



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING Logie Coldstone Hall
15th July 2026 at 19.30

Present: David Ellis, Anthony McKillop, Alastair Scott, Nigel Healey, Pamela Clark, Paul Anderson, John Rogie

Guests: Simon Langan, Ken Webb

1 Apologies Cllr Sarah Brown, Stuart Bull

2 Minutes of Last Meeting & AGM Acceptance of June's draft Minutes and the AGM Minutes – with the addition of a missing word 'bridge' in the latter - was proposed by Paul Anderson and seconded by John Rogie.

3 Police Report (Previously circulated by email.) It was noted that a cannabis and cash haul worth £600k had been seized by the police within the Howe of Cromar.

4 Councillor's Report No report.

5 Resilience Update & Flood Prevention

Pam said the electrical work at the hall was not progressing but the group would persevere. Promised storage at the hall has not materialized because there is simply not enough space for all the groups using it. Reorganisation of the space was suggested which might help but would likely still prove insufficient. Possible alternative storage options were proposed; buy a container and site it in the 'parking' field beside the ruined church? Might a farm have spare storage? A shed at Old Town? Paul Anderson offered to look into this last option.

The Flood Group welcomed a new helper, David Forfar. Simon Langan explained the use of a monitor above the Viewfield Wetlands which could warn residents affected by flooding of dangerous rainfall levels. Interest in such a scheme would need to be assessed but first a meeting to explain the proposal could be arranged – early August was suggested - with the Scottish Flood Forum and a specialist, Rivertrack. Pam to look into this.

6 Cromar Report

- A. Bridges & Roads** – The Coull road has had long stretches of potholes covered with a top dressing. Some potholes still exist alongside the repairs and other sections have been ignored. It's not clear if the work is considered on-going or complete. No work took place on the Dinnet – Logie Coldstone for several days when first signed 'closed' for 5-days. New fencing has been completed on the Tarland Aboyne road and the golf course wood/Coull road – the latter has had a pedestrian gate moved and now involves an awkward step.
- B. Flooding** – covered above
- C. R100 Broadband Project.** Seventeen wayleaves are still to be agreed. Some properties are now connected. Progress is encouraging.
- D. SHEPD reinforcement of electrical supply** This is a secondary supply to Tarland but we have no further information.
- E. Social Media** - Secretary summarised there were 3700 views and 340 engagements. Items of most interest were 1) bench restoration in the playpark 2) Tarland Show 3) self-build houses.

7 Treasurer's Report The account balance stood at £3765. £8.43 paid out for Starlink/Google Workspace. Our annual grant of £764 is less than last year. Nigel is to question this.

8 Collaboration with other groups

Pavilion Following TDG's email request to the CCC to collaborate over the Pavilion's future and the subsequent answers to the CCC's questions, a discussion ensued to seek further clarification and facts in what appears to be a confused situation. It was agreed that any solution to the Pavilion's future depended on the Council and MRT confirming the legal situation, the terms of any future lease the MRT might offer to TDG, clarification on who would be liable for TDG's assessment of £20-40,000 needed to bring the building up to standard for community use and on how the building might generate enough revenue to cover future running costs. When asked what specific help TDG required of the CCC Simon explained that things had moved on since that email and the Food Waste Group, the former main users of the Pavilion, were considering splitting from TDG. There was currently nothing the CCC could do other than offer general support. Dave suggested the CCC write to MRT expressing our broad support for the Pavilion to be an asset for community use, and this was agreed. It was also noted that all MRT land is now shown on the Land Registry.

Parking Improvements On the 2029-39 Local Development Plan the field beside the ruined church (mentioned in Item 5 above) has been proposed as a possible site for extra parking. It is owned by the Church of Scotland and believed to be used by Rob Blackhall. At this stage it is just an idea, open to future discussion.

9 Logie Coldstone Trust No update.

10 Tarland Development Group Once again this was the dominant issue and occupied the majority of the session. Simon gave 'good news' updates on the Community Garden Open Day and a £10,000 award towards bike education and training (not for Trails use) and Ken said the new trails leaflets had finally been

published. There was discussion on where TDG's money had gone so that the MRT had ended up paying for the leaflets. Alastair led the questioning on the CCC's overriding concerns over TDG governance, with other councillors joining in. It was revealed that the two Development Officers Beth and Debbie have not yet been introduced to either the community or the TDG membership and that they report to a Board of four trustees: Simon Langan, Sandra van Heusen, Dave Hurst and Chris Redmond. The tardiness of TDG minutes was raised again as May's minutes are still not available, eight weeks later. Both Simon and Ken stated they were completely unaware of this. When Simon was asked why, at the CCC's June meeting, he requested more time for TDG to 'transition to transparency' when all that was required was to be transparent, no answer was given. The CCC reaffirmed its belief that TDG Chair Simon was genuinely trying to bring about changes but it could only be assumed by the apparent lack of progress that his efforts were not being supported by other trustees. Simon admitted there were difficulties.

Extracts from TDG's email of 21 Jan 2026 to the CCC, entitled '...Our Commitment to the Future' were read out to those present (* see text below). It was pointed out that the fine promises made six months ago have thus far proved empty. In summary it was stated that the CCC regards the TDG as dysfunctional and still in 'reactive crisis management'. Without transparency there can be no credibility or trust. It was repeated again, as in numerous previous meetings, that as long as the two dominant TDG trustees identified at our August 2025 meeting and also in the Governance Report (forwarded by the CCC to TDG last November) continue to be associated with the organisation then there appears little chance of TDG being restored to a position of trust.

There were no contrary views expressed.

Finally, Simon had suggested at the CCC May meeting that Development Officers Debbie and Beth could be introduced to the CCC in June, but this never happened. Simon proposed that this should now take place at the CCC September meeting, and the CCC welcomed this. It was also agreed to hold a special joint meeting in September with the TDG trustees to discuss these matters and to ensure our concerns are being heard.

11 Planning Applications

Application for a house on hillside in Logie Coldstone.

Scottish Woodland Trust are proposing a temporary access route through a private garden.

Aberdeen Arms application to be turned into three flats. People voiced concerns over whether any attempt had been made to find a new owner to continue running this old hotel as an asset to the community, the reasons behind its neglect, where rubbish bins and car parking for residents could be sited. Dave advised that concerns should be sent to the Planning authority but only valid planning criteria will be considered.

12 AOB

Nigel mentioned that there used to be two waste bins at the recycling carpark, one disappeared and was meant to be replaced but it hasn't. Deferred to next meeting.

Alastair said he felt a list of CC councillors with contact details should be put up on our noticeboard but there were concerns about giving private emails and phone numbers. He would look at what other CCs do and report back.

13 Date of Next Meeting 16 September 2026, 7.30pm, Tarland School

* Extracts from TDG email ‘...Our Commitment to the Future’

Our Commitment to You: What matters most to us now is building an organisation that lasts - one that serves Tarland and the Howe of Cromar for decades to come. To do that, we need to ensure TDG is:

- **A safe space to work** - where volunteers and staff feel supported, valued, and protected
- **A trusted organisation** - where our community has confidence in how we operate and make decisions
- **An inclusive group** - where diverse voices are heard and different perspectives are welcomed
- **A transparent body** - where our processes are clear and our communications are open

We recognise that trust isn't simply declared - it's built through consistent action over time. We are committed to continuing to build that trust.

Proactive Community Engagement: We want to move beyond reactive crisis management to proactive community engagement. This means:

- **Better communication** - Regular updates on our work, our decisions, and our direction
- **More opportunities for input** - Creating structured ways for members and the wider community to share views and influence our priorities
- **Clearer processes** - Making it easier to understand how we operate and how to get involved
- **Open dialogue** - Being willing to have difficult conversations constructively

We are exploring options for regular member forums, community consultation sessions, and improved feedback mechanisms. We'll share more details on this as our plans develop.