



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 19 AUGUST 2015
at Logie Coldstone Hall.**

PRESENT: Cllr. Katrina Farquhar, Simon Welfare (Chairman), Sue Erskine, Alec McVean, Evelyn Smith, P.C. Morag Campbell of Police Scotland and 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Geva Blackett, Anke Addy, Joyce Lovie and Veronica Ross.

1. Police Report

P.C. Morag Campbell of Police Scotland said that since the last meeting, there had been a few routine calls but only one incident of note: at the beginning of August a bicycle was stolen from an insecure shed at a rural property on the outskirts of Tarland. Also during this period, the Tarland Show was held, with the event being well run and resulting in no issues. Operation CEDAR, launched to encourage drivers to take more responsibility on the region's roads, was continuing and high visibility patrols were operating to deter criminal activity, since there had been opportunist crimes occurring in neighbouring areas. P.C. Campbell said that local residents should keep their property and vehicles secure at all times by keeping doors locked and valuable property and car keys out of the way to minimise the opportunities available to criminals. Members of the public can contact Police Scotland with non-urgent enquiries or information via the 101 telephone number or <http://www.scotland.police.uk>.

2. Cromar Report

2.1. Tarland Playpark

The Chairman reported that discussions were continuing with Aberdeenshire Council over the future of the bowling green and the pavilion at Tarland Playpark. The Bowling Club had formally confirmed that it had closed down and the key to the green had been handed over to the Council. The Chairman agreed to write to the Council to ask what its plans now were for the two facilities. A public meeting to

consult the community about establishing a Sports Hub in Cromar was due to be held on Wednesday, 26 August. The plaque marking The Queen's Silver Jubilee had been taken away for refurbishment before being installed at a more appropriate place.

2.2. Superfast Broadband

In response to concerns about the availability of Superfast Broadband outside Tarland, where it is already available to those who wish to pay for it, Cllr. Farquhar said that the County Council was working on plans to roll it out further into Cromar. Households that were unlikely to be connected to the system in the long term had been informed about help with other ways of getting the enhanced service.

2.3. Tarland Christmas Lights

Nigel Healey said that discussions with the County Council about the proposals for a more spectacular display of Christmas lights in the village were making progress.

2.4. Hanging Baskets

The Chairman said that professionals had been brought in to put up the hanging baskets in Tarland Square and to water them. The Community Council had agreed to foot the bill this year, but, since this was not sustainable in the long term, it was hoped that local sponsorship and volunteers might be forthcoming to ensure that this popular tradition continues in the future.

2.5. Litter

Concerns expressed to the Community Council about an increase in the amount of litter being dropped in the area were discussed. The Community Council asks everyone in the community to make sure that litter is taken home or disposed of in the bins provided. Dog fouling is also a continuing problem and Cllr. Farquhar said she would investigate a scheme to promote clean dog walking that had begun in Torphins.

2.6. Footpaths

Cllr. Farquhar said that Aberdeenshire Council's Environmental Planning Dept. was kindly providing a map of Rights of Way and Core Paths in Cromar.

2.7. Pittenderich Forest Plan

The scoping report for the proposed Pittenderich Long Term Forest Plan was discussed. The Community Council agreed to respond to UPM Tilhill's consultation, saying that its main concern was that the

approved route for log lorries takes them past Tarland Primary School. The Community Council has suggested that, if that was the only possible route, any felled trees might be taken past the school outwith the hours when children would be likely to be in the vicinity.

3. Tarland Development Group

The Community Council looked forward to the official opening of the Tarland Trails in September.

4. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey said that the training courses in the use of public access defibrillators organised by the Welfare Trust and the Tarland & Mid-Deeside Community First Responders had been very well attended. Training had also been given at Tarland Primary School.

5. Planning Applications

The Chairman was asked to write to Aberdeenshire Council's Planning Department to seek clarification about the criteria they are using to decide whether or not to advertise an application in the press for public comment. The Community Council discussed the following new applications but decided to offer no comments on them:

Non-Compliance with Condition 1 (Time Condition) of Previously Approved APP/2012/3509 for Alterations and Extension to Derelict Former Cottage to form Dwellinghouse and Change of Use of Agricultural Land to Domestic Garden Ground Site To North West Of Wester Braehead (formerly Woodside Cottage) Tarland Aboyne Ref. No: APP/2015/2564

Conversion and Extension of Steading to Dwellinghouse and Change of Use from Agricultural Land to Domestic Garden Ground Steading At Albany Tarland Aberdeenshire Ref. No: APP/2015/2374

6. A.O.B.

Nigel Healey repeated his request that the benches in Tarland Square should be repainted and called for the removal of the signage of the now closed public toilets nearby. Cllr. Farquhar said that she would enquire further into these matters.

The Chairman agreed to write to the Bridges & Structures Manager of Aberdeenshire Council to ask, at the request of a member of the community, whether any work was planned on widening and realigning Mounthooly Bridge near Tarland.

Mr Healey wondered whether recent archaeological finds in Tarland will allow the village to claim that it is the oldest settlement on Deeside. The Community Council awaits the results of his further researches.

Next meeting: at Tarland Primary School on 23 September 2015 at 7 p.m.