



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 2 December 2015
at Tarland Primary School.**

PRESENT: Simon Welfare (Chairman), Cllr. Katrina Farquhar, Sue Erskine (Treasurer), Joyce Lovie, Alec McVean, Evelyn Smith & 3 members of the public (Nigel Healey, Donald Gordon and Monika Gordon).

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

1. Police Report

Police Scotland reported that the Cromar area continued to have little crime. There had been no incidents of note but some road traffic matters had arisen as the result of the onset of bad winter weather. Alec McVean said that he knew of several people who had had to telephone the police to get their roads clear after the recent snowfall and Joyce Lovie said that school bus routes had not been gritted. Mr McVean wondered whether Aberdeenshire Council's policy had changed. Cllr. Farquhar said that, while the policy remained the same, there had been some amendments to the Roads Winter Service. She later provided the following information from the Service about the new procedures:

i) Treatment of Priority 3 Roads

The revised procedure requires forecasts to indicate that sub-zero road surface temperatures, or air temperatures below 3°C, are to persist for 48 hours. If these conditions are met, treatment of the non-primary network will be instructed to start. For clarity, the treatment will start on "Day 1" and will not wait 48 hours, however, as previously the case, the treatment of Priority 3 routes will be carried out after the treatment of Priority 1 and 2 routes has been completed. This amendment seeks to reduce instances of unnecessary gritting of minor roads and footways on frosty mornings where temperatures are forecast to rise during the day bringing a natural thaw.

ii) Treatment of Priority 1 Footways

The standard to be aimed at on priority 1 footways is that these footways should be kept in a safe condition for pedestrians other than in storm conditions. This is to be achieved within the normal working day, therefore normally footway treatments will not commence before 8.00 hours. In exceptional circumstances, where heavy snowfall is forecast, snow clearing operations may start earlier. This amendment seeks to reduce the number of operatives carrying out treatments outwith normal working hours, usually at enhanced rates of pay.

iii) 24 Hours Standby and Call Out Provision

The Service will retain its 24-hour stand by capability, with the ability to react to a treatment instruction within 1½ hours. However the policy wording has been clarified to make it explicit that treatment between 10.00pm and 5.30am would only be in response to an emergency call out by Police Scotland.

A report is to be presented to each Area Committee in January, seeking comments on the amendments. These comments will in turn be reported to Infrastructure Services Committee.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting on 28 October 2015 were discussed and approved. The Chairman agreed to raise the concerns of residents living near Drummy Wood about the deteriorating state of the track leading to the Tarland Trails with the MacRobert Trust Estate.

3. Cromar Report

3.1. Tarland Infrastructure

The Chairman reported that he had met with Ralph Singleton of the Roads Department of Aberdeenshire Council to discuss a number of issues about the safety and traffic management of School Road, Tarland, and that Mr Singleton had agreed to consider them. The Community Council decided to add another issue to Mr Singleton's list: problems with parking for parents and visitors. Mr McVean said that the school's pupils had drawn up their own Travel Plan (later circulated to members of the Community Council) and that he hoped that this would be implemented. The Chairman agreed to write to the Head Teacher and Police Scotland to ask them for their views.

3.2. Christmas Lights

The Christmas tree at Logie Coldstone, kindly provided by the Tillypronie Estate was already up and lit. Nigel Healey said that he hoped that the tree in Tarland, kindly provided by the MacRobert Trust Estate, would soon be erected and floodlighting installed to light up the Old Kirk. (The subsequent discovery that the Kirk belfry is in a dangerous state has led to the postponement of this scheme until next year.)

3.3. Tarland Bus Services

Cllr. Farquhar said that Aberdeenshire Council was continuing to monitor the punctuality of bus services between Tarland and Aboyne. So far, apart from 1 or 2 breakdowns, no serious problems had emerged. However, she asked bus users to continue to report any problems they encountered with the service.

3.4. Your Cromar - Have Your Say 2016

The Chairman said that the Marr Area Partnership was willing to help with this consultation and with the preparation of a Community Action Plan for Cromar and that he was arranging to meet MAP representatives before Christmas.

3.5 Cromar Sports Hub

Due to a clash of dates, a second meeting to discuss setting up a Sports Hub in Cromar has been postponed until Monday 25 January 2016 at 19:00 in the MacRobert Memorial Hall, Tarland.

4. Community Council Accounts

The Community Council accounts for the period from 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2015, have been submitted to Aberdeenshire Council. Mrs Erskine said that the County Council now requires the accounts to be audited. Donald Gordon volunteered to do this.

5. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey said that the Trust had applied to Aberdeenshire Council for planning permission to install a new heating system in the MacRobert Memorial Hall. The Trust's funds had been boosted with a very welcome grant of £8000 from the trustees of Corse Hall which was recently sold. Tickets for the ceilidh at Hogmanay were selling fast.

6. Logie Coldstone Trust

Joyce Lovie said that the Trust had produced a calendar which had gone on sale. Among many events scheduled for 2016 are a Hogmanay Ceilidh and a concert with Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham in May. The Chairman thanked the Trust for allowing the Community Council to meet in the Hall until the janitorial situation is resolved. Meetings will then resume at the school.

7. Cairngorms National Park

Cllr. Farquhar said that discussions about the next National Park Partnership Plan had started well: a draft of the Plan should be available in the Spring. She also circulated the results of the Cairngorm Visitor Survey. This revealed, *inter alia*, that 98% of respondents 'love the Park', 98% 'recommend the Park', 93% 'would visit again' and 83% thought it 'value for money'. The 'Visitor Score' was 8.8/10, up from 8.3/10 in a 2009/10 survey.

8. Planning Applications

The Community Council discussed the following new applications:

DINNET

Erection of Dwellinghouse, Estate Office/General Purpose Outbuilding, Installation of Photovoltaic Array, Alterations to Existing Access and Change of Use of Land to Domestic Garden Ground Land At Carrue Dinnet Aboyne Ref. No: APP/2015/3526

TARLAND

Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse 11 Aberdeen Terrace Tarland Aberdeenshire AB34 4UB Ref. No: APP/2015/3451

Installation of External Air Source Heat Pumps The MacRobert Memorial Hall 5 The Square Tarland Aberdeenshire AB34 APP/2015/3543

LOGIE COLDSTONE

Condition 3 (Siting, Design, External Appearance, Landscaping and Access), Condition 9 (Energy Statement), Condition 10 (Landscaping) and Condition 12 (Private Water Supply) of Planning Application Ref: APP/2013/3464 for Erection of Dwellinghouse Including Demolition of Existing Derelict Dwellinghouse Mosstown Braes Logie Coldstone Tarland Aberdeenshire Ref. No: APP/2015/3336

The Community Council decided to write to the Planning Authority to support the Tarland Welfare Trust's application but decided to offer no comments on the others.

9. A.O.B.

The Community Council again discussed reports of cars driving fast along the drive to Alastrean House and hoped that the speed limit signs would be reinstated.

Alec McVean asked Nigel Healey if he had yet established whether Tarland is the oldest village in Scotland. Mr Healey again said that his researches were continuing.

The Community Council thanked Anke Addy, who is leaving the Community Council, for her thoughtful contribution to its work.

Next meeting: Logie Coldstone Hall on 6 January 2016 at 7 p.m.