



**CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING TARLAND SCHOOL
16th September 2026 at 19.30**

Present: Paul Anderson, John Rogie, Alastair Scott, Nigel Healey, Pamela Clark, Jackie Cooper, Steve Hancock, Cllr Sarah Brown, Kirsty Macleod (Abdnsh Cnsl)

Guests: Simon Langan, Ken Webb, Debbie Rennie, Beth Woodhall, Gillian Needham, Ruth Crawford, Davie Barron, Ailsa Barron, Ciara Jamieson, Alex Henderson

1 Apologies Anthony McKillop, Cllrs Geva Blackett & Anouk Kloppert

2 Minutes of Last Meeting & Special Meeting Acceptance of both July's draft Minutes and those of the Special Meeting (17 Aug) was proposed by Nigel Healey and seconded by Pam Clark.

3 Co-option of two new councillors Jackie Cooper and Steve Hancock were welcomed onto Cromar Community Council

3 Police Report No update.

4 SSEN Tarland to Dinnet Electricity Network Upgrade Ciara Jamieson and Tom Hill gave a presentation on the route of the new cable and substation required to give a secure supply as current infrastructure is at 'end-of-life'. New cable to be buried 0.9 - 1.1m deep mainly along road verges but it will cross eight fields belonging to Davie & Ailsa Barron at The Neuk farm. Phase 1 (our area) to start around Feb 2027. SSEN are to arrange a drop-in event 4-6 weeks before start of work – ie around Christmas/early January. No road closures will take place but expect contraflow systems in 100m sections. The Barrons expressed disappointment and frustration that their concerns were not being answered – Alex Henderson offered to take up this issue for them. Other concerns were surprise that utility pipes and cables at risk along the trenching route have not been identified; and that the information initially provided to farmers had been changed without them being advised. This is unacceptable as it is easy to keep everyone informed. Up-to-date maps will be supplied when available to the Barrons and to CCC. Official email contact: Lcd@sse.com

5 Councillor's Report Cllr Sarah Brown said she had tried to get Tarland Square's resurfacing made a priority but the Council will not be swayed from a 'dynamic' list of priorities in which this job constantly slips down. Potholes will continue to be considered separately.

The Council is undertaking a Strategic Assessment of Early Learning & Childcare 'capacity and utilisation' across the shire. A 12% drop in admissions/demand is put down to population decline. Thus funded ELC sessions are available but in Aboyne's case, for example, only 45% are being used. A chart of statistics is given. For more info: <https://aberdeenshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MId=8424&Ver=4>

6 Resilience Update & Flood Prevention

Pam expressed thanks to Dennis Matthews for the donation of a shed which they hope to move to a convenient location soon. Ballater is being a great help. Soon to buy £2000 pump. Spending deadline to be checked. Trying to duplicate resources for Logie Coldstone. Last month's Viewfiled Flooding Meeting had been a success with 30 attending (inc by Zoom). 30-35 members had now signed up for Rivertrack alerts, and the monitor + relays had been fitted, and a host found. System now being fine-tuned. All paid for by the Scottish Flood Forum. Next year £50pa. MRT have cross-ploughed the source field to reduce flood risk. Simon Langan is looking into restoring the Tarland Burn monitor.

7 Tarland Development Group (Item moved up agenda due to time constraints). Simon Langan introduced TDG's Development Officers Debbie Rennie & Beth Woodhall, who summarised their roles. Debbie is focusing on governance and policy and Beth on community engagement and communication. Concepts of aligning groups & activities, strategic rules, clearer processes, sustainability of activities, future-proofing and board behaviour were mentioned. It was explained that they do not report to DTAS but to four of the Trustees, and these Trustees liaise with DTAS with input from the DOs. They confirmed they had read the Governance Report forwarded by the CCC last November and were working on these issues. Beth hoped to engage with the community, perhaps with a drop-in session, in 6-11 months. The current focus was internal, working with members (around 40) and TDG groups. Among the general questions asked was who answers the TDG info@ email – this goes to a shared group of several people. Once again the issue of TDG's Minutes being confusing and opaque was raised; and the CCC explained the 'difficult' relationship between it and TDG over what appears a worsening lack of transparency and accountability, and the continued barring of CCC attendance at TDG meetings but it was hoped things might improve with Debbie and Beth and we wished them the best.

TDG had responded to the CCC's emailed acceptance of Simon Langan's invitation to hold a joint meeting (proposed in July, for September) and it was to be discussed at this meeting. Simon said October was out because TDG was holding its AGM on the 21st and suggested the end of the year. It was agreed we would try to arrange a date in November by Doodle poll.

8 Tarland Pavillion Gillian Needham and Ruth Crawford made the case for trying to save the Pavilion as a valuable asset for the Community. The CCC

responded by sharing their support for the Pavillion and advised that this had been discussed at length at our last meeting, and in prior meetings, and it was agreed there was nothing the CCC could do until the transfer and legalities between the Council, MRT and TDG had been resolved. If there was a specific way we could assist in future then please don't hesitate to ask us.

9 Cromar Report

A. Bridges & Roads – the Viewing Platform at Viewfield Wetlands was reported to be dangerous. The CCC is to email the council about this.

A Cromar resident had observed there was no disabled parking slot in Tarland Square - to be discussed at our next meeting.

B. Flooding – covered above.

C. R100 Broadband Project. No news so an update to be requested.

D. Social Media – 20,000 views and 1,200 engagements in last 90 days. C35m road closure was the most popular topic followed by Viewfield Wetlands.

9 Treasurer's Report £816 received and £136 spent (incl Teak Oil for bench restoration). Balance: £4412

10 Logie Coldstone Trust No update.

11 Planning Applications No new ones, three pending a decision.

12 AOB Paul Anderson expressed CCC's best wishes to Miss Rogers on her retirement as Head of Tarland School and thanked her for all her work.

Simon Langan gave an update on the Playpark bench restoration – slats to be fitted soon and then treated.

A complaint about the untidiness of the wildflower 'meadow' corner of the old market stance had been received. No decision on action was taken.

As regards boxes of chocolates as 'thanks' for the flower basket volunteers, Anthony to liaise with Nigel over cost. Chocolates should be bought locally.

Paul Anderson asked what the CCC policy was on councillors being asked for 'private meetings'. Time precluded a detailed discussion but it was broadly agreed that councillors should always be open to being approached by people with concerns but where that person is representing an organisation then the concern should be directed to the CCC via our secretary or voiced at a CCC meeting. Thus informal chats for advice are acceptable but 'private meetings' are not. To be discussed further.

13 Date of Next Meeting 21 October 2026, 7.30pm, Logie Coldstone Hall