



**Cromar Community Council  
Meeting Tarland School  
15th April 2026 at 19.30  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** David Ellis, John Rogie, Pamela Clark, Paul Anderson, Alastair Scott, Anthony McKillop, Cllr Sarah Brown

**Guests:** Simon Langan, Allan Masson and Ben Addy

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

It was noted that Stuart Urquhart and Janet Urquhart are standing down from the Community Council. The Chair thanked them for their service over the last three years.

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

Acceptance of March draft Minutes was proposed by Alastair Scott and seconded by Pam Clark. There was a brief discussion about the option of co-opting additional Councillors. As 2026 is an election year for all community councils in Aberdeenshire, it was decided not to co-opt new members immediately but to wait for the summer elections. The Council's maximum membership is 10, based on population, with a minimum quorum of three. Members were encouraged to spread the word to "public-spirited" residents who might wish to stand for election in September.

3. **Police Report**

Sergeant Allan Masson provided an update on local policing.

**Crime Stats:** Over the last quarter in Upper Deeside, there were 23 non-road traffic offences, historically this is a low number. There were also 32 road traffic offences. The increase in traffic offences is attributed to higher police visibility and enforcement regarding speeding and vehicle safety.

**Personnel Changes:** Inspector Keith Gregg has moved to a city role; Inspector Tom Spencer has started at Banchory covering the Marr area.

**Infrastructure:** The Aboyne police station is closing. The Braemar station is also moving to a new office within the mountain rescue base.

**Incidents:** A notable rescue occurred involving a woman who fell into a river while trying to reach her dog; both survived.

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

Councillor Sarah Brown updated the Council on several Aberdeenshire-wide and local issues.

**School Roll Forecasts:** Data indicates a significant reduction in pupil numbers across Aberdeenshire by 2030 (approximately 2,700 fewer pupils). Tarland School's population is projected to drop from 78 in 2026 to 60 by 2030.

**Logie Coldstone School:** The school remains "mothballed" for the next academic year. While two families with children are reportedly moving back to the area, current numbers remain below the threshold required to reopen.

**20 mph Zones:** Monitoring data from 250 locations shows a 2.9% average reduction in speeds where 30 mph zones were changed to 20 mph. Cllr Brown asked for details of the inconsistencies in signage and notices specifically in Logie Coldstone so she might raise this with Roads.

**Infrastructure:** A bent street light in the square has been reported and assigned to a repair crew.

## 5. Resilience Update & Flood Resilience Workshop Feedback

Pamela and Anthony reported on the recent Flood Day

**Event Feedback:** The event was well-received by the community, despite one negative social media comment regarding the "flood bus" taking up parking spaces. The "flood bus" representative noted that the inquiries received in Tarland were of higher quality and more genuine than in other areas.

**Surveys:** A James Hutton Institute survey regarding local resilience is still open for residents to complete.

**Donations:** A filing cabinet was donated by Sarah Leahy and Mark Carter and has been installed by John Rogie in the basement of the hall.

**Future Actions:** Simon and Pamela are meeting with the Ballater flood team to discuss regional coordination.

## 6. Cromar Report

**A. Bridges & Roads** – Significant frustration was expressed regarding the "rolling closures" and traffic lights left in place for days without active work being performed. This had been the case particularly on the Coull road. A dyke had been hit by a vehicle near Corrachree.

**B. Flooding** - it was noted that the planned meeting of the MacRobert Estate with farmers and those with knowledge of run off had not yet been scheduled.

**C. Social Media** Anthony reported strong growth in digital engagement.

**Stats:** 25,897 views and 2,476 engagements over the last 28 days (views up 136%, engagement up 299%).

**Top Posts:** Community alerts regarding the "Drummy Bench" and road closure notices drove the most traffic.

**D. R100 Broadband Project** – Discussions between Openreach and the MacRobert Estate regarding wayleaves were ongoing. It was hoped that the first properties that have no wayleave issues might be connected with full fibre by the end of June.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

The account balance stood at £3,777.30. A grant of £ 1,922 had been made to the resilience groups some of which was planned to be spent on water pumps.

## 8. Logie Coldstone Housing Development

Ben Addy (Moxon Architects) presented plans for three private houses at the end of Sunnybrae.

Ben explained that the project has faced a 16-month delay due to a dispute with the Aberdeenshire Roads Department over acceptable drainage methods. The request to attend the Community Council

was to seek our support. In the last few days agreement had been obtained to use an “infiltration” method of drainage. The planned houses are simple timber-frame, "passive house" standard buildings inspired by local steading architecture. The Community Council were pleased that new houses were being built as this might increase the number of families in the village. This might additionally increase the demand for the local school.

#### **9. Logie Coldstone Trust**

Discussions had been held with the Logie Coldstone Trust regarding the three house development covered earlier. There was a query regarding Developer Obligations from Logie Coldstone being diverted to Aboyne; Cllr Brown will investigate if these can be reclaimed for local projects.

#### **10. Tarland Development Group**

**TDG Governance:** Simon (TDG Chair) reported that 13 applications have been received for a new Development Officer role. The Council requested that the practice of having two Community Councillors attend TDG meetings be reinstated.

**Community Garden:** Sheila has stepped down as a trustee. The garden is currently seeking a new lead.

**Tarland Trails:** Paul noted a disconnect in social media reporting and raised concerns regarding a reported "overspend" in the reserves. Simon clarified these are Trails-specific reserves, not general TDG funds.

**The Pavilion:** A condition report suggests £20,000–£30,000 of repairs are needed. The TDG is in discussion with the McRobert Trust and Aberdeenshire Council about the future uses of the building.

**Cromar Food Project:** The project is expanding with a new pantry planned at the school.

#### **11. Planning Applications**

Aside from the planning amendment to the Sunnybrae (Logie Coldstone) condition, no new planning applications were noted.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

**Community Benefits:** The Chair is attending Aberdeenshire-wide meetings of Community Councils regarding monetary benefits from wind farms and transmission line developments.

**Grid Improvements:** Surveys are underway for potential new 33kV pylons and two small substations to improve the local electrical supply. More information following the survey is awaited.

**Business Meeting:** A meeting for local business owners (shops, pharmacy, etc.) is due to be held in May. Councillors were asked to volunteer to assist with this.

**Maintenance:** Paul volunteered to help scrub and clean the public benches in the square which have become "grubby".

#### **13. Date of the Next Meeting**

20th May 2026, 7.30 pm at Logie Coldstone Hall