



MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 17 September 2014
at Logie Coldstone School.

PRESENT: Cllr. Katrina Farquhar, Simon Welfare (Chairman), Anke Addy, Joyce Lovie, Alec McVean, Veronica Ross, Evelyn Smith, Constable Steven Lafferty (Police Scotland), Simon Power (MacRobert Trust Estate).

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Geva Blackett, Sue Erskine.

1. Police Report

Constable Steven Lafferty reported that the area continued to experience low crime rates. He added that a public consultation was underway which would be used to determine police priorities and that Police Scotland was also promoting 'Operation Redwall', an awareness campaign warning of the effects that the use of new psychoactive substances ('legal highs') can have on communities.

2. Cromar Report

2.1 MacRobert Trust Developments

Simon Power, Manager of the MacRobert Trust Estate, explained the plans that the Trust had submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for the refurbishment of Douneside House and the extension of visitor facilities there. (Since the meeting these plans have been modified and a new application has been submitted.) He said that the Estate also hopes to move forward in the near future with the development of workshops and small office buildings at the old Estate yard, which is designated for business use under the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan, and with the Village Farm housing development. The Community Council asked the Estate to ensure that walkers could gain access to public rights of way on its land at Coull and Boig.

2.2 Conservation Area Proposal

Aberdeenshire Council has abandoned its proposal to establish a Conservation Area in Tarland after its consultation revealed substantial local opposition.

2.3. Roads etc.

Cllr. Farquhar reported that the indisposition of Aberdeenshire Council's Principal Roads Engineer for the area has delayed consideration of outstanding local issues, such as the siting of the Ordie Phone Box and the adoption of roads.

2.4. Tarland Playpark Pavilion

The Community Council decided to consult with interested parties about issues raised concerning the pavilion at Tarland Playpark and the bowling green.

2.5. Cromar Remembers

The Community Council congratulated the Cromar History Group on the success of its 'Cromar Remembers' exhibition, held to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1. The Community Council also thanked Paul Anderson and all those involved in the commemorative concert on 15 August. A decision about what to do with the profits from this event was deferred until the next meeting.

2.6. Twinning

A request has been received from Stanardsville, Virginia, U.S.A., to twin their town with Tarland. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with Cllr. Argyle and to report back.

2.7. Aberdeenshire Design Awards

The Community Council congratulated Mr and Mrs Ellis of Reekitlane, Coull, and Mr and Mrs Gordon of Coille Na Feorag, Tarland, on receiving Aberdeenshire Design Awards in the Sustainability and Craftsmanship categories respectively.

2.8. Graveyards & Memorials

The Chairman plans to meet officials of Aberdeenshire Council in the New Year to discuss the restoration of gravestones and memorials in Cromar.

2.9. Hanging Baskets for 2015

Plants for hanging baskets have been ordered for 2015. The Community Council hopes to find volunteers to water them, but will, if necessary, employ someone to do this over the summer.

2.10. Tarland Trails Donation

A donation of £100 towards the cost of an archaeological survey of Drummy Wood required by Aberdeenshire Council planners for this project was agreed.

3. Appointment of Community Council Secretary

With no volunteers for this role forthcoming, the Chairman agreed to undertake the role until someone can be found to take the Minutes of meetings. The proposal that someone should be paid to do this job if necessary was discussed and agreed.

4. Cairngorm National Park Authority

The Authority is taking a new approach to tourism. It will be more community-focused and will work with existing tourism groups and Visit Scotland. The umbrella group will be named Cairngorms Tourism Partnership. Initiatives planned for 2015 include the Year of Food & Drink, Cairngorms Nature, Active Cairngorms and a Make it Yours Campaign. The Authority has received updates on the progress of the National Park Partnership Plan and the Corporate Plan. The Reporter has also provided comments for the local development plan. The document can be read on the Park's website.

5. Planning Applications

Tarland

1. Alterations and Extension and Internal Alterations to Douneside House, Alterations and Extension to Casa Memoria, Internal Alterations to the Gate House and Alpha and Pine Cottage, Alterations and Internal Alterations to Morven Cottage and Part Demolition of Wall to Create New Access Road Douneside House Tarland AB34 4UL □Ref. No: APP/2014/270
2. Demolition of Derelict Dwellinghouse and Outbuildings and Erection of Replacement Dwellinghouse with Linked Garage and Change of Use of Land to Domestic Garden Ground Coynach Croft Tarland Aboyne AB34 4XN □Ref. No: APP/2014/2710
3. Erection of Detached Garage and Boundary Fence, Tillylodge Cottage, Lumphanan, AB31 4SD. APP/2014/2693.
4. Site At School House School Road Tarland Aberdeenshire AB34 4UU. Variation of Condition 1 (Time) of Previously Approved Application. APP/2011/1893.

Coull

5. Coull Home Farm Coull Aboyne AB34 5JU. Conversion and Extension of Redundant Former Dairy Building to form Ancillary Domestic Accommodation. APP/2014/3171.

Next meeting: December 10 at Logie Coldstone School