



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 January 2016
At Logie Coldstone Hall**

PRESENT: Simon Welfare (Chairman), Cllr. Katrina Farquhar, Dave Ellis, Sue Erskine (Treasurer), Joyce Lovie, Alec McVean, Veronica Ross, Evelyn Smith & 6 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Geva Blackett, Cllr. Peter Argyle & Police Scotland.

1. Community Council Membership

Dave Ellis was co-opted on to the Community Council to represent Coull.

2. Floods in Cromar

The floods at the beginning of the month were discussed at length. Heavy rain fell across the Howe of Cromar from 1-8 January, causing flooding across the whole area. Although the Coldstone Burn overflowed, and water, for a variety of suggested reasons, was everywhere in the Howe, the focus of the discussion was on Tarland which was the worst-affected settlement. After the Tarland Burn overflowed on to Burnside Road on 3 January, volunteers, not only from within the village but from a wide area around, laboured at Tarland Quarry to fill more than 4,500 sandbags, which were then placed for community use at strategic points in the village. On 7 January there was flooding in Burnside Road, Mill Place, Melgum Road, the Market Stance, Aberdeen Road and Balmuir Wood. Residents of Cromar Cottages had to pump water from beneath their houses and streets and roads were closed. It was thought that 2 houses suffered ingresses of water. In Aberdeen Road, Balmuir Wood and at the Market Stance, householders and volunteers worked to clear blocked drains. In response to questions about what was being done in the immediate aftermath, Cllr. Farquhar agreed to discover what plans the Roads Department had for action. The discussion ended with agreement that the Community Council will arrange a meeting at a date and time to be announced to give an opportunity to Tarland residents to express their views on what happened. So that a Community Resilience Plan can be drawn up, independent experts and officials of Aberdeenshire Council will be invited to advise on what should be done to avoid or mitigate flooding in the future. The Community Council also wished to record its sincere thanks to the volunteers who filled and distributed the sandbags, to the farmers who pumped water from flooded areas in the village and cleared burns, to the 3

local County Councillors, Police Scotland, Scottish Water, officials of Aberdeenshire Council, the operator of the Tarland Quarry, and to everyone from near and far who worked tirelessly to help in this emergency.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting on 2 December were approved. Nigel Healey was thanked for organising the Christmas lights in Tarland.

4. Police Report

Police Scotland said that its North East Division had become operational on 1 January 2016. The report went on to say that the Cromar area continues to be 'a low crime area' and added that during the flood emergency there had been 'notable community spirit and involvement in assisting those in need and also supporting the emergency services. For this we extend our sincere thanks'.

5. The Fire at Alastrean House

The Chairman read out an email from Simon Power, Estate Manager of the MacRobert Trust Estate, who said that all the residents of Alastrean House had been rehoused after the fire that broke out on 2 January. Both the Trust and Balhousie Care Group were awaiting final agreement from insurers so that work could begin on repairing the damage. Mr Power said that it was unlikely that the house would be reoccupied for about 9 months.

6. Old Kirk Belfry

The Community Council thanked Aberdeenshire Council for taking swift action when the belfry of the Old Kirk was seen to be unsafe. Thanks were also offered to Peter Craig who first spotted the problem. The belfry has since been removed for restoration and is said to be currently in an Aberdeenshire Council store. The Community Council expressed a wish to see it speedily returned.

7. Winter Roads Policy

Cllr. Farquhar agreed to convey to Aberdeenshire Council the Community Council's concern about the changes that seem to have been made without wide consultation to the winter roads policy for the area.

8. Cromar Consultation

The Chairman reported that he had met with an official of the Marr Area Partnership about the possibility of making a new Community Action Plan for Cromar but the discussion had proved inconclusive. The Community Council agreed to defer taking the proposal further until after the Resilience Plan had been completed.

9. Douneside House Licence

The Community Council agreed to support the MacRobert Trust's application for a new licence for Douneside House.

10. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey said that the Trust had temporarily withdrawn its application to install external air source heat pumps at the MacRobert Memorial Hall in order that more information could be gathered and provided in a revised submission to Aberdeenshire Council. The Hogmanay Ceilidh had been a great success and proceeds of £852 had been donated to the Ballater & Deeside Flood Relief Fund. The installation of a hearing loop was still pending.

11. Community Council Accounts

Sue Erskine said that the Community Council's accounts had been accepted by Aberdeenshire Council. Donald Gordon was thanked for his work in auditing them.

12. A.O.B.

Nigel Healey said that the dog waste bin at recycling area in Tarland had been moved. Alec McVean added that, despite the provision of such disposal facilities, uncollected dog waste remained a serious problem in the village.

Next meeting: Tarland Primary School on 10 February 2016 at 7 p.m.