



**Cromar Community Council
Meeting Tarland School
17th June 2026 at 19.30
DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: David Ellis, John Rogie, Pamela Clark, Paul Anderson, Nigel Healey, Anthony McKillop, Cllr Sarah Brown

Guests: Simon Langan

1. **Apologies:** Apologies received from Alastair Scott.

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

The minutes of the May meeting were discussed. Acceptance of the minutes were proposed by Nigel Healey and seconded by Anthony McKillop.

3. **Police Report**

The Community Council noted that no formal update had been received from Sergeant Masson for this period, though it is anticipated he will attend an upcoming session in person.

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

Councillor Sarah Brown provided feedback from her attendance at the online bus forum. Stagecoach announced an upcoming renewal of its fleet involving 23 buses. Stagecoach has deployed high-visibility station ambassadors at the bus station to assist passengers with scheduling updates. It was acknowledged that buses frequently drop off real-time digital timetables because older ticket machines fail to maintain steady tracking signals; upgrading this infrastructure will require major financial investment. Ember's low-cost, private electric coach model received significant praise at the forum. Stagecoach confirmed it operates a completely different business model and has no current plans to align its fare stages to compete directly with Ember. Requests were made for expanded express "X routes" to reduce the 1.5-hour commute from Braemar into Aberdeen. The council-operated free 212 shuttle connects Tillydrone to Deeside via Lumphanan to feed into the main 202 Stagecoach bus. John Rogie raised ongoing resident complaints regarding frequent misconnections, stating that drivers are failing to communicate effectively at interchange points. Cllr Brown clarified that shuttle drivers are contractually mandated to wait up to 10 minutes past the scheduled time to protect connections.

Cllr Brown has followed up on the "dynamic list" system and why Tarland Square was not listed. Potholes and the use of the "Fix My Aberdeenshire" app was discussed as the best method of giving visibility to the problem.

5. **Resilience Update**

The community resilience group secured a donation of towels from Hilton Grand Vacations at Craigendarragh, alongside 12 brand-new wrapped sleeping bags and mats from the Ballater Resilience Group. There had been local donations of candles and holders and other

donations were expected. Pamela Clark and Paul Anderson had been discussing participation in the Community Council with residents in Logie Coldstone and Tarland. Pamela Clark noted she is still awaiting a formal electrical installation quote from Gordon Ross.

6. Cromar Report

A. Bridges & Roads – The Aboyne Bridge was discussed. Simon Langan expressed deep frustration over the lack of physical progress on the Aboyne Bridge. Cllr Brown clarified that structural flood studies are actively assessing whether a propping repair or a modular Bailey bridge configuration is the safer, more viable engineering option. The bridge remains an indispensable corridor for the local timber sawmill and residents who live south of the river. Vegetation and tree branches are obscuring some 20mph speed signs. This was the responsibility of the land owner but action can be taken by Aberdeen Council. Paul Anderson highlighted that roads in central Aboyne are badly degraded and noted zero progress on the Coull Road. Severe, deep potholes run continuously near the bird watching hut down to the road passing the plantation.

B. Flooding - Simon Langan has scheduled an online technical meeting with the Scottish Flood Forum and software developer *River Track*. The Flood Forum is funding the automated wetland warning equipment for its first year and plans to conduct a rapid, single-day site deployment visit during the summer months. There had been discussions about the existing water monitoring stations. These are no longer online but require visits to download data.

C. R100 Broadband Project – Major progress was achieved as outlying properties immediately adjacent to public roads can now directly order 1 Gbps full-fibre broadband. John Rogie noted he was progressing an order for a full fibre connection. For private tracks and homes the long-standing legal impasse between Openreach and the MacRobert Trust was resolved yesterday. The Land Registry formally accepted the voluntary registration of all MacRobert Trust land titles, enabling Openreach to verify ownership and progress the necessary wayleave agreements. Engineering solutions will vary, utilizing overhead poles and underground conduit and moleing solutions elsewhere.

D. SSEN Network Reinforcement Project – Some survey work had been completed and the Community Council was expecting to receive a scope and draft design document.

E. Social Media - Anthony McKillop delivered the monthly digital engagement analytics. The most successful digital outreach was the volunteer appeal for watering the village square flower planters and hanging baskets, capturing 2,897 views. A public notice regarding the U36 road closure achieved 1,527 views. The primary user demographic is concentrated locally under the Aboyne/Dinnet sub-cluster and remains strongest among residents aged 35 to 64.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported a current bank balance of £3,773.38. The sole transaction during the past month was a receipt of £162.28 from the James Hutton Institute, which served as a direct reimbursement for community hall hire costs from the previous flooding forum.

8. Logie Coldstone Trust

Pamela Clark praised the highly efficient digital process used by the Logie Coldstone Hall Trust during meetings. The group utilizes a digital projector to display minutes and action points live on-screen, allowing tracking items to be formally updated and cleared before the close of business.

9. Tarland Development Group - Simon Langan reported that Debbie and Beth have

completed their first three weeks in a job share as Community Development Workers. They are currently executing a comprehensive review of internal operational policies with a strict focus on updating governance to best practice standards. They will be invited to present to the Community Council in September following summer leave.

The MacRobert Trust has offered financial backing to reprint the local paths map. Volunteer fundraisers are advancing a replacement plan for the play park zip line, with engineering quotes estimating a cost between £15,000 and £20,000; early donations have already been pledged. Hanging baskets continue to be maintained via a collaborative effort between the community garden and Community Council volunteers. Simon Langan also shared a community ideas report compiled from a collaborative session with Tarland Primary P6/P7 pupils run by the charity *Action for a Fairer World*.

Simon Langan and the Chair met separately with the MacRobert Trust to discuss Alastrean Wood. The MacRobert Trust plan was for this to become a Nature Reserve following community consultation. The Trust is considering wheelchair-accessible paths, a dedicated public car park, and toilet facilities. The Chair had suggested aligning the reserve's infrastructure to help mitigate village square parking shortages.

A robust debate occurred regarding transparency, public access, and historical documentation. Paul Anderson and John Rogie expressed serious dissatisfaction regarding an 11-week delay in publishing TDG minutes, noting that timely data release is a fundamental governance duty to the community. Simon Langan acknowledged the comment and requested continued community patience as he works to transition the group toward improved transparency.

10. Planning Applications

A planning application is currently under consideration to convert the ground floor of the Aberdeen Arms into three 2-bedroom flats, while maintaining the bed and breakfast function on the upper floor. There were questions raised as to where residents might park their cars.

Ben Addy has successfully obtained planning approval for his amended drainage infrastructure layout, enabling his local development at Sunnybrae, Logie Coldstone, to proceed.

11. Any Other Business

There were no AOB items.

12. Date of the Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Cromar Community Council is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, 15th July 2026** at Logie Coldstone Hall.