



**Cromar Community Council
Meeting Logie Coldstone Hall
20th May 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 (phone) and Linda Moffat

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies received.

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

The minutes of the April meeting have been compiled with the aid of transcription software. It was recognised that this provided a good summary of the meeting. Acceptance of the minutes were proposed by Nigel Healey and seconded by Anthony McKillop.

3. **Police Report**

The Community Council noted that no police update since the last meeting. The Secretary had received the North East Crime Report and this would be publicised using social media.

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

Councillor Sarah Brown provided a comprehensive update on several infrastructure and roads issues. A severely bent street light situated in Tarland Square had proven more complex than originally thought. The repair was ongoing. Councillor Brown referenced the recent speed monitoring data that had been circulated to members. The data demonstrated a productive and tangible reduction in average traffic speeds through the zone monitored, which was welcomed by the Community Council. The most substantial portion of the report focused on the Aberdeenshire roads and infrastructure program. It was disappointing that the areas of concern locally, specifically Tarland Square resurfacing and the road from Tarland to Coull School were to receive no improvements. The use of dynamic lists of priorities meant that nothing was done year after year. Tarland Square and also the final part of the road from Tarland to Aboyne were not listed at all. The Secretary agreed to write to Cllr. Blacket who has offered to communicate with the Roads Department at an earlier meeting.

5. **Resilience Update & Flood Resilience Workshop Feedback**

Pamela Clark and Anthony McKillop delivered a positive report on the ongoing development of the community resilience initiative. They confirmed that the resilience group held its inaugural meeting and now had six volunteers. Helpfully, the group has secured the expertise of a volunteer experienced in compiling funding applications. Gordon Ross is currently investigating supplier quotes for a community generator, while John Rogie is researching suitable specifications for high-capacity water pumps. Simon Langan then addressed the council with highly significant news regarding flood monitoring. Following productive discussions with the Scottish Flood Forum and representatives from a specialised startup named River Track, approval and funding have been secured to install an automated flood monitor at the Viewfield Wetland site. The automated warning mechanism is

expected to provide residents with valuable lead time to deploy property-level defences, elevate electrical goods, and move vehicles without relying on manual observation during adverse weather events. Simon Langan noted that a site visit with the installation team is anticipated during the coming summer months to finalise the optimal location for the sensor.

6. Cromar Report

A. Bridges & Roads – The small bridge in Coull was now scheduled to undergo repair within the next six months. Members also reiterated their intense frustration regarding the deteriorating condition of the road network locally, pointing out that continuous, superficial patching of deep potholes is proving entirely ineffective and that full resurfacing is desperately required to restore safe driving conditions.

B. Flooding - It was confirmed that the designated flood study team has committed to formally commencing the flood study for the Tarland area within the current financial year. The project is scheduled to be complete by October 2027. John Rogie questioned the integration of historical data, specifically asking whether previous studies conducted by engineering firms such as Atkins in twenty-one would be actively incorporated into the new analysis to prevent the duplication of effort.

C. Social Media - Anthony McKillop delivered the monthly digital engagement analytics. He reported robust continued growth across the Community Council's online platforms. The most widely shared and discussed posts primarily related to practical community information, including road closure notices, details concerning a public consultation forum on rural countryside bus routes, a public health warning from Aberdeen City Council regarding the proliferation and safe handling of hazardous Hogweed, and a shared post promoting the activities of the Cromar Seniors Association.

D. R100 Broadband Project – The Community Council engaged in detailed discussion regarding the frustrating lack of progress on the R100 full-fibre broadband rollout. An obstacle remains in agreeing numerous wayleaves between the Openreach legal team and the MacRobert Trust, impacting up to seventeen different installation routes across the Howe on private land. The two legal teams were in discussion and it was hoped that a resolution would be found. The Estate is actively pursuing voluntary registration to record its land titles, but this legal process could take two years to conclude. Conversely, Openreach requires demonstrable legal title for every specific parcel of land their infrastructure traverses before they will sign binding wayleave agreements. It was noted that some properties further along the B9119 road are now able to order full fibre broadband.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Nigel Healey, presented the monthly financial overview. The bank account currently holds a healthy balance of £ 3611.10. A payment of forty-seven pounds was remitted to the Information Commissioner's Office.

8. Meeting Feedback TDG / CCC / MRT

There was a debrief on a meeting held the previous day at the MacRobert Estate office. Attendees were Dave Ellis, Paul Anderson from CCC, Simon Langan, Chris Redmond from TDG, Gillian Currie and Angus Donaldson from MRT. The meeting was requested of Chris Redmond, the Tarland Trails lead and Deputy Chair of TDG. This was a rescheduling of the meeting that was originally planned for summer 2025. Chris presented a status update of both TT1 and TT2. Recently a trails map and leaflet had been produced and was available from the businesses in The Square. This would encourage trail riders to visit the businesses to collect a copy. Chris asked if additional activities (e.g. bike hire possibly using a container) might be permitted by the MRT. Gillian Currie said that a detailed proposal would be needed before this could be considered. This included any development of the car

park area and surrounding woods. A clarification provided was that the trails should not cross existing walking paths.

9. Logie Coldstone Trust

Pamela Clark reported on her and Anthony McKillop's recent attendance at the Logie Coldstone Trust's scheduled meeting. She conveyed that the Community Council representatives were met with a notably warm and enthusiastic reception. The Trust members explicitly expressed their appreciation for the Community Council's continued use of the Logie Coldstone Hall as a meeting venue. To further strengthen ties, it was suggested that a standing invitation be extended to the Logie Coldstone Trust trustees to routinely send a representative to attend Community Council meetings.

10. Tarland Development Group

Simon Langan addressed the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Tarland Development Group to provide an update. He announced that following a successful application process, the group had secured two-year funding from the Development Trust Association Scotland's for recruiting a Development Officer. Following an interview process with four qualified candidates it had been decided to appoint two part time officers as a job share. The Community Council Chair had participated when the candidates were given individual tours of TDG projects as part of the selection. Both new officers are scheduled to commence their employment the following week. These appointments would allow continuing work on TDG governance and improve communication and transparency with the community as a whole. Simon Langan suggested that the officers might attend the next Community Council meeting in June to introduce themselves to Councillors and discuss their roles.

11. Planning Applications

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

12. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the Community Council would confirm their attendance at the planned Community Council forum planned for September. John Rogie asked about the maintenance and battery replacement cycles of the village's public defibrillators. The one by the MacRobert Hall was handled by Sandy Cooper of the Tarland Welfare Trust. Paul Anderson generously volunteered his time to undertake two maintenance tasks. Firstly, he will utilize specialized fluid to clean the historic Peter Mullen memorial stone. Secondly, he committed to cleaning and repainting the faded public benches situated in The Square. Alastair Scott highlighted the presence of a uniquely crafted, circular wooden bench located in the Play Park near the doctor's surgery. Enquiries would be made as to who placed this bench e.g. Aberdeenshire Council or private individuals. The Chair confirmed that he has written to OFCOM regarding mobile phone mast resilience. Furthermore, the Council addressed a recent resident complaint concerning the significant noise generated by a large rookery situated near residential properties. The Chair clarified the strict legal position, noting that rooks and crows are legally protected species under wildlife legislation, and explicitly warned that any unauthorized culling or interference with the birds carries the penalty of severe, unlimited fines. Finally, practical arrangements were finalized for the village's floral displays, with confirmation that the newly ordered plants for the summer hanging baskets are scheduled for delivery on the twenty-sixth of May, with volunteer planting and hanging operations planned for the subsequent weekend.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

The next standard meeting of the Cromar Community Council will take place on 17th June at Tarland School starting 19.30 and will be preceded by the AGM.