



**Minutes from Community Council Meeting - Updated
Tarland School
12th November 2025 at 19.30**

Present: David Ellis; Sandra Van Heusden; Nigel Healey; Alastair Scott; John Rogie; Janet Urquhart, Stewart Urquhart; Cllr Sarah Brown; Cllr Anouk Kloppert

Guests: None

1. Apologies

Anthony McKillop; Pamela Clark

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Acceptance of the draft Minutes for the Meeting on the 8th of October was proposed by Nigel Healey and seconded by Alastair Scott

3. Councillors' Report Cllr Sarah Brown

The overgrown area at **Market Stance** was reported to Landscape Officers on **10 October**.

The following summary was provided at the meeting:

- The site is recognised as having historical significance; however, due to budget limitations, intensive maintenance is not feasible. In spring, *Flora Fleece* was laid, a thin layer of compost applied, and wildflower perennials sown.
- A cut-and-lift regime at the end of each growing season was agreed during a site visit on **5 July 2024**. This work is scheduled to take place next week. It was agreed that community volunteers would rake up and dispose of the arisings during the 2024 site visit. Given the short notice this year, the CCC requested that the Landscape Team collect the arisings.
- **Migvie Bridge:** Damage has been reported to officers; awaiting update.
- **Tarland Bridge Report:** The report shared is nearly five years old. A request was made to confirm when the next inspection will be carried out.
- **Aberdeenshire Community Hospital Review:** The Aberdeenshire IJB has committed to undertaking a strategic review of Community Hospitals. The online survey closes on **16 November 2025**. Further information is available via [Community Hospitals in Aberdeenshire | Engage Aberdeenshire](#).
- **Pavement Parking Fines:** The introduction of £100 fines from **4 November** has highlighted the need to find an exemption or alternative solution for **Blackhall Crescent**. Further enquiries by Cllr Brown confirmed assessments for possible exemptions are expected before the end of the year.

- **20mph Signage:** The new 20mph signage in Tarland is causing confusion as 30mph signs remain at the village entrances. This issue has already been reported.
- **Aboyne Parking Signage:** Concerns were raised that signage in Aboyne does not clarify that payment is discretionary, only that it is not enforced. Although the app indicates the discretionary nature of payment, the signs themselves are misleading.

Cllr Anouk Kloppert - No additional updates since last meeting

4. Community Day

A request was received from a member of the public to ensure consistency in event titles. The formation of a **Steering Group** is urgently required to agree on the project title, scope, and desired outcomes.

Anyone interested in joining the Steering Group is asked to contact **Sandra Van Heusden**.

Sandra also announced that, due to new commitments beginning in January, she will no longer be able to lead this project, which has been postponed until next year. A **new project lead** is therefore required. Interested individuals should contact **Sandra Van Heusden** or **Dave Ellis**.

5. Cromar Report

A. Bridges and Roads

- **Migvie Bridge** and **Tarland Bridge** matters discussed above.
- The **fallen wall on School Road** has been reported both to the solicitors managing the plot sale and to the Roads Department. Both parties confirmed they have contacted the plot owner.
- **Melgum Road drains** remain blocked following the hailstorm and flooding. Residents are encouraged to report this to the Council.
- **Council tenants** at risk of flooding have been advised to contact their Housing Officer. The **Flood Group** will be asked to raise awareness among residents, as flood barriers may be available.
- The **Roads Department** has been asked to investigate safety concerns on **Aberdeen Road**, at the blind corner opposite the charging station. A resident's wall has been struck four times, and pedestrians walking on that side of the road are considered to be at risk.
- The Community Council wishes to **thank the Roads Department** for repairing the **sinkhole in The Square**.

B. Bedding Plants

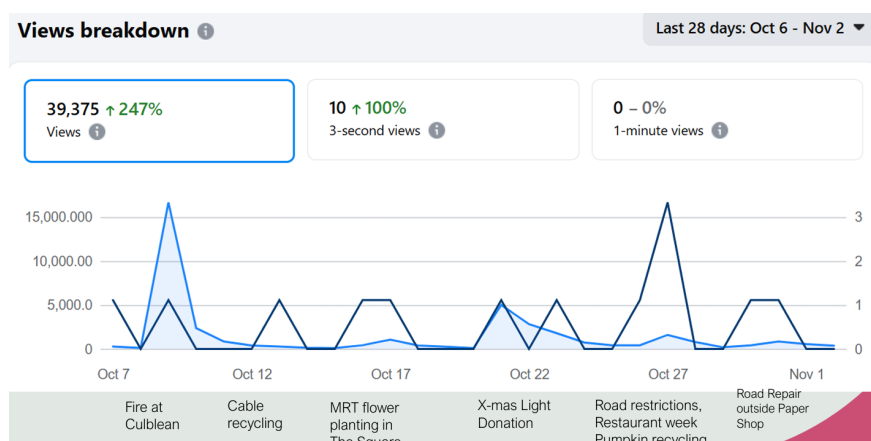
Perennial bedding plants at the top of The Square have been planted by the **Douneside Gardening Team**. The team were thanked for their assistance.

C. Grit Bins

The adoption of grit bins remains under review pending further information on potential costs.

D. Social Media

Last month achieved another **record-breaking performance**, with overall views increasing by **247%**. On average, our photos received **138% more views** than in previous months.



E. Flooding / Resilience

The **Flood Group** is awaiting confirmation of dates and actions arising from the following meetings:

1. A meeting with the **MacRobert Trust** and their tenant farmers to review historical field drainage changes and discuss plans to minimise run-off from surrounding fields.
2. A proposed meeting with **upstream landowners**. John Rogie confirmed he holds contact details for 20 relevant landowners, which he will pass to **Dave Ellis**.

The **Resilience Team** — Pamela Clark, Anthony McKillop, and Linda Moffat — have agreed on a new title: **Cromar Area Resilience**.

Pamela and Linda recently attended a **Resilience Conference** in Aberdeen, where they received a **1kW lithium battery** for community use and were offered a visit from the **Flood Bus** to Tarland to showcase household flood defence equipment.

The group has also secured agreement for the **MacRobert Hall** to store equipment in the basement and to act as a hub location as necessary. The Resilience Team will be responsible for organising the necessary equipment and coordinating logistics when the hall is activated for resilience purposes.

6. Treasurer's Report

Available Funds: £2,251.27

Expenditure: recent expenditure totals £236.27

7. Logie Coldstone Trust

The **Community Café** continues to be a great success.

The **upper hall** is now available as a community **working hub** thanks to volunteer efforts to remodel the space.

8. Tarland Development Group (TDG)

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.

SVH provided an update on the work already in place to address some of these concerns that were aimed at improving community relations. This improvement was reflected in the more positive feedback received during the recent **TDG AGM**.

There were several actions agreed at Building Bridges events that should be revisited / scheduled such that progress can continue.

There was also a request to **update the TDG website**, particularly to **deprioritise or remove the Tarland Burn Project** as this appears to be paused. **SVH** will raise this at the **TDG** next meeting.

9. Planning Applications

No new applications had been made.

10. Any Other Business

- **Alastair Scott** was thanked for installing the bike rack signage.
- Following the **Facebook post** regarding Christmas Lights donations, a community member has offered to help organise a **“Light Switch-On” event**. Details of the offer had been passed on.
- **Coull Kirk** has received a donation from the **MacRobert Trust**. A **joint press release** is planned. A **Remembrance Service** was held in the Kirk on Remembrance Sunday — the first in over **65 years**.
- The **visit of the Rural European Parliament** to Tarland was noted as a great success. **SVH** was asked to circulate further background information regarding the visit.
- The Community Council page on the Tarland website requires updating to include **Alastair Scott** and **Anthony McKillop**. **SVH** to contact **Sandy Cooper** to arrange this.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday, 17 December – Logie Coldstone Hall (Upper Hall)