this with Ken Webb.

F. Coull Kirk

The Church of Scotland is not ready to sell Coull Kirk to the community by the originally proposed date of 19 December. This has now been moved to January. The MacRobert Trust very generously has provided £30,000 in funding. Fund raising will continue to contribute towards repairs.

8. Treasurer's Report

Available funds: £2,199 & Recent expenditure: £52

9. Logie Coldstone Trust

The Community Café continues to be very successful. The Logie Coldstone Calendar is currently on sale, and the Logie Coldstone website has undergone a major upgrade. The Community Council also trialled use of the upper hall working hub for this meeting. John Rogie raised concerns about the risk of frozen pipes at Logie Coldstone School, which has been mothballed, noting a similar issue previously at the Tarland Pavilion. SVH will raise these concerns to ensure the building is protected to allow for potential reopening.

10. Tarland Development Group (TDG)

Simon Langan introduced himself as the new Chair of the TDG. Simon explained how he became a Tarland resident and his professional background in water management. Simon highlighted an ambition to elevate discussions towards strategic, forward-looking planning and to foster a positive and constructive working environment with the Community Council and wider community. He expressed a desire to improve communication and strengthen links by attending future meetings. Having only recently become Chair then discussions with the Trustees about the evolution of the TDG were at an early stage and necessarily change would take time.

Discussion moved to the 20 page governance document and what actions had been taken by the Trustees. Paul Anderson, who was attending the meeting as a member of the public, said that he was the person who had sent the report to the Community Council asking for it to be given to the TDG Trustees. Paul explained some of the reasons behind the group wishing to be anonymous. The report had been sent to all Trustees immediately it had been received from the Community Council. Simon confirmed that the report was being taken seriously and subsequently input had been sought from DTAS (Development Trust Association Scotland) and the charity regulator OSCR. Paul expressed a concern that several weeks had passed without a substantial response having been made. Simon said that a response would be made once input from DTAS and OSCR has been received and this has been considered by the Trustees.

11. Planning Applications

There was only one application that covered a replacement house in Logie Coldstone.

12. Any Other Business

- Thanks were recorded for the organisers of the School Christmas Fair and Creative Cromar.
- The Market Stance weeds have been cleared, and thanks given to the Council for this.
- Tarland School was congratulated on its high rankings based on achievement of Curriculum for Excellence. This success was featured in a recent article in the Press and Journal

13. Date of Next Meeting

In person meeting on 21st January, Tarland School, 7.30 pm