



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 18th June 2014 at Tarland Primary School

PRESENT: Cllr. Geva Blackett, Cllr. Katrina Farquhar, Simon Welfare (Chairman), Sue Erskine, Joyce Lovie, Evelyn Smith, Alec McVean, Nigel Healey.

APOLOGIES: Anke Addy, Veronica Ross, Cllr. Peter Argyle, Police Scotland.

1. *Annual Report:* Since our last Annual General Meeting, Cromar Community Council has continued to support a wide variety of activities in the district and to consider the many and various issues that have been brought to us.

In Tarland, we have ensured the continuation of Post Office services and the new Post Office local at the Toyshop has been flourishing from the outset. We have also persuaded Royal Mail Ltd to move the village's main post box to the Square, although the location in which it appeared overnight is proving controversial. We welcomed the amalgamation of the Tarland Medical Practice with its counterpart at Aboyne and are delighted that a full service is being continued at Ailsa Muir. We thank Dr Starritt and wish him happiness in his retirement. And we also thank our colleagues at the Tarland Development Group for their continuing success in masterminding projects that enhance the life of the area, such as the Community Garden, the new beekeeping enterprise, the local markets, and with COAT, their continuing provision of way marked paths such as the Tarland Way.

At Logie Coldstone, the Logie Coldstone Trust has raised the funds – a very large amount for a small and scattered community - to refurbish the Hall and attendance at events there reflects their success. And we are pleased that the Trust is taking over responsibility for the Logie Coldstone War Memorial Fund from this Community Council.

We have contributed to several consultations both nationally and regionally, including those run by the Land Reform Group and the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. The latter is still under discussion. Applications for new developments at Logie Coldstone and Coull are still being considered, but the settlement reports suggest that no more housing will be allocated to Tarland beyond what is already provided for. Once again our concern that the needs of this area are being neglected in favour of communities on the Energetica Corridor seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

Much time has been taken up this year with the consultation on Aberdeenshire Council's proposal to create a Tarland Conservation Area. Since this was run by the County Council, our job was to listen carefully to the views of local people. It was soon clear that many people, particularly those who live in the proposed Conservation Area were not in favour, and the Community Council duly passed on their views.

In the coming year the Community Council will have as full an agenda as ever. Perhaps understandably, given the economic climate, housing developments agreed under the

current Local Development Plan are still not underway, but the list of families wanting to live in Cromar and in need of affordable housing continues to grow. We will continue to make our voice heard about this and the need to bring new jobs to the area.

I would like to thank to our County Councillors for all their help.

At this AGM we have welcomed new members to the Community Council and I thank them and the previous members for their contributions to our work. And inevitably we must say some 'goodbyes': two in particular. Les Allan of the Marr Area Office has been our indefatigable mentor and advisor and a friend to Cromar. We thank him for all he has done and send him our best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

But I hope he will not misunderstand us when I reserve our warmest thanks for our Secretary Nigel Healey, who is not only putting away his minuting pen but is also leaving the Community Council. He has done an enormous amount for Cromar over the 10 years in which he has served on the Community Council, and it is good that he will continue to offer his wisdom, good humour and energy and understanding of the issues that concern people to other organisations. Thank you, Nigel.

2. **Accounts:** At the end of May 2014, the Cromar Community Council's bank balance was £2,438.67.
3. **Election of Members:** As previously indicated, Nigel Healey retired from the position of Secretary and also retired from the CCC.

There was one new membership proposal and one co-opted member who wished to be confirmed as a full member of the CCC. As the number of existing vacancies was greater than the number of proposals, Joyce Lovie was elected to represent Logie Coldstone and Alec McVean elected to represent Tarland.

The remaining CCC members, Simon Welfare, Evelyn Smith, Sue Erskine, Veronica Ross and Anke Addy will continue. Two vacancies remain.

4. **Election of Officers:** Simon Welfare and Sue Erskine agreed to continue as Chairman and Treasurer respectively. There being no volunteer to take on the Secretary's responsibilities, it was agreed to examine the options for replacing the Secretary over the Summer break.