



**Cromar Community Council
Meeting Tarland School
18th February 2026 at 19.30**

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: David Ellis, John Rogie, Pamela Clerk, Paul Anderson, Stuart Urquhart, Janet Urquhart, Anthony McKillop, Cllr Sarah Brown

Guests: Simon Langan

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Anouk Kloppert, Nigel Healey

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

There was a proposal to clarify the minute from the previous meeting regarding the blocked culvert and road damage near the triangle of land at the end of the Coull road. This had been circulated in advance. Acceptance of January draft Minutes including the amendment was proposed by Pam Clark and seconded by Janet Urquhart

3. **Police Report**

There had been no new Police Report or updates received.

4. **Councillor Reports – Cllr Sarah Brown**

Cllr Brown summarised the report she had circulated:

The **Royal Mail** Customer Operations Manager had provided an update regarding the earlier delays. The delays before Christmas had been caused by high mail volumes, staff sickness and wider resourcing issues. Andrew Bowie MP had taken up the issue with Royal Mail and OFCOM. It was agreed to continue to monitor local performance for the next eight weeks and review the results at a future meeting.

It was agreed that no further follow-up of the wall that had been damaged on **Aberdeen Road** was necessary. The resident would be advised to report further incidents to the police and Aberdeenshire Roads Department.

Migvie Bridge - John Rogie reported that this had been repaired. The tyres that had been dumped were still by the bridge.

Small Coull Bridge - the barriers had been replaced but there had been no repairs carried out.

Festive Lights - there was a consultation in progress to give local communities more scope for Xmas lights and decorations but the communities would need to take on a greater responsibility including costs. Community Groups are asked to provide their input to the consultation on Engage Aberdeenshire.

Community Hospital Review - the Integrated Joint Board had agreed to begin work on phase 2 and develop a route map and delivery plan for 2027 - 2037.

SEPA Consultation - people across Scotland were being asked to input their experiences of flooding as work continues on the next Flood Risk Management Plans.

5. Resilience Team (RT) Update

Pam Clark reported that John Rogie had provided contacts with local farmers who were prepared to help with moving equipment. There were a number of local people who had “chain saw tickets” that demonstrated that they had suitable training and would allow them to help with fallen trees and blocked roads after storm events.

Applications are being made for grants. Contact made with the baker Warburtons who were offering free bread had been passed to the Food Waste group.

A meeting with Hannah Budge from the James Hutton Institute had taken place. It was planned to have a flood consultation and exhibition on 28th March. The Institute was working with Kenmay and Cromar as the two North East locations to improve communications regarding flood preparedness. It was hoped that the “flood bus” named FLO could come to Tarland. Pam Clark and Anthony would see how best refreshments for the day could be provided. This event might allow input to be sought on other matters such as a Local Place Plan and possibly a Community Action Plan.

6. Cromar Report

A. Bridges & Roads – the large number of potholes in the area caused by the bad weather were discussed. There had been a number of cases of damaged car wheels. It was reported that Council Roads workers had low morale due to the numbers of potholes and being directed to fill some but not others even though they were nearby. Information has been updated in Fix My Aberdeenshire with some repairs happening quickly while others were not planned for six months or a year. These long delays were disappointing.

There was no progress in getting The Square resurfaced. The Square was still low down on the dynamic list of priorities.

The Chair had contacted the MacRobert Estate who had offered to supply scalplings or similar materials to fill the large pot hole behind The Paper Shop. Stewart Urquhart offered to spread and compact the materials with help likely from other residents.

Deterioration of the decking at the Viewfield wetlands was discussed. It was unclear who might be responsible for making this safe. The wetland was jointly funded, including European monies some years ago.

B. Flooding - it was noted positively that there had been no flooding coming from the Melgum Road during the wet weather in January. A number of locals thought that the maintenance of the Viewfield wetland done by the Estate had helped in reducing issues on Melgum Road. The Chair was asked to thank the MacRobert Trust.

There was a deep hole in the path adjacent to Bridge Street that was thought to have been caused by drainage problems below the road. There is also a hung up tree in Drummy Wood.

C. Social Media The social media report produced by the Secretary had been circulated. There has been significant social media engagement but less than had been the case during the bad weather. The Secretary answered questions as to how many interactions there had been.

D. Aberdeenshire LDP & Call for Ideas – Aberdeenshire Council were organising a two hour communication roadshow at Aboyne Library regarding the “call for ideas”. It was planned to submit an idea to improve the parking in the centre of Tarland. It was thought that the Estate might be submitting an idea regarding improvements to

We are currently in the LDP adopted in 2023. The next plan period is a ten-year one, 2029-2039. People are now being asked to come up with ideas for uses of local land (a map-based ‘Place Plan’)

eg Tarland can request land for extra parking, such as the Church of Scotland field by the ruined church opposite the Aberdeen Arms, which was suggested could be a joint CCC-TDG proposal. The Community Council would support the MacRobert Trust's plans for better paths and tree reduction in the Alastrean Woods. There is currently no 'Local Place Plan' for Tarland or Logie Coldstone. We are also being asked for ideas for a Community Action Plan. It is suggested we should consider these at the Flood Day / Community Day.

7. Treasurer's Report

The account balance stood at £2,057.14. The Zurich insurance had now been paid for 2026/27. A laptop and monitor had been donated to the Secretary and the Community Council had purchased a cable to connect these.

8. Logie Coldstone Trust

No update. It was suggested by John Rogie that we should revisit finding a Councillor from Logie Coldstone. Pam Clark and Anthony McKillop plan to attend the next LCT meeting.

9. Tarland Development Group

Simon Langan said that closing the wetland group was agreed at the TDG Trustees meeting. The TDG Trustees had considered whether any of the questions from the governance document could be answered and their response had been circulated to all Community Councillors prior to the meeting. It was emphasised that the full, unredacted report had been self submitted to both OSCR and DTAS for their consideration. The input provided by OSCR had been based on the full report. Simon commented that the report had in part provided focus for the TDG Trustees. He also emphasised that the work on improving governance had begun earlier with discussions with and requests for help from DTAS.

The scope of the response from the TDG Trustees was discussed at length. Simon said that questions would be answered but the criteria for which were included needed to be agreed and also those which were out of bounds. Some of the discussion concerned the individuals who were named in the report having worked on TDG projects. There was sensitivity that some family members of Trustees and former Trustees had been named whereas the community group who had authored the governance document had requested anonymity. Paul Anderson speaking on behalf of the group who produced the document wanted to improve process (e.g. employment practices) rather than being critical of individuals. The Chair suggested there should be discussion between Paul Anderson and Simon Langan privately in order to agree the best route forward. This was agreed and Paul said he would take the discussions back to his group. Paul again said that some minutes were unclear in recording decisions and similarly the accounts lacked detail. This he thought could be easily changed going forward.

Pavillion -Simon reported that progress was being made on community use of the Pavillion. Additional ideas for usage were welcomed. An existing use was the Food Waste group who were now renamed "Food Cromar".

Overall Simon Langan emphasised that he was looking for change and Trustees and agreed we need to evolve. This continues the work that began with DTAS last year.

10. Planning Applications

There were no new applications.

Regarding the application for rerouting of the Tarland Way, the nearby farmer had submitted an objection to the planned cattle grids due to concerns about moving stock between grazing sites.

11. Any Other Business

A question was raised about the recent Openreach Roadshow on faster broadband. The Chair had attended this event. A large number of properties were due to be connected in the summer as a result of the R100 program and a small number as part of Project Gigabit (Call-Off 6). It was hoped that some / many of the properties not included in existing plans would be picked up by Openreach funded in-fill.

Coull Trust was due to complete the purchase of Coull Kirk the following day (19th February). This was excellent news. A charity auction to raise money for repairs was planned at the MacRobert Hall on Saturday 28th February.

The next Ward Forum meeting was due to discuss a Community Benefit Strategy for Aberdeenshire. This is where some money from renewables benefited local communities. The Chair had been a member of the Marr Community Council reference group for this work.

12. Date of the Next Meeting

18th March 2026, 7.30 pm at Logie Coldstone Hall